



School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: 2024 Proposed Legislation Resolution
Presenter(s): Bob Jaszczak, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action
Board Information or Report

Background Information

MSBA members are encouraged to propose resolutions to the Delegate Assembly for the upcoming legislative session. These resolutions are the first step to developing the MSBA's official positions on important educational issues.

Each resolution is researched and voted on by the membership at the Delegate Assembly. Once adopted, these positions guide the MSBA Government Relations team as they represent you at the Legislature. Resolutions should cover any education topic of significant statewide concern and address desired legislative outcomes. Resolutions are not legislation.

Legislative Concerns 2025

With the 2025 legislative session just around the corner in January, there are several areas of concern related to Red Wing Public Schools.

1. **Native American Mascots.** Red Wing was not on the original list of schools with Native American mascots, but are on the current list of schools that are subject to changing their mascot. There are several questions that need to be answered by the legislature. The first question is who is the ultimate decision maker? The Tribal Nations Education Council said they do not have the authority to appeal any decisions that have been made. MDE says they do not have any authority in the matter. Additionally, there has not been any opportunity for Prairie Island Indian Community to weigh in on the matter. The deadline to make any required changes is Sept. 2026. It would be helpful to get this resolved.

2. Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. There are several issues surrounding the MCA's. There is no comparison of the same students year over year. Comparing the results from this year's 3rd grade class to last year's 3rd grade class does not provide useful data. When students opt out of the tests, the automatic result is Does Not Meet. More students than ever are opting out of the tests. Also, there is no accommodation for students who are learning English. The test is only offered in English.

3. Compensatory Funding. Free meals for all students has greatly complicated the Educational Benefits applications. Parents do not see any need to fill out the form despite significant efforts to get the word out. As a result, funding streams that are tied to the number of students who struggle financially are greatly impacted in a negative way.

4. Earned Safe and Sick Time. The original legislation was well intended, but has created problems with contracts for school employees. Schools already had negotiated contracts that exceeded many of the provisions of ESST.

Unfunded Mandates. Schools cannot afford any more unfunded mandates. The perception in the public is that schools received funding that is more than sufficient in the last budget season. Schools across the state are struggling despite the additional dollars because in many cases the new requirements cost more than the funding covers.

Recommendation

I move to approve the 2024 Proposed Legislation Resolution as presented.