

# WASSA Spring Conference

## Legislative Update

April 27, 2017

---

### **Political Backdrop to 2017-19 Session**

- Pendulum did not swing in Nov. 2016; One-party GOP rule
- Assembly 64-35; Senate 20-13 GOP
- Firewall of moderate GOP senators continues to get weaker
- 2018 Governor's Race
- Fascinating interplay between Walker & Vos
- LFB projected \$2 billion in new revenues; higher than originally anticipated
- This is Walker's reelection budget.
- Here we see the impact of local advocacy work

### **Walker K-12 Budget Proposals**

- State Support for K12 -- \$649 million/aid; \$174 million school levy credits
- Per Pupil Aid -- \$200/pupil 1<sup>st</sup> yr., \$204 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.; \$509 million over biennium
  - Act 10 compliance – What does it mean? How to calculate?
  - Distribute equitably to all schools in the district
  - \$12/pupil 1<sup>st</sup> yr. & \$24 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. not guaranteed; self-funded insurance savings
- Sparsity Aid -- \$20 million increase over the biennium
- High Cost Transportation Aid -- \$10.4 million increase over biennium
- General Aid -- \$72.75 million in 2<sup>nd</sup> yr., property tax relief
- School Levy Credit -- \$174 million over the biennium.
- School Mental Health -- \$3m in 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. to support social worker services; \$2.5m in 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. for school-linked mental health services; \$1m over biennium to train staff in mental health first aid and trauma-informed care
- Early College Credit Program – combine Youth Options and Course Options; \$2.9m over biennium to reduce per credit costs to schools and pupils. District fiscal exposure?
- Perpetual Teacher/Administrator Licenses – Remove 5-yr. renewals
- Voucher Programs – Increase funding to reflect estimated enrollment increases and \$217/pupil increase; Voucher proponent's priorities?
- Repeal minimum hours of instruction
- Repeal administrator contract limitations of 2 years
- Discontinue energy efficiency exemption.
- Budget Process Timeline – JFC Hearings, JFC Executive Sessions (Votes), Both Houses, Governor, Vetoes, Sign by June 30?

### **Budget Advocacy**

- Your relationships with your legislators will determine our success
- Contact JFC and your legislators . . . and then contact them again
- Support Governor Walker's per pupil aid increase
- Explain importance of proposed increase in per pupil revenues in human and fiscal terms

- Explain complexity of Act 10 compliance requirement – 12% “all payments and costs”
- Explain confusion over distributing per pupil aid to each school, meaningless exercise
- Support Governor’s sparsity, transportation aid and mental health proposals
- Support increase to the low revenue ceiling & high-cost special education
- Place the “State Budget Update” on your board agenda
- Reach out and engage your community

### **Other Legislative Issues**

- AB 103/SB 96 – Advocate for Start Date Repeal
- AB 95/SB 62 – authorizing school board member to refuse salary
- SB 190 – Minimum retirement age; final average earnings; new hires only
- AB 215 – New school nutrition standards, graduation requirement
- SB 212 – School Financial Literacy
- School Referenda – series of six damaging bills introduced by Stroebel and others
- Competitive Bidding
- Guns in Schools
- Transgender Changing Room

### **We Must Advocate Together**

- More engagement between administrators and legislators in recent years
- This engagement invariably leads to discussions of legislative solutions
- However, these legislative solutions could very well have a statewide impact . . .
- And that really requires a statewide conversation to ensure broad SAA support
- Anything less risks splintering the SAA’s political voice
- That’s what our political adversaries want
- Important that administrators let me know of their bill development efforts
- Focus on staying together as a political organization, and as K12 advocates
- SAA working very closely with WASB, SWSA and WiRSA

John D. Forester  
 SAA Executive Director  
[john.forester@wsaa.org](mailto:john.forester@wsaa.org)  
 608-242-1370