



## Educational Communications Board

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### **EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEETING**

**ECB Board Room**

**3319 West Beltline Highway**

**Madison, Wisconsin**

**July 14, 2017**

**9:30 a.m.**

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### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Gene Purcell**

#### ***State Budget Update***

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance approved the ECB budget as proposed by Governor Walker on a unanimous vote in May. The budget as approved by the Committee calls for a 3% reduction in GPR over the two year budget, and also projects an 11.9% increase in program revenue over the same period.

The GPR reduction is due in part to the fact that ECB is a smaller agency than it was two years ago, while the increase in program revenue reflects a balance between meeting agency expenses while recognizing our ability to raise outside funding.

As this is being written in early July, the JCF has yet to finish its work on the budget. Once that work is complete, the budget will be considered by the full legislature and sent to Governor Walker. The Governor may then choose to veto some or all of the budget before signing it.

In Wisconsin, if a new budget is not approved by the beginning of the new biennium, state agencies continue to operate under the existing 2015-2017 budget.

#### ***Federal Budget update***

As you know, President Trump has proposed the elimination of funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in his FY18 budget proposal.

CPB funding comprises about 10% of ECB's annual budget and a cut of this magnitude will diminish the ability of ECB to serve the state of Wisconsin.

While this news is several months old, there has been little action on this portion of the budget as the attention of Congress and the President has been focused elsewhere.



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Meanwhile, the FY 2018 Appropriations Committees are moving forward and drafting the appropriations bills, which determine how much funding specific programs will receive.

A date has not been announced for the consideration of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Ed) bill, which provides funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), Interconnection and Ready To Learn. The Senate Appropriations Committee is also expected to start considering bills in the coming weeks.

### ***Happy New Fiscal Year***

The move from one fiscal year to another at a state agency requires a lot of work, both in terms of projecting and planning and also in the more mundane aspects of making sure that everything put into STAR (the State of Wisconsin's financial platform) is where it's supposed to be.

Thanks to the hard and detail oriented work of Marta Bechtol and Aimee Wright, ECB is ready for the next fiscal year.

For the moment, they are also focusing on closing out FY17, a process that will be ongoing for several months.

### ***Wisconsin Media Lab update***

It has been nearly a year since the integration of Wisconsin Media Lab with the education team at Wisconsin Public Television began, and what a difference a year makes!

Since then, there has been significant work in merging the two operations and re-thinking what the possibilities might be.

While there is plenty of work left to do, I'm pleased to report that Wisconsin Media Lab's new home at WPT is working out in the way we had hoped it would. WML staff are part of the WPT team and we're back to focusing on the work of educational media.

We have come a long way from where we were two years ago, and it's taken a lot of coordination and determination to reassess and reorganize, but I think the results speak for themselves: Good things are happening.

Read more about education in Jon Miskowski's WPT report.