



BI OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

34 SIMSBURY ROAD
AVON, CONNECTICUT 06001
Telephone: (860) 404-4700
gmala@avon.k12.ct.us

Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 15, 2017

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

Last week, Governor Malloy released his proposed biennial budget for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 respectively. The purpose of this message is to make you aware of the impact the Governor's proposals would have on Avon should they be enacted by both the House of Representatives and State Senate.

Some of the proposals that would directly impact our community are listed below:

- The Governor's Budget, as proposed, would have a **negative impact of -\$1,981,363** on the Town Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018.
- New required expenditure in Avon's Budget: Contribution of **\$2,887,273** to State Teacher's Retirement Fund. Currently the State contributes a portion of the Teachers' Retirement Fund while certified staff eligible for this retirement plan contribute a total of 7.25% of their salary.
- The amount Avon would be required to pay towards the Teachers Retirement Fund is **greater** than the proposed capital budget supported by the Town's general fund next year. This is the funding for building, road maintenance and equipment purchases for the Town and the Board of Education.
- **Eliminates all Education Cost Sharing Revenue to some towns, of which Avon is one.** Avon would receive \$0 in ECS funding. This translates into a loss to our town totaling \$731,456. Education Cost Sharing is a State grant that has been in place for many years and was designed to equalize state funding to public schools. In the case of the Governor's proposed budget, it is clear the grant funds were taken from what some refer to as wealthy communities and given to less wealthy communities.
- The amount of reimbursement received under the Open Choice program will be significantly reduced to all cities and towns. Currently, the town receives approximately \$6,000 per year for each non-resident student attending one of our schools. The percentage of reduction is unknown at this time.
- Excess Cost Reimbursement is a revenue to the Town for expenses associated with providing more specialized programs to some students when they are required. Excess Cost Reimbursement is proposed to be merged with a new special education grant under which Avon would receive less reimbursement. School districts will be reimbursed 0-55% for special education costs based on a town's relative wealth. We estimate this proposal will result in a loss of revenue in the 2017-2018 fiscal year of approximately \$353,848.
- The Town Council, Board of Finance and Board of Education will be discussing how to manage the budget imbalance of -\$1,981,363 should the elements of the Governor's Proposed Budget be adopted.
- The Board of Education is more than likely to have to proportionately reduce its current proposed budget according to a final plan agreed upon by the Town's three elected bodies.

An excellent summary of the Governor's proposed biennial budget may be found using the following link.
<http://ctmirror.org/2017/02/08/see-how-your-town-fares-in-the-governors-proposed-budget/>

NOTE: The spending and revenue numbers listed above are all unofficial. Neither the Town Council nor the Board of Finance has yet taken any action on the proposed budget. The Board of Finance will establish the actual recommended budget (and determine its required mill rate) as provided in the Avon Town Charter in April and submit it to Referendum in May.

In my opinion, the Governor's Proposed Budget is nothing less than draconian if it is accepted by our state level elected officials. It also clearly bifurcates our state's cities and towns at a time that we should all be working together to find ways to manage the state's current problem of needing to increase revenue while reducing expenditures that are reasonable to reduce. Given the gravity of what Governor Malloy has presented in the budget, the ramifications will be reductions that will adversely impact what services towns can offer to our residents including what programs, services and conditions can be offered to our town's school aged population.

Needless to say, Avon's elected officials, the Town Manager and I have been dealt a significant unanticipated challenge to overcome. As always, I will keep you updated as we learn more about the fate of the Governor's budget proposal. Any plans agreed upon by local elected officials with respect to the Town's proposed budget will also be communicated to you.

I am providing you with contact information should you wish to express your concerns to our state elected officials:

<p>Office of Governor Dan Malloy 210 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: 860-566-4840 Toll-Free: 800-406-1527 TDD: 860-524-7397 Fax: 860-524-7395 Email: governor.malloy@ct.gov http://portal.ct.gov/Share_Your_Opinion.aspx</p>	<p>Office of the Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman State Capitol, Room 304 210 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: (860) 524-7384 TDD: (860) 524-7397 Email: ltgovernor.wyman@ct.gov http://portal.ct.gov/ltgovernor/submit-a-comment/</p>
<p>Office of the State Comptroller Kevin Lembo 55 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: (860) 702-3300 Email: comptroller.lembo@ct.gov</p>	<p>State Senator Kevin Witkos Legislative Office Building 300 Capitol Avenue, Room 3403 Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: (800) 842-1421 (CT only) Email: Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov http://ctsenaterepublicans.com/contact-witkos/</p>

<p>State Representative Tim LeGeyt Connecticut House Republican Office L.O.B. Room 4200 Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: (860) 240-8700, (800) 842-1423 Email: Tim.LeGeyt@housegop.ct.gov http://cthousegop.com/contact-tim-legeyt/</p>	<p>State Representative Derek Slap Legislative Office Building, Room 4036 Hartford, CT 06106-1591 Phone: (860) 240-8585, (800) 842-8267 Email: Derek.Slap@cga.ct.gov http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Slap/contact</p>
<p>Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty 114 West Main Street, Suite 206 New Britain, CT 06051 Phone: (860) 223-8412 Fax: (860) 225-7289 https://forms.house.gov/esty/webforms/email-me.shtml</p>	<p>State Senator Beth Bye Legislative Office Building Room 2700 Hartford, CT 06106-1591 Phone: (860) 240-0428, (800) 842-1420 Email: Bye@senatedems.ct.gov http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Bye-mailform.php</p>

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work to manage this financial challenge and all its implications.

Sincerely,



Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools Avon Public Schools
gmala@avon.k12.ct.us