



WAUWATOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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School Board

**WAUWATOSA SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION
VOUCHER TRANSPARENCY**

WHEREAS, the Wauwatosa School Board, administrators, educators, staff, parents, and community members of Wauwatosa are united in our effort to deliver an outstanding education that equips and inspires our students to conquer their challenges now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Wauwatosa School District supports local control and the ability of the elected School Board to make decisions to support the learning of our students; and

WHEREAS, taxpayer-funded voucher programs increasingly pay tuition for students attending private schools in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Wisconsin legislature created the statewide Wisconsin Parental Choice Program in 2013, a program that offers taxpayer-funded vouchers for private school tuition to families who qualify based on their family income; and

WHEREAS, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59 includes private school voucher eligibility expansion along with an additional \$6,170,200 in FY 2018 and \$9,523,200 in FY 2019; and

WHEREAS, in Wauwatosa the voucher amount for 17-18 is \$7,530 for pupils in grades K-8, \$8,176 for pupils in grades 9-12, and the special needs voucher amount is \$12,207; and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers are not currently provided information about tax dollars spent on private and voucher schools; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 367 and Senate Bill 183, the “Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill,” would require property tax bills to include information from the school district where the property is located regarding the amount of any net reduction in state aid, if any, to the district as a result of pupils enrolled in the statewide voucher program, the Racine voucher program, or the Milwaukee voucher program; and

WHEREAS, the increase in statewide property taxes due to school boards levying to offset lost aid due to the voucher system was over \$25 million in 2016-17 and the statewide property tax impact is expected to grow significantly; and

WHEREAS, the Wauwatosa School District’s state aid was reduced by \$245,365 in 2017-18 in the form of reimbursements to private schools under the voucher programs; and

WHEREAS, just as property tax bills show how much money goes to public schools and technical colleges, taxpayers deserve to know the cost of the voucher program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wauwatosa School Board calls on Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin State Senate to support the Wisconsin Voucher Taxpayer Transparency Bill in an effort to be open, honest, and transparent with the taxpayers of Wauwatosa and Wisconsin.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being members of the School Board of the Wauwatosa School District, have executed this resolution this 20th day of November, 2017.

Shawn Rolland, President

Steve Doman

Sharon Muehlfeld, Vice President

Eric Jessup-Anger

Michael Phillips, Treasurer

Michael Meier

Leigh Anne Fraley, Clerk