

**Board of Education
RESOLUTION
2015-17 State Budget and School Funding**

The State of Wisconsin has a long tradition of providing a high-quality education system through public education investment to support Wisconsin youth to be college and career ready. High ACT scores and high school graduation rates are some of the evidence of this tradition of success. Strong local public schools are one of the key contributors to economic development in communities across the state. As it is in Hudson, local public schools across the state are often one of the largest employers in their communities.

Governor Walker's biennial budget proposal is of concern to the Board of Education and our budgeting process because it includes a decrease in state funding.

- The \$150 per pupil decrease in categorical aid results in an estimated \$840,000 loss in revenue for 2015-16 to the Hudson School District.
- State equalization aid does not include any inflationary adjustments over the biennium while many of the school district's expenses continue to increase at or above the rate of inflation. The per student revenue for an average district under this budget proposal for 2016-17 is \$5 per student more than in 2009-10. Because the previous year's property valuation was significantly higher than the state average and because of a dip in student enrollment, Hudson's state aid in 2015-16 is expected to decrease by an additional \$2.6 million if there is no inflationary increase.
- The proposal includes adding \$211.2 million in school levy tax credits (\$105.6 million each year) which flow directly to the taxpayer as property tax relief. The Hudson School District has no access to this funding to support the educational needs of students.
- The proposal expands taxpayer funding to private voucher schools and independent charter schools. This expansion is anticipated to result in further reductions to public school district revenue.

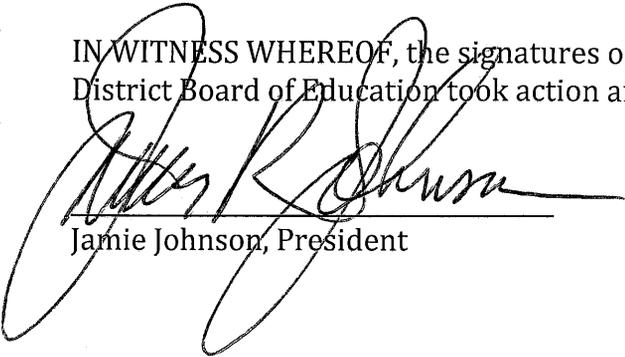
The Hudson School District has continued to be fiscally conservative while still providing a high quality education for students.

- Hudson is a low spending school district and ranks fourth lowest in total educational cost per student of all K-12 districts. As of 2012-13, the state average K-12 cost per student was \$12,075. Hudson's cost per student for the same year was \$9,909. (Source: the most recent comparison data for 2012-13 from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction).

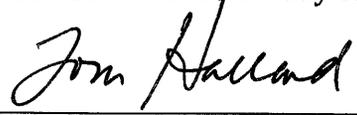
- Hudson has previously reduced spending by \$4.4 million in 2011-12 and \$1.9 million in 2009-10, which results in the district's general fund budget not keeping pace with inflation over the same time period as measured by the consumer price index.
- Hudson has levied below the revenue cap for many years, with last year's under levy being about \$12.8 million.

The Hudson School District Board of Education advocates for an adequately funded education for Hudson and Wisconsin public school students. We strongly encourage the Governor and the State Legislature to restore the \$150 per pupil categorical aid in 2015-17; add an inflationary increase in state equalization aid and a corresponding increase in the revenue cap; and not increase public funding for the expansion of vouchers and independent charter schools so that Wisconsin public school districts receive necessary funding to continue Wisconsin's tradition of investment in high quality public education for our youth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the signatures of the President and Clerk verify that the Hudson School District Board of Education took action and executed this resolution this 10th day of March, 2015.



Jamie Johnson, President



Tom Holland, Clerk