



## Sun Prairie Area School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

### **RESOLUTION FOR COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR WISCONSIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD) is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest school district in Wisconsin, serves 8,500 children, employs 1,350 staff members; and

WHEREAS, the SPASD educates students from early childhood through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as students with disabilities in our 18-22 Transition Program, in 14 schools plus 10 community-based sites; and

WHEREAS, the SPASD has a total operating budget of \$117 Million; and

WHEREAS, public school educators and leaders were quick to identify the COVID-19 threat and understand that the safety of children and their community was at risk; and

WHEREAS, the educators and school leaders were quick to lead in a moment of uncertainty, the first to make what at the time was the risky decision to close schools to ensure student and community safety; and

WHEREAS, the educators and school leaders of the SPASD embraced distance learning, working long hours to prepare and to continue teaching, inspiring, and loving children; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin public school leadership opened the door for others to follow; and

WHEREAS, this close community connection for education, nutrition and social/emotional support providing familiarity and continuity of service with public school students continues unbroken; and

WHEREAS, the educators and school leaders in the SPASD have created parades, videos, and personal check-ins with students to ensure the connection to school remains strong; and

WHEREAS, our public schools are the economic engines and major employers of communities around the state, and the health of the Wisconsin economy depends on providing sufficient resources to all educators and staff to meet student needs while teaching and learning through distance education; and

WHEREAS, state legislation is presently being drafted (April 2020) by majority GOP lawmakers giving the Joint Finance Committee, on its own, unilateral authority to cut state spending, including funding to public schools, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, given the fact that the state of Wisconsin recently had a budget surplus and the Joint Finance Committee did not specify any funding again for the public schools serving most children in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, given the fact that many public schools in Wisconsin remain underfunded through the pandemic given 57 school referenda questions from 45 districts on the April 7, 2020 election ballots; and

WHEREAS, given the fact that many public schools in Wisconsin have not had any significant increases in special education funding for at least ten years; and

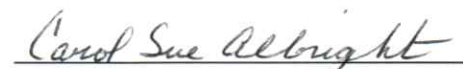
WHEREAS, given the fact that the same Joint Finance Council did not fund any of the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission that would have addressed the underfunding and special education costs; and

AND WHEREAS, the public schools of Wisconsin deserve to have state budget/financial decisions made within a context of the facts provided in this resolution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SPASD Board of Education demands that all those making decisions in the Wisconsin legislature work together with Governor Evers in keeping the 860,000 children in the public schools in mind along with the needs specified in the recent referendums as priorities knowing that an educated populace is what makes a state caring and impactful, ensuring a bright future for all.

This Resolution was passed by 9-0 vote of the board members present on April 13, 2020.

  
Steve Schroeder, President

  
Carol Sue Albright, Clerk