

# WASSA Fall Conference

## Legislative Update

October 12, 2017

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### **2017-19 State Budget Process**

- State Budget Finally Signed 11 Weeks Late
- Resolution of K-12 Budget Entangled with Transportation, Foxconn
- Vos/Assembly upset over Guv's deal-cutting with holdout Senators
- Governor/Senate/Assembly relations are strained
- Implications for remainder of session

### **K-12 Budget – The Good**

- \$636 million increase to school aids; About 3.5% 1<sup>st</sup> year, 4.5% 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- \$200/\$204 increase in per pupil categorical aid; “strings” are mostly gone
- School Mental Health Aid -- \$3 million for social workers; \$3.25 million for community grants; \$605,000 for district training; \$610,000 MA consultation
- High-Cost Transportation – \$10.4 million increase over the biennium
- High-Cost Special Ed – \$1.6 million increase over biennium, 90% over \$30,000
- Sparsity – Fully fund the current program; \$18 million reduction from Guv's proposal
- Open Enrollment Transfer Payment – up \$307/\$320
- Lifetime License – Good/Bad?

### **The Bad**

- Expansion of Voucher Eligibility – \$100 million increase total over biennium
- SPED Voucher Payment Determination – “blank check”, no accountability
- American Board – alternative licensure, no public scrutiny
- Open Enrollment Special Ed Payment – Scraps stakeholder model, no scrutiny

### **The Ugly**

- Low Revenue Veto – \$9300 1<sup>st</sup> year; \$9400 2<sup>nd</sup> year, +\$100/yr. thereafter
- School Referenda Scheduling – Guv veto deal, no Fall odd-year option
- Energy Efficiency Exemption – Guv veto deal kills exemption, Vos miffed
- Charter School Authorizers – Authorized anywhere in the state
- Opportunity Schools Partnership – Racine handbook, OSPP, creation of new districts

### **What About the Next Budget?**

- GOP continues to take revenue off the table; Foxconn \$400million/biennium
- No Walker re-election budget next time
- Many GOP lawmakers believe K-12 got too much this time
- Add it up . . . Looks like a tough 2019-21 budget for K-12
- WISTAX: Wisconsin falls below national average in 2014-15 per pupil spending

### **Bills Currently in Play**

- AB 215/SB 159 – Nutrition Education; SAA opposed.
- AB 221/SB 105 – Minimum hours of instruction pilot; SAA support.

- AB 247/SB 169 – Going armed with a firearm; SAA opposed.
- AB 307/SB 236 – Competitive bidding; SAA opposed.
- AB 471/SB 383 – Payment of state aid, 12 payments; SAA support.
- AB 77 – Four 25% general aid payments; SAA support.
- AB 103/SB 96 – Start date; No movement; SAA support.
- Teacher Protection Act – SAA has major concerns
  - Expands mandatory reporting; removes discretion to act in child’s best interest
  - Expands circle of access to certain juvenile records
  - Empower teachers to take actions against students (suspension, class removal)
  - Violates chain of command in school; very disruptive.
  - Impact on students of color, students with disabilities
  - Law enforcement, disability rights groups, civil rights groups have concerns

### **A Difficult Session**

- GOP effectively divided districts and advocates
- Given the fiscal realities in the field, the seduction was hard to resist
- They’ve learned how to divide us; Can they now conquer us?
- By staying true to our collective objectives, we ended up with a better budget result.
- Member increased advocacy has led to more discussions about legislative solutions
- Bills with statewide implications need a statewide conversation
- The alternative is a splintered political voice

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