WHEREAS, Governor Walker has proposed a $150 decrease per student in public school funding for 2015-16;

WHEREAS, this decrease results in $1,096,050 “base” cut to the School District of Beloit;

WHEREAS, in addition to the year 1 decrease of $150 per pupil, Governor Walker’s budget plan also includes no revenue limit per pupil increase;

WHEREAS, the impact of ceduction from our state aid funding to fund private school vouchers and charters puts approximately a $1M burden each year on our taxpayers, substantial expansion is currently proposed to remove enrollment caps which would increase the amount of general aid for those students thereby causing more burden to our local taxpayers;

WHEREAS, when factored together (base cut plus no inflationary revenue cap increase) the overall results in reductions in educational opportunities for public school children in Beloit is compounded upwards toward $2.1M;

WHEREAS, although the governor indicated in his budget address on February 3rd that school revenues remained essentially flat, his budget plan actually imposes a $150 ($127M statewide) cut in the per-pupil special categorical aid in the first year of the biennium;

WHEREAS, this $150 per-pupil categorical aid was in the 2014-15 state budget base and expected in each year of the 2015-17 biennium to minimally keep pace with inflation;

WHEREAS, even though the governor proposes to add about $142M (about $165 per pupil) to the per-pupil categorical aid in the second year of the biennium, the net result is a cut of approximately $135 per pupil ($112M) over the biennium; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the $142M in the per-pupil categorical aid in the second year of the budget, the governor also proposes spending $211.2M in increased school levy credits ($105.6M in each year) and $108M in increased general aid with no corresponding revenue limit increase; therefore, this $319M is “school funding in name only.” It simply flows to taxpayers as property tax relief and schools cannot spend one dime of it on the educational needs of their students; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District of Beloit Board of Education strongly encourages the governor and state legislature to review the governor’s budget to restore school funding in 2015-17 to educationally adequate levels to include no decrease in year 1 anticipated revenue while also providing for inflationary revenue increases in both years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being members of the Board of Education for the School District of Beloit, have executed this resolution this 11th day of March, 2015.

John Winkelmann, President
Shannon Scharmer, Clerk
Nora Gard, Board Member

John Acomb, Vice President
Michael Ramsdail, Treasurer
Missy Henderson, Board Member