

March 16, 2015



Open Letter to Governor Walker and the Wisconsin Legislature

The time is now to invest in all of Wisconsin's children. Using evidence-based best practices, the Green Bay Area Public School District has been moving quickly and purposefully to improve outcomes for ALL of our students. We have done this by creating educational opportunities and pathways as we work to achieve our mission, educating all students to be college, career and community ready, inspired to succeed in our diverse world.

Working collaboratively with community partners, we are addressing workforce needs and focusing on efforts to improve overall results from cradle to career. However, it is also important to recognize that our legislature and governor are also key partners in our students' success. In order for the students of the Green Bay Area Public School District to continue to move forward, we ask the following from our policy makers:

Accountability

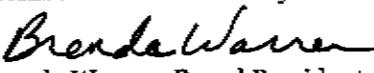
- One accountability system which contains multiple measures and takes into consideration mobility and exceptional circumstances (homeless students, large populations of English Language Learners students, etc.) in addition to achievement and growth.
- A fair and transparent accountability system report card, which does not rely on arbitrary A-F grades, but rather affords parents and the community the ability to understand not only academic achievement and growth but also the opportunities, supports and experiences students will be afforded in a given school.
- An accountability system that evaluates schools individually as opposed to a statewide comparison with all schools.

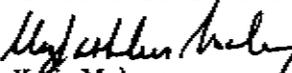
Funding

- An equitable and fair funding system that adjusts for inflationary costs. If Green Bay's revenue cap was raised to the state median, it would result in an additional \$12 million in revenue, which the District would use to implement evidence-based best practices, such as expanding the school day and year to increasing learning opportunities and meet the educational needs of underserved students.
- An increase in categorical aid to support existing English Language Learner programs to aid the District in serving its growing population of ELL students and families (18.2% of the District).
- While we are not in support of the expansion of the statewide voucher program, we ask that any expansion of the voucher program include the following:
 - Allows school districts to accurately and adequately staff and budget for student enrollment for the following school year.
 - Informs school districts of enrollment changes prior to the statutory non-renewal date of March 31 for educators.
 - Funds vouchers out of the state's general fund.
 - Requires that taxpayer dollars are linked to a voucher student. In other words, if a voucher student returns to a public school after the third Friday count, those public funds are returned to the public school.

A strong Wisconsin economy and democracy are dependent on having a strong public education system. The Wisconsin constitution states that our public education system must provide a free and equitable education for ALL Wisconsin students. However, the governor's budget proposal provides additional funding for voucher schools and charter schools while decreasing funding to our public education system. We ask Governor Walker and the Wisconsin Legislature to invest today in the future of Wisconsin's children. They deserve to be our priority – Every Child. Every Day.

Sincerely,
Members of the Green Bay Area Public School Board of Education

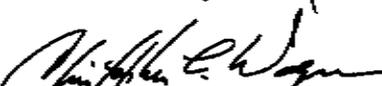

Brenda Warren, Board President


Katie Maloney

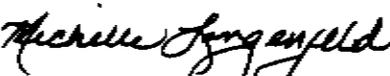

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