

### Property Tax Transparency Resolution

A resolution in which the city of Wauwatosa is encouraged to adopt a more transparent tax notification model in which constituents are notified of the cost of private schools and 2R independent charter schools on their property tax bills.

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin State Constitution's sole mandate is to establish 'district schools, which shall be as nearly uniform as practicable; and such schools shall be free and without charge for tuition'; and

**WHEREAS**, 'district schools' are the sole educational system that requires oversight by locally elected officials, state instruction departments, and national education departments; and

**WHEREAS**, district schools primarily derive their revenue from property taxes and general state aid; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of district school referenda appear on local tax bills; and

**WHEREAS**, there exist private schools and 2R independent charter schools that accept public funding; and

**WHEREAS**, private schools are not required to publicly disclose their finances, adhere to the Freedom of Information Act, hold open meetings, have annual audits, or adhere to the same state educational standards; and

**WHEREAS**, there were 92,000 students participating in the various private school choice and special needs scholarship programs in Wisconsin in the 2023-2024 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of private schools and 2R independent charter schools are expected to surpass \$1.8 Billion during the 2025-2027 budget cycle; and

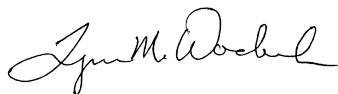
**WHEREAS**, there currently exists five private schools participating in the choice program in Wauwatosa; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no clear notification of the cost of private schools and 2R independent charter schools students on the Wauwatosa taxpayer;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wauwatosa Common Council is urged to develop an annually recurring method to notify Wauwatosa residents of the cost of private schools and 2R independent charter schools on their tax bills; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Wauwatosa School Board authorizes the Superintendent of the Wauwatosa School District and the Legislative Advocacy Committee of the Wauwatosa School Board to communicate this resolution to our elected officials and the public.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lynne Woehrle  
President  
Wauwatosa School Board



Liz Heimerl-Rolland  
Vice President  
Wauwatosa School Board



Jason Wautier  
Treasurer  
Wauwatosa School Board



Heidi Bach  
Clerk  
Wauwatosa School Board



Christopher Bauer  
Board Member  
Wauwatosa School Board



Phillip Morris  
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Wauwatosa School Board



Sarah Burzynski  
Board Member  
Wauwatosa School Board