

WASDA Regional Meetings

Legislative Update

November 2017

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% 1st year, 4.5% 2nd 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 – Districts driving staff P.D.; DPI background checks

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 1st year; \$9400 2nd 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

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
- Other issues – FMLA, Workers Comp, Rehiring Annuitants, “Physical Examination”

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

John D. Forester
 School Administrators Alliance
 608-242-1370 john.forester@wsaa.org