

BETHANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



Bethany Board of Education

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January 2, 2018

Greetings from the Bethany Board of Education!

We are writing today to follow up on the state budget and its effects on the Bethany Community School. As many of you know, the state has been struggling with a deficit, and discussions in Hartford and across Connecticut over how to deal with it delayed the adoption of a budget for 2017 - 2018 for 117 days. In our welcome letter in October, and in a piece in the October Bethany Bulletin, we highlighted some of the changes that were being considered, and how they would affect education. Some of the scenarios being contemplated were very concerning, with cuts in Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) funding to Bethany of up to \$2 million.

The budget impasse is now resolved, at least for the moment, and the news for Bethany and for the Bethany Community School is much better than we once feared. The budget that was adopted on October 26 cut our ECS allocation by \$109,000; a second round of cuts by the governor's office, required to bring everything into balance, brought this to a cut of \$259,027. This is not a trivial amount, but it is much better than things looked back in October.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education are in the process of formulating our 2018 - 2019 budget. In light of the improved outlook for support from the State, we are hopeful that we will be able to present a responsible budget without major cuts to educational offerings at the school.

We thank you, as always, for your support of our children and our school. If you are interested in hearing more about the budget for next year, please come to our next Board meeting, at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 10 in the BCS Learning Commons. The current proposal for next year's budget will be presented and discussed in detail at that meeting.

With warmest wishes for a Happy New Year,

In partnership,

Christopher Pittenger, Chair

Dorothy Seaton, Vice Chair

For the Bethany Board of Education