

**School Board Meeting:**

**February 23, 2009**

**Subject:**

Federal Advocacy Resolution

**Presenter:**

**Jim Bauck**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Approval of Resolution

**DESCRIPTION:** Federal Advocacy Resolution

WHEREAS the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, regardless of the intent of its authors, is deeply flawed and has created many negative consequences and attitudes in the minds of parents, citizens and educators while drawing precious funding away from direct instruction of our neediest students; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Board of Education inherently recognizes an obligation to continuously improve student outcomes for all students; and

WHEREAS, the NCLB Act is currently a collection of 93 disjointed programs that would better serve children if organized to provide a seamless array of services and support for children in need; and

WHEREAS, attempts to fix existing flaws will inevitably lead to more bureaucratic complexity rather than understandable simplicity; and

WHEREAS, the level of funding for public schools has a direct impact on the quality of learning opportunities for all children, and the underfunded mandates of the federal government create additional stress on this funding system; and

WHEREAS, standards and accountability systems are best assigned as the constitutional responsibility of States under broad federal expectations of quality rather than an attempt to create a 'one-size-fits-all' federal standard; therefore be it now

RESOLVED that the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Board of Education hereby urges the U.S. Congress to fundamentally reframe the structure of the Federal investment in K-12 education with a focus on serving low income and disadvantaged children; and be it further

RESOLVED that we urge the return of responsibility for student and school accountability to the individual States; and be it further

RESOLVED that we urge the Minnesota Legislature and Governor to inform the Federal Government of Minnesota's intent to consider a withdrawal from participation in NCLB if a reframing of the Statute is not completed by October, 2010, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Minnesota Legislature and the Minnesota Department of Education develop a more positive approach to state efforts to raise student achievement for both students and for schools.

Adopted on February 23, 2009

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School Board Chair