

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

34 SIMSBURY ROAD
AVON, CONNECTICUT 06001
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Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SPECIAL MESSAGE

April 25, 2016

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I hope this message finds you well rested and relaxed after the weekend.

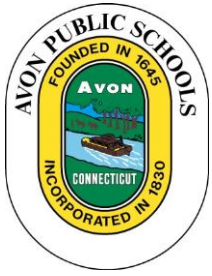
This past Friday, April 22nd, a message was sent communicating to you the reductions needed to compensate for the loss in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds. It has been brought to my attention the Board of Education Estimated 2016/2017 Reduction amount on the Board of Education 2016/2017 Proposed Budget Reductions attachment is approximately \$60.00 less than what was written. What was listed as \$261,211.00 of reductions has been lowered to \$261,158.00 with a total Board of Education reduction amount of \$386,158.00.

The April 22nd message along with the corrected attachments have been included to this message for your reference.

I wish you a productive week.

I remain very truly yours,

Gary S. Mala
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April 22, 2016

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

It has been some time since I communicated with you last and hope that you are enjoying the school year.

As you may be aware, the spring months are those during which the budget for the Town of Avon is finalized. Over the duration of the past two weeks, all elected Town Boards and senior level leadership have been forced to manage an unanticipated, large reduction to Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds due to actions taken by the state legislature's Appropriations Committee.

With that said, I and Brandon Robertson, Avon's Town Manager, continue to communicate with members of our state legislative delegation to explain the impact of what can best be described as a disproportionately larger reduction in ECS funds as compared to the other communities in our geographic area. In some cases, the reduction is almost ten times more than other similar communities. What was already a reasonable and efficient budget now required significant reductions to compensate for the lost revenue being forecast. Attached is a summary of the reductions to the district's portion of the total budget, which were voted upon unanimously by the Board of Education at its April 19th meeting.

On a more optimistic note, I, along with the Town Manager, met with Senator Kevin Witkos on April 20th, the morning after the Board of Education meeting. I interpreted Senator Witkos' comments to be more encouraging compared to other comments I've heard. Specifically, Senator Witkos alluded to the possibility of some restoration to the reduced ECS amount. If and when this happens, it will allow us, the Board of Education, Town Council and Board of Finance, to revisit the reduction scenario as it has been prepared. Should we receive some restored funding and we are approved to access it by the Board of Finance, I will recommend that it be used to fill positions that have been earmarked for reduction.

It goes without saying that what we are experiencing is due to the impact of our state's economic condition which has led to some traces of instability. During times such as these, I believe it is imperative for all of us to exercise what our democracy affords us the opportunity to do, that being to advocate to those at the state level who are making decisions that could adversely impact our community and our schools. Talking points and contact information for Avon's state delegation are also attached should you wish to personally advocate for the restoration of the reduced Education Cost Sharing funds. I am committed to continuing my efforts as the strongest advocate for our students, families, and staff.

Thank you for your continued support of your schools and enjoy a restful weekend.

I remain very truly yours,

Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools
Avon Public Schools
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Avon Public Schools
Board of Education 2016/2017 Proposed Budget Reductions

State of CT Appropriations Committee Reduction to ECS	473,211.00	<i>(Education Cost Share)</i>
Town Revenue Source	(125,000.00)	
Reduction to 2016/2017 Proposed Budget	348,211.00	

Reduction Apportioned as Follows:

<i>Board of Education Reduction of 75%</i>	261,158.00
<i>Town of Avon Reduction of 25%</i>	87,000.00

Total Board of Education Reduction FY 2016/2017:

Board of Education Estimated 2016/2017 Reduction	(261,158.00)	<i>75% Proposed Reduction</i>
New Family Engagement Specialist Position	(125,000.00)	<i>1.0 FTE Certified Staff</i>
Total Board of Education Reduction	(386,158.00)	

Reduction Descriptions	Reduction Amount	Notes
Salary Lines	(28,600.00)	<i>Unanticipated Retirement</i>
Salary Lines	(21,695.00)	<i>Unanticipated 1 Year Leave</i>
Substitute Custodian	(50,000.00)	<i>Less 1.0 FTE -Newly Proposed for 2016/2017</i>
Contracted Landscaping Service	(41,670.00)	<i>Newly Proposed for 2016/2017</i>
Overtime	(5,000.00)	<i>Reduce increase from 15/16 to 16/17</i>
ALP Tutor	(25,000.00)	<i>Less 1.0 FTE - Not fill vacancy</i>
2 Teaching Assistants @ Grade 3	(50,000.00)	<i>Less 2.0 FTE - Newly Proposed for 2016/2017</i>
Co-Curricular Stipends (AMS/AHS)	(23,000.00)	<i>Per Principal Recommendations</i>
Capturing Kids Hearts Consulting	(19,000.00)	<i>Reduce Consultation to One Visit</i>
Elementary Library Media Specialist <i>(Not fill retirement)</i>	(91,895.00)	<i>Less 1.0 FTE - Shared Library Media Specialist</i>
Employer Social Security / Medicare Contribution	(9,945.00)	<i>Reduction based on above reduced positions</i>
Supplies	(20,353.00)	<i>Various supply lines District Wide</i>
Total Variance	0.00	

Talking Points for Communication with State Legislative Delegation

Issue: Proposed reduction to the amount of Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula funds to be received in Avon for the 2016-2017 fiscal year

1. ECS was reduced by \$473,211 by the Appropriations Committee.
2. Reduction to Avon's ECS amount was disproportionately higher (on an average of ten times more) than any other surrounding community in this geographic area.
3. Notice of the reduction was made known to Town and District officials approximately one week before the annual budget hearing.
4. The unanticipated reduction caused the Town and District to reduce budgets that were already reasonable and efficient yet met the needs of residents and students.
5. Reductions, if they are sustained, will negatively impact both Town and schools.
6. We are requesting restoration of ECS reduction amount to 2015-2016 level.
7. Restoration of ECS funds will allow for district to restore proposed reductions including but not limited to the reduced Library Media Specialist position at the elementary level.

<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 Brian Becker Legislative Office Building, Room 4009 Hartford, CT 06106-1591 Phone: (860) 240-8585, (800) 842-8267 Email: Brian.Becker@cga.ct.gov http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Becker/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>