

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1997-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Education
(SC-Ed)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE
CLERK FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **97hr_SC-Ed_Misc_pt40**



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ALLIANCE

4797 Hayes Rd
2nd Floor
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 242-1370
FAX (608) 242-1290

Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee on the 1997-99 Executive Budget Bill February 19, 1997

James M. Lynch
Director of
Government Relations

By

James M. Lynch, Director of Government Relations

An Alliance of:

Association of
Wisconsin School
Administrators
Tim Laatsch
Executive Director

Wisconsin Association
of School District
Administrators
Miles Turner
Executive Director

Wisconsin Association
of School Business
Officials
Don Mrdjenovich
Executive Director

Wisconsin Council for
Administrators of
Special Services
Chuck Hastert
President

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Governor's proposed 1997-99 Biennial Budget Request relating to the Department of Public Instruction. Today, I would like to briefly underscore the importance of maintaining or changing provisions in the budget relating to: instructional technology, school finance, and academic standards and assessments.

Instructional Technology

The SAA strongly supports the TEACH Wisconsin provisions in the Executive Budget. Taken as a whole the TEACH Wisconsin initiative targets the primary barriers to affording all schools the opportunity to effectively use instructional technology to improve instruction and increase academic opportunities.

TEACH Wisconsin Provisions:

- Ensure that no district pays more than \$250/month for internet service and two-way, full-motion video services (one connection T-1 or DS-3 line).
- Provide \$25 million in 1997-98 and \$40 million in 1998-99 in technology block grants to assist school districts as they decide how to meet their technology needs.
- Loan up to \$100 million to school districts during 1997-99 to upgrade electrical and network wiring. State will pay 50% of the annual debt service on the loan.
- Provide \$4 million annually to CESAs to provide technical assistance and training to school districts.
- Creates TEACH Wisconsin Board - 9 member board includes the Secretary of the Department of Administration, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, representatives from the UW Board of Regents and WTCS board, and 5 members of the public appointed by the Governor.

Relevant SAA Positions:

- The State of Wisconsin should provide:
 - ◊ technologies which enable each student in every school district in the state to access two-way, full-motion video/voice/data. These technologies should be installed to the schoolhouse door at no cost to the district.

Instructional Technology- Relevant SAA Positions (con't)

- ◇ broadband service to each Wisconsin school at affordable discounted rates. These should be equal for all schools, fixed at a flat cost, and neither mileage nor usage sensitive.
- ◇ that each school in the state the opportunity to effectively access the superhighway to enhance student learning. Incentives and resources should be dedicated to staff development, acquisition, installation, software, and maintenance of systems.
- ◇ A technology network throughout the state that is mutually compatible to all users. The system design must be effectively integrated among members of the broader community including, but not limited to, all PK-12 schools, the University of Wisconsin system, technical colleges, libraries, and all levels of government plus their agencies.

School Finance

The SAA opposes modifying the equalization appropriation from a sum sufficient to a sum certain appropriation.

Budget:

- Modify equal. appropriation from sum sufficient to sum certain appropriation.

Relevant SAA Positions/Statements:

- The State must continue to meet its commitment to funding two-thirds of school district costs, including the State's two-thirds commitment to share in the cost of successful building and operations referenda.
- Equalization aid must be a sum sufficient not a sum certain appropriation.

Performance Standards and Assessment

The process used to develop standards and assessments must be non-partisan and comprehensive. The best interests of Wisconsin's students can only be served by a fair process in which the public can truly engage in and policy-makers on both sides of the aisle have faith in.

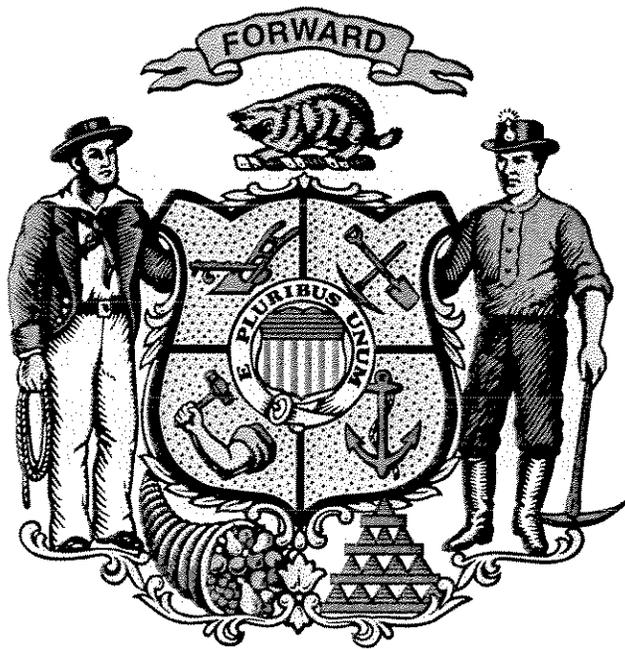
Budget:

- Creates Governor's Council on Model Academic Standards (Lieutenant Gov. McCallum-Chair, Sen. Potter, Sen. Darling, Rep. Olsen, Rep. Schneider, and Ed Sontag). Council to submit final report by September 15, 1997.
- Local districts must adopt state or local standards by August, 98.
- High school graduation test required -1999-2000 school year.

Relevant SAA Positions/Statements:

- We support clearly defined educational standards. We support assessments which measure students' success in meeting these standards.

The SAA will provide more detailed input to each member of the committee relating to the individual educational provisions in the Executive Budget in the coming weeks. If you have any questions regarding the SAA's positions on educational provisions in the Executive Budget contact me at (608) 242-1370.



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

MEMO

TO: Senate Education Committee Members

FROM: Paul Rusk, Committee Clerk

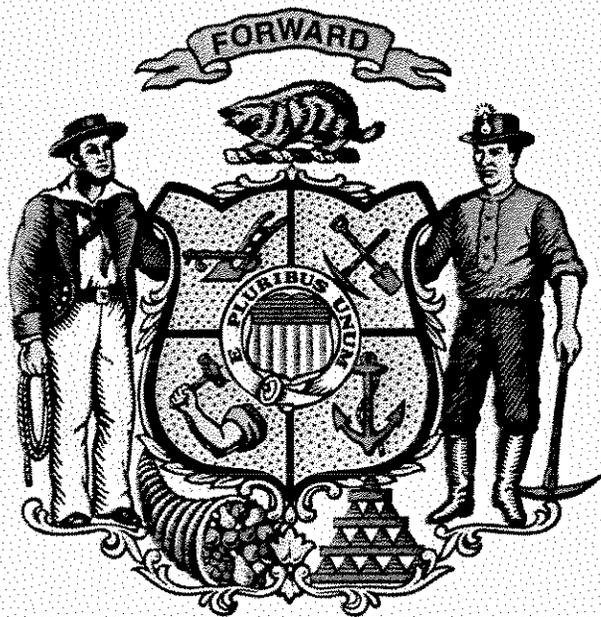
RE: Upcoming Meeting Dates- PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DATE: February 20, 1997

We will meet at 1 p.m. on March 12 for several bills and a briefing on the UW System Budget (there will be fewer invited guests). We are told session is unlikely for that day, but to be on the safe side we have scheduled the hearing for the afternoon. We have again requested the Joint Finance Area, but we may be "bumped" if the Joint Finance Committee needs the space.

We will also meet on March 26 (regular hearing date) as well as April 9 and 23 which are also regular hearing dates. Hopefully we can stay with our regular meeting dates as that is easier for all of us.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

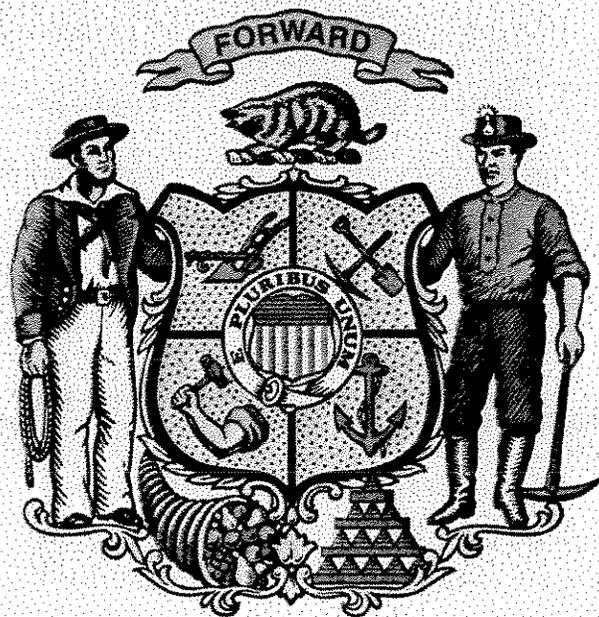
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Please let me know if you have any questions.





COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #3

1300 Industrial Drive, Fennimore, WI 53809 (608) 822-3276 (608) 822-3828 (fax)

William M. Urban
Agency Administrator

February 21, 1996

Senator Dale W. Schultz
515 N. Central Ave.
Richland Center, WI 53581

Dear Senator Schultz,

In seeking information as to whom to contact regarding the situation that cash funding may not be available for the February 1997 cycle of the Educational Technology Board's grant funding program, we have been encouraged to contact our local legislators. Nearly 150 applicants (and approximately 14 school districts from CESA #3) have likely spent several thousand hours collectively in staff time and planning to prepare grant proposals for the February 14th funding cycle. Those submitting grants--- several who have worked on revising grants upon failing to receive awards at prior cycles--- fully believed and were told by ETB staff that funding would likely be available at the same rate as the previous 1996-1997 funding cycles.

However, we were notified on February 14, 1997---(the same day as the deadline for the February grant cycle) in a fax correspondence from Todd Penske, Executive Director of the Educational Technology Board- dated February 12, 1997-- "This unforeseen event is the result of Governor Thompson's *TEACH Wisconsin Initiative --Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin* proposal for the next biennial budget, effective July 1, 1997, which consolidates the ETB into a new TEACH Wisconsin Board and the associated new state agency."

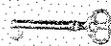
While we are very pleased with what we see in the proposal of the *TEACH Wisconsin* initiative; we are very perplexed and unhappy that this initiative according to Penske's correspondence--- leaves those of us who spent days and weeks preparing grants for the February cycle---competing for less than 15% of the funding that was expected for this cycle and granted during the previous cycles this year. Also, in light of the 1996-1997 funding year being only a little over half completed, why is there less than 10% of this year's funding left for the current funding cycle--as appears to be the case. And, is this situation, truly the result of Governor Thompson's *TEACH Wisconsin* proposal?

Is there any recourse for those who have submitted grants for the February cycle for an appeal process for consideration of funding this cycle at the same appropriation of the previous cycles? We would truly appreciate any advocacy on your part to rectify this situation. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information to support this initiative.

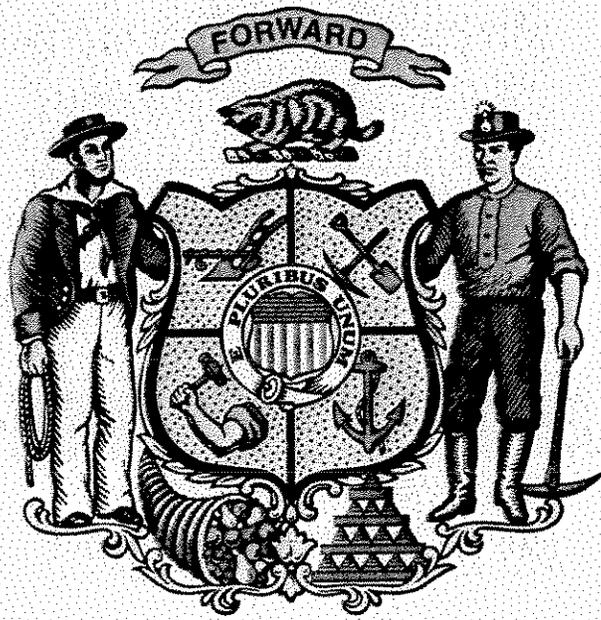
Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

Terri Iverson, Director
Media, Technology & Telecommunications

 "The Key to Quality Education"

ARGYLE
BARNEVELD
BELMONT
BENTON
BLACK HAWK
BOSCOBEL
CASSVILLE
CUBA CITY
DARLINGTON
DODGEVILLE
FENNIMORE
HIGHLAND
IOWA-GRANT
ITHACA
KICKAPOO
LANCASTER
MINERAL POINT
NORTH CRAWFORD
PECATONICA
PLATTEVILLE
POTOSI
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
RICHLAND
RIVER RIDGE
RIVER VALLEY
RIVERDALE
SENECA
SHULLSBURG
SOUTHWESTERN
WAUZEKA
WESTON





Educational Technology Board

FEB 26 1997

February 21, 1997

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Wahl

David J. Ward

Todd M. Penske,
Executive Director

Dear CESA Administrators and Library System Directors:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify and correct an error in my February 12, 1997 letter to you which has resulted in some confusion and misunderstanding about the reason the Educational Technology Board (ETB) has very limited funding for cash grant awards in its February 14, 1997 funding cycle deadline.

Governor Thompson's *TEACH Wisconsin Initiative (Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin)* proposal for the next biennial budget, effective July 1, 1997, which consolidates the ETB into a new TEACH Wisconsin Board and its associated new state agency does not have a specific effect on the ETB and the remaining amount of cash grant funding for this cycle deadline.

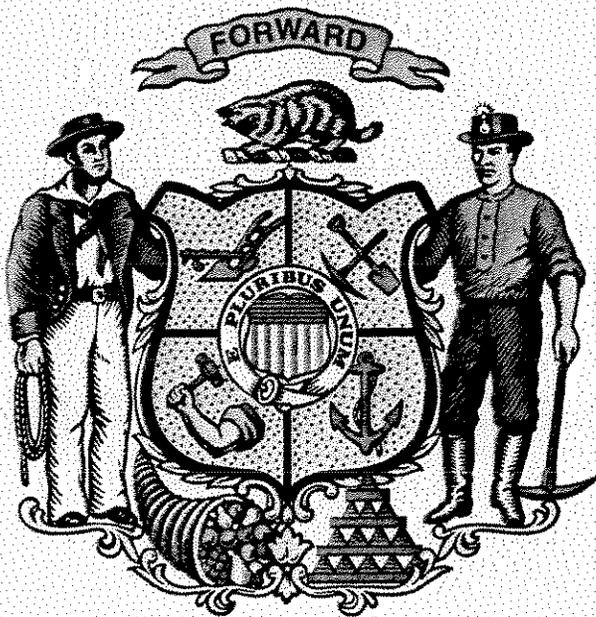
The ETB was appropriated \$15.0 million for cash grant awards and up to \$15.0 million for Public Lands Trust Fund loans between 7-1-96 and 6-30-97 (the current fiscal year). The ETB has already made \$14.5 million in cash grant awards this fiscal year to previous applicants for its June 14th, August 30th, and November 29, 1996 funding cycle deadlines because it received over \$48 million in requested funds.

Consequently, the ETB intends to award in this funding cycle its remaining current fiscal year appropriation of approximately \$500,000 in cash grants and to make approximately \$1.0-\$4.0 million in loan funding approvals. All project proposals received in this funding cycle will be evaluated, ranked, and a final selection will be made for cash grant awards and loan funding approvals by April 18, 1997. In fact, the ETB may make partial cash grant awards to some applicants in order to maximize the use of the available cash grant funds, contingent upon an applicant's agreement to implement the proposed project.

Please note that the ETB has canceled its May 16, 1997 funding cycle deadline and is in the process of notifying prospective applicants because it has no remaining cash grant funding available this fiscal year for cash grant awards.

Next Page, Please

3319 West Beltline Highway
Madison, WI 53713
Phone: 608/266-7878
TDD: 608/266-1213
FAX: 608/266-1215
Toll Free: 1-800/870-9900



Alverno
C O L L E G E
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 24, 1998

Senator Calvin Potter
Wisconsin State Senate
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Potter:

I am writing to express my support of two legislative initiatives under consideration right now. These proposals will have a direct financial benefit to Alverno students -- and students of all twenty-one private colleges and universities in Wisconsin.

As a college president, I see the financial hardships that befall our low- and middle-income students. Anything we can do to make college more affordable, and therefore more accessible to all students, is a step in the right direction.

Proposal to increase the Wisconsin Tuition Grant

Increasing the maximum award for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant to \$2300 (from (\$2172) will give financial aid directors much needed flexibility in addressing the needs of students who have little or no financial assistance from their families.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) is the primary financial aid program which provides state funds to Wisconsin resident undergraduates who attend independent or private, nonprofit postsecondary institutions. During the 1996-97 academic year, funding -- which is means tested -- assisted roughly 9,100 students who received average awards of just less than \$1,800.

The 1997-99 budget provided a significant amount of additional funding -- \$3.5 million over the biennium. This amount would make it possible to increase the maximum award without reducing the number of grants provided.

This requested change will have no fiscal impact. Moreover, it has no impact on the other state financial aid programs for the UW System or Wisconsin Technical College System.

Higher Education Tax Deduction

The second proposal that I urge you to support allows taxpayers to deduct up to \$3,000 per student for tuition costs from their adjusted gross income. Students of all ages will qualify based on tuition paid to any public or private college, university, or technical college in Wisconsin.

Alverno College
Page two

Postsecondary educational opportunity is of critical importance to the future of the State. Of the 51 million job openings between now and 2006, roughly 40 percent will require some type of formal postsecondary education or training. About half of these openings will require a bachelor's degree.

Targeting state resources for a tuition tax deduction is an excellent investment which will have long-lasting dividends. In order for Wisconsin's economy to remain productive and strong, it will need an educated workforce. These individuals will be productive members of society and generate future tax revenues.

Pursuing a college degree can put a strain on family budgets -- whether it is a student continuing his or her education immediately after high school or an adult who pursues higher education later in life. The Higher Education Tax Deduction will put more money in the pockets of low- and middle-income families to help offset the cost of higher education.

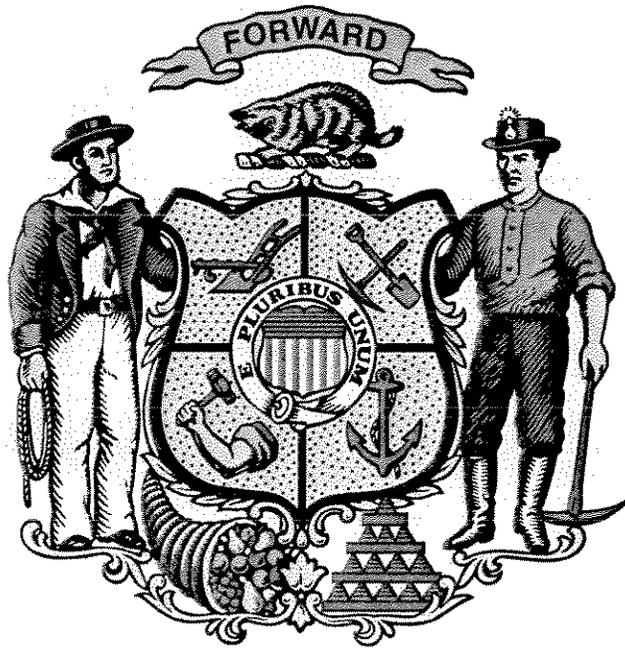
The current financial aid programs administered by the state are targeted at low-income individuals. As a result, these programs do not address the need of students and families who work hard and save for their education. The Governor's proposed tuition tax deduction will assist those who have made sacrifices, worked hard, and saved for their education.

Thank you very much for your support and consideration of these important proposals.

Sincerely,



Sister Joel Read
President



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

MEMO

TO: All Members of the Senate Education Committee

FROM: Paul Rusk, Committee Clerk

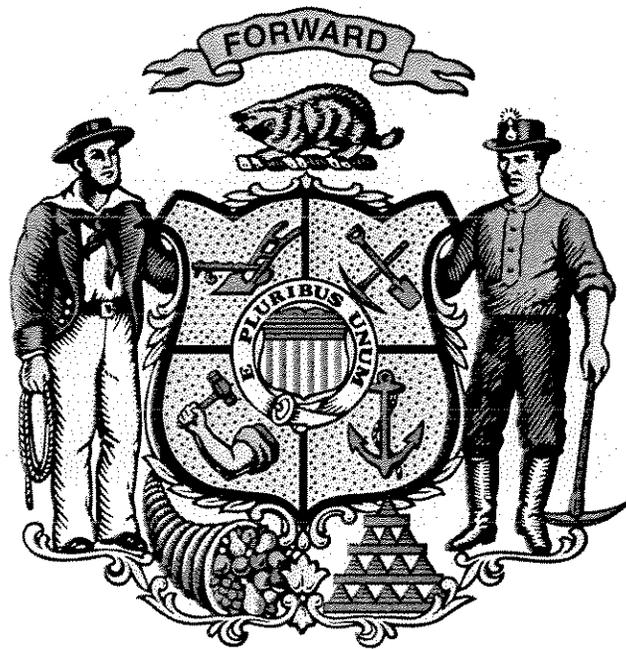
RE: Pioneering Partners Letter to Secretary Bugher

DATE: February 24, 1997

Here is the draft letter. If you have any problems with the language, please let us know right away. We are hoping to have the final letter ready for your signatures tomorrow during or just after session.

As for the meeting with Secretary Bugher, if we have Senators Potter, Jauch, Darling and Panzer, we have a bipartisan group without having a quorum of the Education Committee. We will go ahead and set this up if there are no objections.

Thanks for reviewing this letter in such a timely manner.



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

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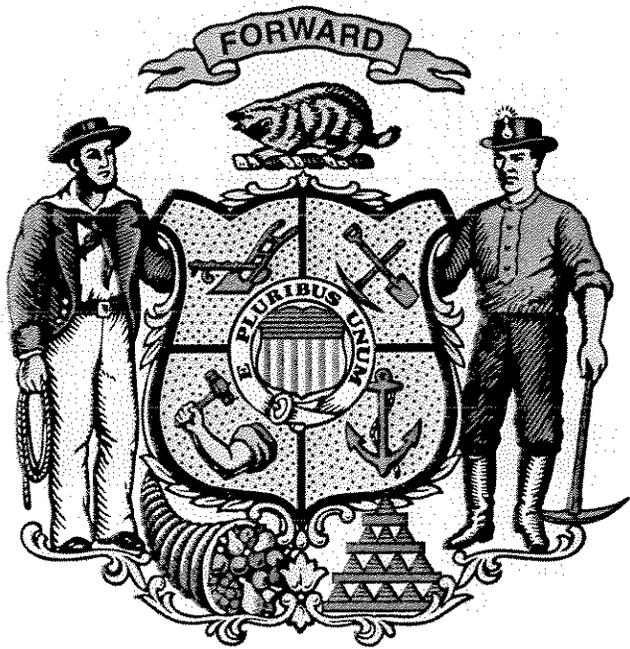
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Thanks for reviewing this letter in such a timely manner.





WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

February 25, 1997

Mark Bugher, Secretary
Department of Administration
10th Floor, DOA Building
P.O. Box 7864
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7864

| | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|------------|
| Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 | | # of pages ▶ 2 | |
| To | Todd Penske | From | Paul Rusk |
| Co. | | Co. | Sen Potter |
| Dept. | ETB | Phone # | 6-2056 |
| Fax # | 6 1215 | Fax # | |

Dear Secretary Bugher:

Last session AB 1048 revised our tax laws for telephone companies. The bill was expected to bring additional revenues of \$45 million during the current biennium and another \$35 million in the coming biennium. A number of legislators of both parties in both houses felt strongly that a portion of these funds should be allocated to the Pioneering Partners program and teams of legislators were assigned to negotiate an agreement with the administration.

The result was a Senate amendment authored by Senators Panzer, Jauch, Petak and Potter that provided \$5 million for Pioneering Partners on January 1, 1997 and another \$5 million for Pioneering Partners in the coming biennium. Under the amendment, the additional funds were not to be counted when figuring the base budget for the program.

Because the Legislature had promised to provide funds for the program during the coming biennium, the Educational Technology Board has legitimately worked under the assumption that the Pioneering Partners would be a continuing program and invited school districts to submit applications for the funds.

School districts throughout the state have invested hundred of hours on technology planning and writing grant requests because they expected the Pioneering Partners program to be there. They have formed local coalitions and have found matching funds. But now they have learned that the governor's budget bill will eliminate the program, including the \$5 million for 1997-99 that the Legislature committed to in AB 1048.

More than \$20 million in requests were submitted to the Educational Technology Board by February 14, the latest deadline for applications. School districts worked hard to prepare those requests without any indication that the funding for the program would be eliminated. Only \$500,000 remains in this year's appropriation, meaning virtually all

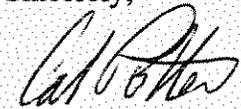
Secretary Bugher
February 25, 1997
Page Two

these requests will be denied unless funds are provided for Pioneering Partners in the next biennium.

We believe that at least the \$5 million that the Legislature agreed to must be provided for Pioneering Partners in the coming biennium. A commitment to provide this amount should be made by the administration as soon as possible in order to assure those school districts applying that the state will live up to its promise.

Several of us look forward to meeting with you to discuss this matter in the near future. We appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,



CALVIN POTTER
State Senator



BOB JAUCH
State Senator



KEVIN SHIBILSKI
State Senator



RICHARD GROBSCHMIDT
State Senator



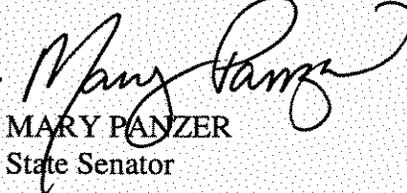
ALBERTA DARLING
State Senator



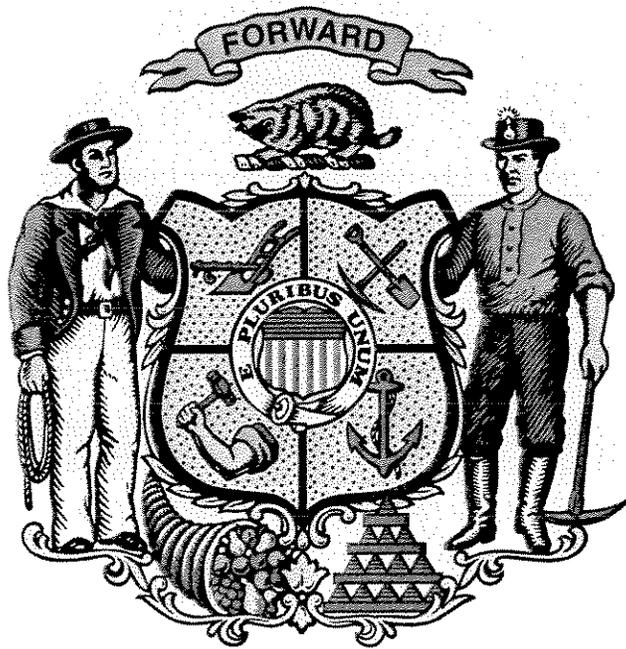
JOANNE HUELSMAN
State Senator



CAROL BUETTNER
State Senator



MARY PANZER
State Senator



F-MAIL

OBrien, John

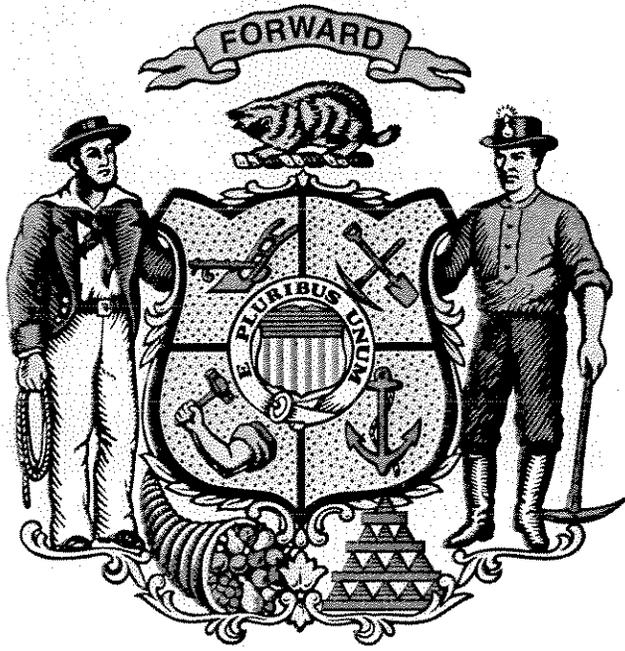
From: MESSERD@uwplatt.edu[SMTP:MESSERD@uwplatt.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 1997 9:31 AM
To: Sen.Schultz; Rep.Freese; Rep.Brandemuehl; Rep.Albers; Rep.Johnsrud

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to encourage your support of Senator Jauch's initiative to restore funding for the February 14th round of grant proposals submitted to the WATF/ETB. School districts were not informed of the depletion of financing until AFTER the deadline date. Thus, we spent innumerable days (weeks) of grant writing time - to no avail!

You will be receiving a copy of my letter to Senator Jauch, which specifies my concerns. I ask that you please give this matter your attention.

Sincerely,
Diane Messer
District Administrator
School District of Cuba City



February 25, 1997

Mark Bugher, Secretary
Department of Administration
10th Floor, DOA Building
P.O. Box 7864
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7864

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Secretary Bugher
February 25, 1997
Page Two

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CALVIN POTTER
State Senator

BOB JAUCH
State Senator

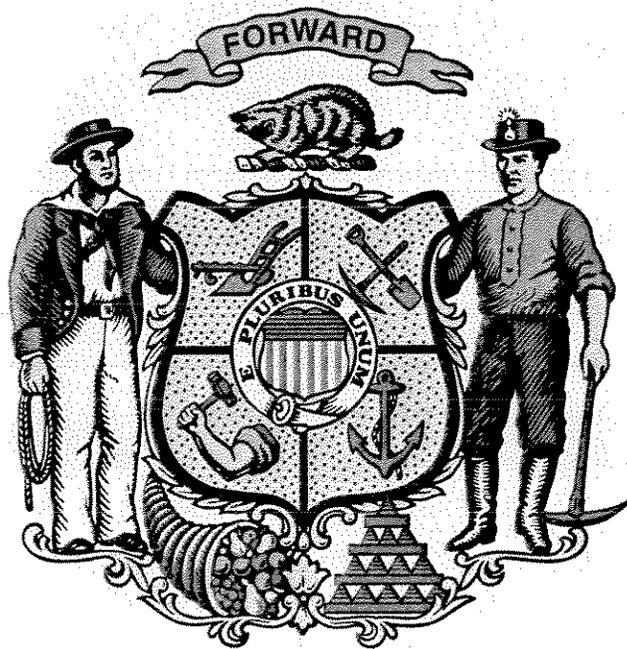
KEVIN SHIBILSKI
State Senator

RICHARD GROBSCHMIDT
State Senator

ALBERTA DARLING
State Senator

JOANNE HUELSMAN
State Senator

CAROL BUETTNER
State Senator



FEB 28 1997



Rosholt School District

346 W. Randolph St., P.O. Box 310
Rosholt, WI 54473

Kathleen Martinsen
District Administrator
(715) 677-4542

Kenneth W. Camlek
Elementary Principal
(715) 677-4543

Paul Luce
Middle/High School Principal
(715) 677-4541

February 27, 1997

Senator Dale Schultz
Room 19 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Schultz:

Our district applied for an Educational Technology Board (ETB) Grant in the February 14 grant cycle to install internal voice, data, and video networking throughout our PK-12 facility. This infrastructure would allow us to deliver electronic library resources to classrooms and to enable Internet and e-mail access to all classrooms, libraries, computer labs, and offices. We planned for over a year with our local telephone company to provide local Internet access to students and teachers. Currently our district has only two Internet stations, and we pay long distance charges of five cents per minute to dial to a provider in Stevens Point. The district's ETB grant proposal also has community components which would open our libraries and labs to the community one night per week, offer classes on the use of the Internet and e-mail to residents, and have several community partners working with our students and the Village of Rosholt, the Wisconsin Lions Camp, and a local business to develop home pages for these entities.

On February 14, I received a fax from CESA 5 addressed to CESA Administrators and Library System Directors and written by Todd Penske, Executive Director of the ETB. It stated that "the Educational Technology Board may not have any additional funding available to make cash grant awards to project proposal applicants in its February 14, 1997 funding cycle deadline....However, all project proposals received for the February 14th funding cycle deadline will be evaluated, ranked, and a preliminary selection will be made for grant awards by the ETB in the unlikely event that sufficient funding becomes available for cash grant awards."

Planning and writing high caliber proposals takes huge amounts of staff time, and we are shocked and frustrated by this situation. In the November 29, 1996, ETB grant cycle, we were forced to decline the offer of a \$200,000 State Trust Fund interest free loan, because the loan would need to be repaid in five years under the revenue caps. Still hoping to receive a cash grant, our district, and 148 other applicants proceeded to apply in the February 14th cycle with no knowledge of insufficient funds being available.

Our project is critical to the education of our students. As a small rural district, we have struggled to provide the most minimal, yet very costly (over \$500 per month in long distance charges to our Internet provider) access to the Internet for our students. Now that a local Internet provider is available, we are still unable to take advantage fully because the district lacks the internal networking infrastructure necessary to take the Internet, e-mail, and local library resources to the multiple stations in classrooms, labs, and offices.

Two things are necessary for the installation of this infrastructure - time and significant funds. It will take 6-8 weeks to install the voice, video, and data infrastructure recommended by the Wisconsin PK-12 Technology Plan; and if we are unable to install this summer, our students will be denied sufficient access for yet another year. The total cost of our project is \$228,850. Without outside assistance through state grants or loans outside the revenue caps, it will be impossible for our district to amass sufficient funds to complete this project in a cost effective manner. The result is rural students denied access to the Information Superhighway and competing at a disadvantage with graduates who have these opportunities.

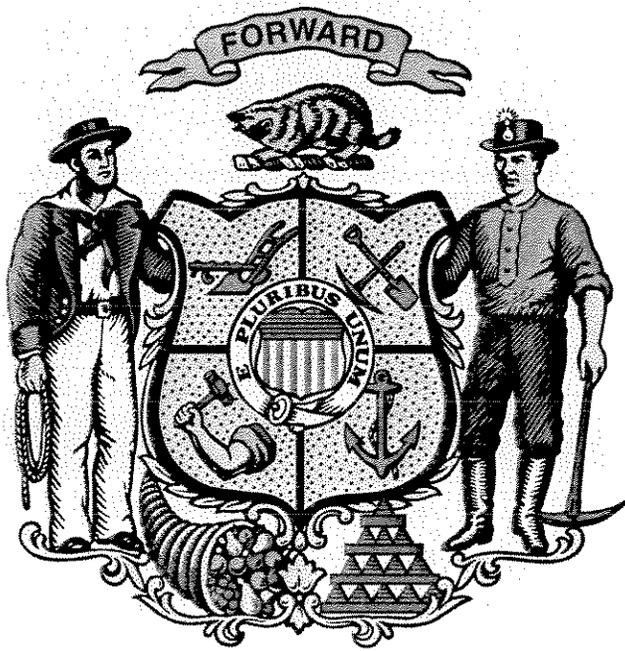
Considering the situation in which 149 applicants (K-12 public schools, private K-12 schools, libraries, municipalities, health care providers, and higher education) find themselves, is the legislature able to provide emergency funds to complete the February 14th ETB grant cycle for those who proposed in good faith? We urge you to consider our plight and make state funds available to complete this ETB grant cycle.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Martinsen
District Administrator

cc: Governor Tommy G. Thompson
Educational Technology Board
Todd Penske, ETB Executive Director



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

MEMO

TO: Senators Jauch, Darling, Panzer

FROM: Cal Potter

RE: Meeting With Secretary Bugher

DATE: March 5, 1997

Thank you for agreeing to re-schedule our meeting with Secretary Bugher for 12:30 to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, in the meeting room next to Senator Chvala's office. Since we only have 30 minutes please try to be there promptly at 12:30. We will have to be concise, but Secretary Bugher is familiar with our issue as he has our letter of February 25.

The Education Committee will convene at 1 p.m. and the Joint Finance Committee will re-convene its budget briefings at 1:30 p.m.

cc: Members of the Education Committee

SPECIAL NOTE—ROOM CHANGE

Our March 12 Hearing Will Be in Our Regularly Assigned Meeting Room: 1 East Main, Lower Level Room #106 (near the Document Room). We were "bumped" by the Joint Finance Committee.

INVITED GUESTS UPDATE

Our UW System Budget Briefing guests will include System President Katharine Lyall directly after the DOA briefing, followed by representatives of United Council, TAUWP, PROFS, and possibly ASPRO.