

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 15**WASB Breaks Silence on the NSBA Letter**

As a follow up to the TBT article “Silence on the NSBA Letter” published on 11/4/21 (1), “the Wisconsin Association of School Boards” of which Rhinelander School District is a member, “voted on Nov. 5th to withdraw the association’s participation in the National School Boards Association’s programs and activities.(2)” (3)

The reason given? The message of the NSBA letter (that parents should be treated as domestic terrorists) was damaging to the relationship between parents and school boards. “A core responsibility of local school boards is to promote community engagement and foster relationships. The NSBA needlessly caused substantial controversy this fall, which has negatively impacted relationships among school boards, parents and community members. Those actions do not align with WASB policies and programs nor its mission to support, promote and advance public education.(2)”

Presumably, there is a way back for NSBA. “In the coming months, the [WASB] Board of Directors will closely monitor the actions and conduct of the NSBA as [NSBA] works to...restructure...and rebuild. (2)”

In addition, our local school board can “interact directly with NSBA if it chooses to do so.” “As always, the WASB supports local control.(2)”

The situation seems to be this: WASB, perhaps temporarily, withdraws its support of some sort from NSBA due to the breakdown of relationships between parents and local school boards brought on by calling parents domestic terrorists. Just like the NSBA apology memo to its members, of which WASB is one, both refer to the negative repercussions experienced by its members, but neither actually walks back the labeling of parents by NSBA.

One question has been answered:
Yes, Wisconsin Association of School Boards *is* one of the member state associations of NSBA at the time of NSBA’s September 29th letter.

Three questions present themselves:
What does WASB think of the *basis* of NSBA’s original letter? When will WASB publicly express support for parents? When will WASB ask the federal government to rescind its request to the FBI?

WASB has made it clear that it supports autonomy of local school boards “to make decisions in the best interests of their students and communities (2).” It then seems prudent that each local school board, no matter its

affiliated with NSBA, WASB or not, makes a public statement decrying the labeling of its district’s parents as domestic terrorists and demanding that the U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland formally stop any and all use of the federal government against parents.

1. [https://www.takebackteam.com/upload/20211104160448034.3.21%20\(AutoRecovered\).pdf](https://www.takebackteam.com/upload/20211104160448034.3.21%20(AutoRecovered).pdf)
2. <https://twitter.com/DeAngelisCorey/status/1458208588384645120>
3. <https://dailycaller.com/2021/11/09/wisconsin-school-board-association-deals-another-major-blow-to-national-group/>

**WASB’s Letter: A Puzzling Paragraph**

In the WASB’s letter (1), John Ashley, the executive director, inserted a standalone sentence following his explanation of what the WASB will be expecting from NSBA in order to resume relations with NSBA at the prior level.

“Board of Directors will be particularly focused on ensuring quality federal representation for Wisconsin school boards with congressional representatives, federal agencies and the judicial system.”

What does this mean? What is the significance of inserting this into the statement about withdrawing from the NSBA? Does this say that the work that NSBA does for our local school boards is brokering representation for them with the 3 branches of the federal government? What does that mean? If you know, please let us know!

<https://twitter.com/DeAngelisCorey/status/1458208588384645120> (page 2, top)

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