A decorative border of hand-drawn stars surrounds the text. The stars are drawn in a simple, sketchy style and are scattered around the edges of the page.

Attention Southeast Students!

Would you like to come to school in your pajamas and help sick children at the same time?

**Southeast School is sponsoring
Kids for Kids Day
On Friday, February 1st**

All kids can dress in their pajamas or any comfortable clothes that day. We hope you will also bring a \$1 donation to send to the

A dark rectangular box containing a white logo on the left and the text "Connecticut Children's Medical Center" on the right. The logo is a stylized cross or plus sign.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

*Kindergartener Bronwyn has an idea for kids to try:
Talk to your parents about doing a chore for them or anyone else. Tell them you will do your best work for \$1 that you will donate to help children in the hospital. Make sure you do that this week so you can have your money to bring to school next Friday!*

Southeast PTO presentation to the Mansfield Board of Education

February 21, 2013

PTO Officers: Cyndi Wells, President; Jessica Higham, Vice President; Gwen Schneider, Treasurer; Jana MacDonald, Secretary

Mission Statement and Goals: The Southeast PTO is comprised of parents, teachers and principal who work together to support the programs of Southeast, work toward continuous school improvement, and strengthen the Southeast community. Communication and support are the two primary goals of the PTO.

Initiatives and activities for the 2012-2013 school year:

1.) *Communication and collaboration/support with parents, the community and school:*

- Community Building events-Fall Carnival; Adopt a Family and WAIM Walk for Warmth; Cocoa, Crafts and Caroling; Family Skating; Family Game Night; Family Hike; Ice Cream Socials
- Events to collaborate with school initiatives: UCONN and Scholastic Book Fairs; Stories for Southeast (a way to bring books to our library while also celebrating a special occasion/person); Special Person's Days; Collaborating with Character Education Committee for Adopt a Family; and collaborating on Parents' Hours.
- Been actively involved in the School Building Project-showing our support for our wonderful school!
- Many parents volunteer their time during the school day, with the gardening program and with coordinating and donating to events.

2.) *Fundraising to support school:*

- Operating budget=\$16,000
- Funds raised to date=\$12,000
 - Silent Auction held during the Fall Carnival was supported by over 75 local businesses who generously donated to the cause; various catalog fundraisers, such as bulbs, gift wrap, Munson's, citrus fruit; direct donations from families and the community; our annual tag sale
 - New initiatives include a consignment sale and Mabel's Labels
- Last year the PTO purchased one more SMART Board for the school, playground bench and library drop box. This year we are continuing to support the school through helping to pay the cost of field trips; scholarships to students; enrichment speakers and programs; fourth grade Moving on Ceremony; community building events; health and fitness programs such as the afterschool Running Club; museum passes at Mansfield Public Library; Special Person's Days; Nutrition Month and more!

School project future mulled by town, school leaders

By MICHELLE FIRESTONE
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — The board of education and town council will soon discuss priorities for maintenance work at the school buildings, with a joint meeting between the two boards scheduled for later this month.

That meeting will occur Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the council chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

It addresses a preliminary, \$65.7 million proposal involving the construction of two new elementary schools at the Annie E. Vinton and Dorothy C. Goodwin sites, with renovations done to the middle school.

Southeast Elementary School would close, with the future use of that building to be determined by town officials.

Based on the preliminary proposal, the town anticipated \$29.8 million in state reimbursement funds, less than half the project.

Citing cost concerns, however,

the town council Jan. 23 opted to put off sending the project to a town vote.

Part of that vote, however, called for the council and school board to meet to address long-term maintenance and educational needs at the four schools.

"We do need to have a plan put together to move forward as fast as we can with our schools," said Mansfield Board of Education Chairman Mark LaPlaca. "We waited long enough."

"We have had a good relationship with the board of education and I want them to understand why we did what we did," said Mansfield Mayor Elizabeth "Betsy" Paterson.

Town officials are hopeful both boards can iron out a plan of action.

"I hope the council and the board are able to communicate with one another and come away from the meeting with a good understanding of the next steps going forward," said Mansfield

Town Manager Matthew Hart.

Paterson said she is hoping the economy will pick up and said the project would likely be revisited if and when it does.

At the Feb. 11 town council meeting, the council discussed the impact Gov. Dannel Malloy's proposed budget would have on Mansfield.

His two-year proposal includes the elimination of Payment in Lieu of Taxes funds, which were instead rolled into the town's Education Cost Sharing grant.

As a result, the ECS grant was increased from \$10,156,014 this year to \$17,199,408 next year, an increase of slightly more than \$7 million.

While the PILOT funding losses are offset by an increase in the ECS funds, town officials are concerned about the long-term ramifications of lost PILOT dollars.

Mansfield, home to the University of Connecticut, receives more PILOT funds than most towns.

PILOT monies are aimed at reimbursing towns for state-owned property, which is not taxable.

"I think the governor's message just reinforces that we did the right thing," said Paterson.

Meanwhile, the school board seeks clarity on whether maintenance and other improvements should be done over the long-term or short-term.

It will come up with a list of priorities for such projects.

LaPlaca said the district doesn't want to do repairs that would make a construction project a "moot point."

One such project is repairs to the school roofs, which School/Town Facilities Director William Hammon has said will cost approximately \$1 million for each building.

Paterson said the council is looking for the district to do "short-term maintenance that can keep the schools up and running for another five to six years."

Mansfield Public Schools
School Emergency Procedures
Update: February 21, 2013

The following provides a chronological list of events and actions taken to date by the Mansfield Public Schools and the Town of Mansfield as a result of the December 14th incident in Newtown, Connecticut.

- Dec. 14-15 - The Town Manager facilitated conference calls to address immediate needs of school, staff, and parents utilizing town resources.
- Dec. 14 - The Superintendent sent a notification to parents and staff regarding changes to school procedures and next steps to take place.
- Dec. 16 - The Town sponsored a vigil to honor the victims of the Newtown incident.
- Dec. 17-21 - The schools reopened with police presence at arrival and dismissal.
 - The staff provided support, reassurance, and instructional programming at all schools.
 - The Superintendent asked all staff for comments, issues, or concerns regarding district and building policy and procedures.
 - The Building Principals implemented specific school adjustments to address before, during, and after school hours.
- Dec. 18 - Resident Troopers began daily unannounced visits to all schools.
- Dec. 24- Jan. 1 - The Resident Troopers' Sergeant, UConn Police, Director of Emergency Management, Director of Facilities Management, and Superintendent of Schools toured selected town schools to gain familiarity with building layouts and identify potential items to address.
- Jan. 1 – Jan. 30 - The Resident Troopers' Sergeant, Director of Emergency Management, and Superintendent of Schools met with all school staff to discuss current policy and procedures, solicit questions, concerns, comments, and answered questions.
- Jan. 14 – Feb. 6 - The Superintendent and Mansfield Board of Education Chair met with all four schools' parent organization to provide an update and solicit feedback.
- Jan. 17 - A meeting was held with the Administrative Council, Director of Information Technology, Director of Facilities Management, Director of Emergency Management, and Resident Troopers' Sergeant with Sonitrol to review current capabilities and request recommended enhancements and cost estimates.
 - A list of individual school doors requiring locks was provided to the Director of Facilities Management.
- Feb. 12 - The Administrative Council, Director of Emergency Management, Resident Troopers' Sergeant, Director of IT, and Director and Deputy Director of Facilities Management met to review and revise Mansfield Public School Emergency Procedures.
- Feb. 14 - The Administrative Council, Director of Emergency Management, Resident Troopers' Sergeant, Director of Information Technology, and Director and Deputy Director of Facilities Management met to discuss concepts to be presented to the Mansfield Board of Education and Mansfield Town Council for review, consideration, and adoption.

Items under consideration for review by the Mansfield Board of Education:

- ⦿ Enhance signage on school property to restrict the use of school property during the school day.
- ⦿ Review staff, parent, and public parking to minimize disruption and risk throughout the school day.
- ⦿ Review and enhance ability of school staff and police to view the perimeter of the school buildings through an upgrade to software and selected camera placement.
- ⦿ All exterior doors to all schools will be numbered for identification by first responders.
- ⦿ Expand the size of monitors of exterior cameras within the school office.
- ⦿ Review all entrances to minimize and/or reinforce unprotected glass.
- ⦿ Create a second verification process for all visitors to the school except for the opening and closing of the school day (ie. use of vestibule with phone and cameras and/or staff verification).
- ⦿ All exterior doors to all schools will be locked (red) unless being supervised by school staff.
- ⦿ All interior doors to all instructional/non-instructional spaces will be in the locked position and teachers/staff utilizing the space will determine if the door is open or closed depending on the intended purpose or activity.
- ⦿ Replace and relocate telephone communication systems at the four schools and address staff capability to contact school, district, and police.
- ⦿ Provide the capability for selected school staff and local police to view schools interior hallways during the conduct of a drill and/or live events to increase response effectiveness.
- ⦿ Install additional door locks as needed.
- ⦿ Review the continuum of student support services offered by the schools and town to enhance the identification of students or families in need of assistance.
- ⦿ Maximize the use of state and federal funds to increase student and staff safety and security reduce risk to students and staff.
- ⦿ Install blinds/shades in doors with windows to be pulled down in the event of a lockdown.
- ⦿ Conduct state approved risk assessment at all schools when available to determine the most cost effective mitigation strategies considering safety and security issues.
- ⦿ Initiate simple, clear, and direct instructions to students and staff regarding all types of incidents.
- ⦿ Orient all staff to changes in Emergency Procedures and to school operating procedures.
- ⦿ Orient all parents, guardians, and community members to changes in school procedures.
- ⦿ Provide training to all school staff relevant to all aspects of the plan.

Related Activities:

- State of Connecticut

- ⦿ January 3rd: Governor appoints Sandy Hook Advisory Commission with initial report due by March 15th. <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloycwp/view.asp?Q=516230andA=4010>.
- ⦿ January 15th: General Assembly announced a Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety <http://www.cga.ct.gov/ASaferConnecticut/> with a report due in late February.

- Federal Government:

- ⦿ On December 19th, President Obama appointed Vice President Biden to lead a gun violence task force.
- ⦿ On January 15, 2013, Vice President Biden delivered his policy proposals to President Obama.
- ⦿ On January 16, 2013, the President put forward a plan to reduce gun violence. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/preventing-gun-violence>

School

Continued from Page A1

ty guards, as was suggested during lengthy public hearings after the Dec. 14 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

It decided to leave those decisions to school districts.

Rep. Andrew Fleischmann, D-West Hartford, co-chairman of the subcommittee, said, "One of the clear areas of agreement on the subcommittee was that we should not be creating mandates that the state does not pay for."

Instead, the committee recommended that the state Department of Education provide technical support to public and private schools that want to increase the numbers of social workers, guidance counselors or other staff that help with behavioral issues.

"We are sending the message: School districts, we think it's a good

idea to bring more of these professionals on board and if you do, the state Department of Education will have the capacity to help you in those decisions," Fleischmann said.

Sen. Beth Bye, D-West Hartford, a member of the subcommittee, said: "School districts are going to have a lot of discretion about how to address this. We didn't want to be directive to districts, but we wanted to have supports at the ready for them."

Rep. Roberta Willis, D-Salisbury, said it was frustrating not to have the funds "that our schools need to provide those kinds of services, whether it be guidance counselor or school psychologists or social workers."

Regarding armed guards, Willis said funding was an issue — but not the only issue. "There was also a question from the testimony we got: How effective is it?" she said.

The panel agreed that schools should provide "intensive, individualized interventions for the

most high-risk students who are already exhibiting violent tendencies" and require "remediation plans and follow-ups" for those individuals, according to a consensus document circulated at the meeting.

The subcommittee recommended reviving a school safety competitive grant program that was started in 2007 but was cut because of a tight state budget. The subcommittee is not recommending a dollar amount for the program, but when it was started it had \$10 million.

To make safety improvements more affordable, the panel also recommended that if a district is renovating a school, certain improvements in safety infrastructure — including ballistic glass, mobile emergency response buttons, and classroom doors with computer-controlled electric locks — should be included as eligible costs for coverage under state construction grants.

The subcommittee also suggested that districts applying for grants for new construction or renovations be required to meet a security standard.

On emergency procedures, the legislators recommended that school districts develop a "security and vulnerability" assessment plan for each school. The district would be required to submit a school safety plan to the state Department of Emergency Security and Public Protection. Districts would also be required to report that they have done the required three crisis drills.

The subcommittee is also recommending the establishment of a school safety or threat assessment team that would consider all hazards to the school.

After the panel's meeting Tuesday, Fleischmann cautioned that no recommendations could fully guarantee school safety.

"There are two things I would like to make clear," Fleischmann said. "Certainly, this package of

reforms will serve to improve school safety and security. Secondly, it's important for folks to know that there's no way for anyone to provide any absolute guarantees of safety. If you have someone who is suicidal and homicidal and extremely well-armed, even the very best planning won't necessarily protect everyone from harm."

Asked about the recommendations, Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams, one of the leaders of the task force, said he sympathizes with legislators concerned about passing on costs that municipalities can't afford.

The subcommittee, meeting in the Legislative Office Building on Tuesday, agreed to its list of recommendations after revising a three-page consensus document. Committee members will have a chance to review the revised written document before forwarding the recommendations to the full bipartisan task force, where final decisions will be made.

SCHOOLS

Panel Backs Safety Changes

Ballistic Glass, No Armed Guards

BY KATHLEEN MEGAN
krmegan@courant.com

HARTFORD — School districts would find it more affordable to equip staff with emergency buttons, install ballistic glass and make other post-Newtown safety improvements under recommendations endorsed by a legislative panel Tuesday.

Other recommendations would ensure better emergency planning and provide school districts with technical support on how best to improve behavioral health care for students. The panel also recommended reviving a state program that help pay for school safety improvements.

But the panel — the school security subcommittee of the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety — decided against requiring districts to hire more social workers, psychologists or armed secur-

SCHOOL, A13

No state funds for school safety

By JOHANNA SOMERS
The Day

HARTFORD — Members of the state General Assembly's School Safety and Mental Health Services working groups said Tuesday that they weren't sure how the state would help fund more counselors and mental health professionals at schools.

"I think we are being somewhat disingenuous with our constituents when we start talking about grants and additional monies when we have no money," said state Sen. Kevin Witkos, R-Canton, of the School Safety Working Group. "The state of Connecticut is broke."

The School Safety Working Group agreed to borrow for infrastructure enhancements but could not come up with a funding source for more school resource officers, school counselors or mental health professionals. The Mental Health Services Working group has come to bipartisan agreement on a couple of items but as yet hasn't figured out where the funding will come, according to state Sen. Toni Harp, D-New Haven, co-chairman of that group.

On Tuesday, the School Safety group agreed to require school districts applying for new construction and renovation grants to meet security infrastructure standards.

The group also agreed to allocate additional funding and reau-

thorize current funding for districts to apply for school security infrastructure grants.

Some of the security measures for which schools would be eligible include ballistic glass for entry ways, computer-controlled electronic locks, mobile emergency response buttons for school personnel and solid core internal and external doors.

The group did not agree on whether to provide state funding for more mental health professionals and school resource officers. In the end, members decided they would recommend that schools have more personnel but that they could not mandate personnel increases because they could not guarantee funding.

"I think that certainly we can guarantee nothing, but we can work really hard to try to do this with every intention of following through," state Sen. Dante Bartolomeo, D-Meriden, said.

They did agree to propose additional funding to the Department of Education so it could provide technical advice to school districts as to how many mental health and SRO staff they would need.

When it came to personnel increases, Bartolomeo said, officials in school districts in her area have said they were concerned with mandates that were only funded for one year.

"Many of the schools that I have spoken to have said we are

better off left alone if you can't continue the funding because if you start something you can't finish, you leave a hole that we have to make up for on the local level," she said.

In response, state Sen. Andrea Stillman, D-Waterford, said a multi-year grant could be created for personnel costs, but many legislators were wary of this proposal.

"I really hate to begin a program where our municipalities, and our boards of education may be counting on the money being there and enacting programs only to have the money ... disappear the following year," Witkos said.

Local superintendents also were opposed to unfunded mandates. Norwich superintendent Abby Dolliver said the Norwich district definitely could benefit from more funding for school resource officers and mental health professionals.

"We would love to increase SROs, but we know that we don't have the capacity in our budget to do that," Dolliver said. "I am not in favor of a mandate for personnel that is not funded or briefly funded."

State Rep. Diana Urban, D-North Stonington, said that even though that state is in a tight budget, she would rather see the state spend "tons" of money on School Based Health Centers than on school infrastructure.

Panel reaches consensus on school security; plans must be reviewed by state

By Susan Haigh

Associated Press

HARTFORD— A legislative subcommittee reviewing school security measures after the Newtown shooting agreed Tuesday to recommend that local school safety and security plans meet basic minimum requirements.

For the first time, those plans would be submitted to state officials for review.

The panel also agreed to require school systems to report when they conduct mandatory crisis drills and recommended the state allocate additional money to help towns pay for security measures such as reinforced entryways with ballistic glass, security cameras, solid-core doors, and buzzer systems. The lawmakers, however, left the amount up for debate considering the state is facing a budget crunch.

Rep. Andrew M. Fleischmann, D-West Hartford and the subcommittee's co-chairman, noted that lawmakers can't issue recommendations that ensure "nothing terrible can ever happen again" at a Connecticut school. The Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School left 20 first-graders and six educators dead.

"I think that the spirit of this task force and these recommendations specifically is to say, 'Well, those things that we can catch early and that we can do that reduce the likelihood of something happening further downstream are what we want to aim for,'" he said.

Members of the school security subcommittee of the General Assembly's Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety agreed Tuesday to a list of consensus recommendations to legislative leaders. Those

ideas will be considered for a final package of changes, to be voted on by the full legislature.

Two other subcommittees reviewing mental health programs and gun laws are still working on recommendations to legislative leaders.

Rep. Craig A. Miner, R-Litchfield, co-chairman of the gun violence subcommittee, said his panel may meet next week to discuss possible consensus proposals. He said Senate and House Democrats and Republicans have been informally discussing potential areas of agreement.

"Some people probably figure that gun owners and gun control advocates are 180 degrees from each other, and I think that's not the case," said Miner. He said he believes there's common ground about more education, gun ownership, and the handling of gun crimes. But he said it's too early to

tell if there will be consensus on some of the more controversial issues, such as limits on ammunition magazine sizes and changes to the state's assault weapons ban.

Members of the school safety committee voiced concern about requiring school systems to spend money on certain personnel and infrastructure after the shooting, saying school officials know best as to what they need and can afford.

For example, subcommittee members didn't agree to require

towns to hire school safety officers, install specific security infrastructure, or hire specific staff. However, subcommittee members plan to make it clear to school systems that professionals are needed to provide intensive, individualized interventions for high-risk students who show signs of violence and to follow up with those students.

Last week, the subcommittee was told that the Sandy Hook shooting was unusual because most school shootings are committed by students.



Town of Mansfield Department of Finance

To: Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent
From: Cherie Trahan, Director *CT*
CC: Matt Hart, Town Manager
Date: February 18, 2013
Re: Proposed Budget Email dated February 12, 2013 from M. Kelly

Thank you for sharing your Board member's concerns regarding the budget and the State's fiscal position. I think these are concerns that are shared by most (if not all) state, and municipal and educational leaders. The use of reserves (Special Education funds) and the adjustment of premiums to take advantage of the lower than anticipated claims experience is not something that was taken lightly. Careful analysis and projections have been prepared. That is not to say that a high cost student or high claims experience will not happen. However, we believe that there will still be enough reserves to cover these situations. Careful monitoring throughout the year helps us to address any issues that might develop and make modifications to spending plans should this happen.

In response to the specific questions contained in the email, I offer the following:

1. The District's Minimum Budget Requirement for FY 2013/14 is \$20,599,624. This reflects an increase of \$11,464 or .06% over the current year. A budget at this level would mean a reduction in the current proposed budget of \$341,396. As you know, roughly 84% of the budget is made up of salaries and benefits. At this time with technology equipment and other supply purchases already being deferred, there is little room for reductions other than in salaries. To achieve a reduction of \$341,000 would be the equivalent of approximately five teaching positions. I would expect that in order to do that, class sizes would need to be increased. This would be a policy issue that the Board would need to address. In reference to this, please see the attached letter from Governor Malloy regarding his proposed budget and the changes he proposes. Specifically, he speaks to education as a top priority for Connecticut.
2. If the proposed budget did **not** include a reduction in the health insurance contribution or the use of special education reserves, the proposed budget would total \$21,438,450, an increase of \$850,290 or 4%. Using these funds in a fiscal year that reflects a substantial increase in Mansfield's share of Regional School District #19 will ease the burden on our taxpayers. Might we need a 4% increase in the following year, yes, but we may also have a lower increase in Region 19 in the following year.

Preparing a responsible budget which supports the policies and goals of the governing body is always a bit of a balancing act. I believe we have achieved a responsible budget. Also attached for your information is a current list from the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) of the various school districts in Connecticut and their submitted budget percentage increases.

Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Dear Mayors, First Selectmen, and Local Leaders:

Coming out of another historic storm, as we continue to work together to clear our roads, I'm writing in the hope that we can also work together to clear the way for sensible, smart policy changes. Changes that preserve our most fundamental responsibilities to our citizens, and that ease the burden on our middle class.

In that spirit, I'd like to clarify some of the misconceptions I've heard about my biennial budget proposal and how it might impact your local budget. Before I get into the details, let me say a couple of things up front.

My budget is focused on the following priorities: growing jobs, investing in education, and *finding ways to provide tangible relief to our middle class*, including relieving them of the most hated and unfair tax in Connecticut – the car tax – and by reinstating the sales tax exemption for some clothing.

My plan also sends at least the same amount of state dollars to cities and towns as they currently receive. It's true that aid comes in different ways, which will necessitate adjustments on your end. *But at a time when states across the country are decimating local aid, no city or town in Connecticut will receive less total funding from the state than it did last year, and many will receive more.*

To do all that without raising taxes, my plan also contains more than \$1.8 billion in savings from the state's current services. That's \$1.8 billion worth of tough decisions about how Connecticut serves its residents.

This is a tough budget, built for tough times. Connecticut is making hard decisions and setting priorities in order to live within its means. *I understand that cities and towns will need to make their own hard decisions.* We're all public servants, but we're also citizens and taxpayers; we can hopefully agree that all levels of government must change with the times, find savings, and operate efficiently.

Now, I'd like to respond specifically to some of those misconceptions I mentioned.

"Exempting car taxes is nothing but a huge cut to local revenue."

At a time when hardworking Connecticut families continue to struggle, it is incumbent upon their government – state and local – to find ways to help them. *This is tax relief for your constituents and mine – families who are middle class, working class and working poor.* I understand adjustments will need to be made locally, but I strongly believe we should stand with them and find ways to make this work.

A few additional points:

First, my car tax proposal does not take any money out of the aid that the state sends towns. It simply says that money that's already raised locally, from your constituents, has to be done in a fairer way.

Second, eliminating the tax on cars under \$20,000 in assessed value will eliminate much of the aggravation and paperwork from your local tax assessment and collections operation. The savings will vary in each community, but they are substantial, not only in dollars but in frustration by local taxpayers.

Third, despite their best efforts, most communities are fortunate if they collect 90 percent of car taxes. Factoring in the cost of collecting and the number of tax delinquents, the car tax makes up a small portion of the tax base in most communities -- between 2 and 10 percent. Communities have a number of options available to them to make up for this, including spending cuts. I encourage your administrations to review your grand list, your anticipated budget requirements, and your tax system and undertake a detailed analysis of how this exemption will impact the taxpayers in your community.

Overall, Connecticut residents will benefit from this change, but local officials need to evaluate the specific impacts in their town.

"Combining the State Property PILOT into the ECS grant means that cities and towns must cut spending for municipal functions and increase spending even more for local schools."

This is not true. The law that governs how much money local governments must spend on their school systems is called the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). *The MBR provision in my proposal specifically exempts the reallocated PILOT funds from the MBR.*

For example, Waterbury received approximately \$4 million in State Property PILOT in FY 2013. In FY 14, I have proposed that they receive \$128 million in ECS -- an additional \$10 million -- consisting of \$4 million from PILOT plus an additional \$6 million from the formula changes in the ECS grant. The MBR will require that they spend the \$6 million on schools, but not the \$4 million from the PILOT.



So why do it? *I firmly believe that our first obligation must be funding public education.* By putting PILOT into ECS, the state is sending a clear signal about our priorities, while still leaving flexibility for local leaders when it comes to the final decision on how money is spent.

"The Conditional Funding requirements for Alliance Districts means the new ECS money goes directly to school boards, so that the PILOT funds can't be used for paying police and firefighters."

This is not true. The requirements for Alliance districts to receive their additional ECS funding ensures that towns are spending their ECS money in a way that addresses student achievement. They do *not* impact how much funding is available for schools overall. That is determined by the MBR (see above).

"Converting the Pequot grant to LoCIP means that none of those funds will be available for the local operating budget."

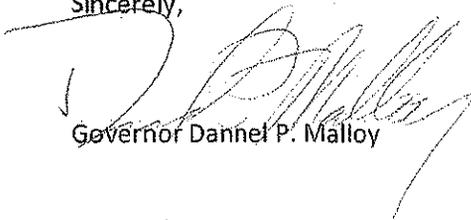
This is not true. We have made LoCIP funds more flexible, so that local governments can apply some or all of the capital equipment and technology purchases they routinely make out of their operating budgets to their LoCIP allocation. These include snow removal equipment, regional initiatives, education technology, and school safety.

Moreover, the proposal would allow municipalities to seek reimbursement in 2014 for these eligible expenses that were incurred in 2013. These are significant changes that, if applied, will grant substantial flexibility to LoCIP recipients.

In closing, let me say this – I walked in your shoes for 14 years as the Mayor of Stamford. I understand exactly what pressures you are under, and what demands you face. I understand that change is hard. But I'm asking you to partner with me to find ways to make change possible, including giving our middle class a much-deserved break.

I look forward to partnering with you in that effort.

Sincerely,



Governor Dannel P. Malloy

CASBO Budget Survey - 02/18/13

Organization Name	2012-13 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 Supt Budget % X.XX	2013-14 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 BOE Budget %	2013-14 Adopted Budget Amount (no commas/de cimals)	2013-14 Bd of Fin Budget %	2013-14 Budget Comments
American School for the Deaf							
Amity Regional School District #5	0.47	2.64					
Andover Public Schools							
Ansonia Public Schools	2.36	7.99		6.26		2	Equal to ECS Increase - No More Local \$
Avon Public Schools		2.78%		2.78%			
Berlin Public Schools		3.99					
Bethel Public Schools	4.4	2.95		3.24			
Bloomfield Public Schools	0	0					
Bolton Public Schools							
Branford Public Schools	2.29						
Bridgeport Board of Education							
Bridgeport Public Schools							
Bristol Public Schools							
Brookfield Public Schools	2.45	4.93		4.62			
Brooklyn Public Schools							
Canterbury Public Schools	2.1						
Canton Public Schools							
Cheshire Public Schools	1.87	3.21%		3.77%			
City of Meriden							
City of New Britain							
City of Shelton							
Clinton Public Schools							
Colchester Public Schools	1.91	8.25					
Columbia Public Schools							
Consolidated School District of New Britain							
Cooperative Educational Services							
Coventry Public Schools	0.31	4.33		4.64			
Cromwell Public Schools	1.93						
Danbury Public Schools	0.78						
Darien Public Schools	4.81	4.07		4.05			
Derby Public Schools							
East Granby Board of Education	3.28%						
East Haddam Public Schools		7.4					
East Hampton Public Schools	1.9	5.94					
East Hartford Public Schools	3.96%	5.48%		5.48%			
East Haven Board of Education	1.13%	3.53%		3.53%			
East Lyme Board of Education							

CASBO Budget Survey - 02/18/13

Organization Name	2012-13 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 Supt Budget % X.XX	2013-14 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 BOE Budget %	2013-14 Adopted Budget Amount (no commas/de cimals)	2013-14 Bd of Fin Budget %	2013-14 Budget Comments
East Lyme Public Schools		3.34%		3.34%			
East Windsor Public Schools							
Eastford Public Schools							
Easton Public Schools	1.86%	2.29%		1.36%			
Education Connection							
Ellington Public Schools							
Ellington Public Schools	4.94%	4.96%		4.98%			BOE added \$4 500
Enfield Public Schools	0.69						
Fairfield Public Schools	2.24%	4.86%		4.63%			
Farmington Public Schools	2.75						
Franklin Public Schools							
Glastonbury Public Schools	1.99%						
Granby Public Schools							
Greenwich Public Schools							
Griswold Public Schools	1.52	3.39%					
Groton Public Schools							
Guilford Public Schools	3.40%	3.39%		2.98%			
Hamden Public Schools	1.50%	3.57		3.57			
Hampton School District							
Hartford Public Schools							
Hartland Public Schools							
Integrated Day Charter School							
Killingly Public Schools							
Lebanon Public Schools							
Ledyard Public Schools							
Litchfield Public Schools	0.99						
Madison Public Schools	0.76	3.51		3.51			Includes Debt and Health Insurance
Manchester Public Schools	1.37	4.57		5.5			
Mansfield Public Schools	0	1.7					
Marlborough Public Schools							
Meriden Public Schools	0	1.88					
Middletown Public Schools		7.83					
Milford Public Schools	1.66	2.39		2.29			
Monroe Public Schools		3.99%					
Montville Public Schools							
Naugatuck Board of Education							
New Britain Public Schools							

CASBO Budget Survey - 02/18/13

Organization Name	2012-13 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 Supt Budget % X.XX	2013-14 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 BOE Budget %	2013-14 Adopted Budget Amount (no commas/de cimals)	2013-14 Bd of Fin Budget %	2013-14 Budget Comments
New Canaan Public Schools	1.92%	4.3		5.7			operating expenses
New Fairfield Public Schools		2.85		2.75			
New Haven Public Schools							
New London Public Schools							
New Milford Public Schools		4.62%		4.62%			
Newington Public Schools	2.88	5.99		5.99			
Newtown Public Schools	0.57	6.54		6.26			
Norfolk School District							
North Branford Public Schools							
North Haven Public Schools							
North Stonington Public Schools		7.06%					
Norwalk Public Schools							
Norwich Public Schools	3.26						
Old Saybrook Public Schools		3.94					
Orange Board of Education							
Oxford Public Schools							
Plainfield Public Schools	1.47	3					
Plainville Community Schools	1.15	2.39		0.987			
Plymouth Public Schools							
Pomfret Public Schools							
Portland Public Schools	1.98	3.5					
Preston Public Schools							
Putnam Public Schools	0%	3.49					
Redding Public Schools	1.32%	1.75%		0.50%			
Regional District #18	1.52						
Regional School District # 12	0.46						
Regional School District # 16							
Regional School District #01							
Regional School District #06	1.77	1.75		1.75			
Regional School District #10	2.44						
Regional School District #11							
Regional School District #13	3.27						
Regional School District #14							
Regional School District #15							
Regional School District #16							
Regional School District #4	0.91	4.77					
Regional School District #7	1.55	3.34					
Regional School District #8							

CASBO Budget Survey - 02/18/13

Organization Name	2012-13 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 Supt Budget % X.XX	2013-14 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 BOE Budget %	2013-14 Adopted Budget Amount (no commas/de cimals)	2013-14 Bd of Fin Budget %	2013-14 Budget Comments
Regional School District #9							
Regional School District No. 17	2.32%						
Regional School District No. 8	1.94%						
Ridgefield Public Schools	2.6	3.24		3.24			Includes 0.63% for security
Rocky Hill Public Schools	2.99%	4.75%					
Salem Board of Education	0.91	2.98		4.08			
Scotland Public Schools							
Seymour Board of Education	2	2.4		2.4			
Shelton Board of Education	0.01	6.41%		5.49%			
Sherman School District							
Simsbury Public Schools	1.46	1.89					
Somers Public Schools	2.55	2.93		2.93			
South Windsor Public Schools	2.37%	3.97					
Southington Public Schools	3.55	4.87		3.51			Adding full day kindergarten
Sprague Public Schools - Sayles School							
Stafford Public Schools	5.1	6.94					
Stamford Public Schools							
Sterling Public Schools							
Stonington Public Schools	3.15	3					
Stratford Public Schools	0.59	3.27					
Suffield Public Schools	1.63						
Thomaston Public Schools							
Thompson Public Schools							
Tolland Public Schools	3	4.95		3.78			
Torrington Public Schools	3%						
Town of Hebron							
Town of Lisbon BOE	0.05%						
Town of West Hartford							
Trumbull Board of Education		4.75		4.56			
Union Public Schools							
Vernon Public Schools	1.51						
Voluntown Public Schools							
Wallingford Public Schools	3.2						
Waterbury Public Schools							
Waterford Public Schools							
Watertown Public Schools	3.83						

CASBO Budget Survey - 02/18/13

Organization Name	2012-13 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 Supt Budget % X.XX	2013-14 Adopted Budget %	2013-14 BOE Budget %	2013-14 Adopted Budget Amount (no commas/de cimals)	2013-14 Bd of Fin Budget %	2013-14 Budget Comments
West Hartford Public Schools	4.47%						
West Haven Public Schools							
Westbrook Public Schools	5.91	3.19					
Weston Public Schools	0.93	1.55%		1.55%			
Westport Public Schools	2.17	4.94		3.95			
Wethersfield Public Schools	3.99	6.02					
Wilmington Board of Education							
Wilton Public Schools							
Winchester Board of Education							
Windham Public Schools	1.03%	1.00%					
Windsor Locks Public Schools	4.70%	6.03%					
Windsor Public Schools	0.99	2.49					
Wolcott Public Schools							
Woodbridge School District	3.84	0.73		0.73			
Woodstock Academy							
Woodstock Public Schools	0.29						



Town of Mansfield Department of Finance

To: Fred Baruzzi
From: Cherie Trahan, Director *CTA*
Date: February 18, 2013
Re: Proposed Budget Questions – February 7, 2013 Meeting

The following two questions were raised by Board members at the February 7, 2013 meeting:

1. How does our unemployment cost budget compare to other districts?

Response: As we discussed at the meeting, Mansfield does not pay unemployment insurance based on an experience rating, but rather is set up on a reimbursement basis. This means that the District pays based on actual unemployment claims. So, if an employee is terminated from the District's employment and becomes eligible for unemployment, the District pays the amount that this person collects for State and Federal unemployment. It is important to keep in mind that unemployment budgeted for FY2013/14 is a significant increase over the average for the past five years of \$11,232. Many districts use the reimbursement method which makes it difficult to compare one district to another since it is contingent on the stability of the workforce and enrollment. For example, Region 19 is experiencing a member town enrollment decline, but with the enrollment of Columbia students, they have been able to maintain staffing levels.

Below is a comparison of budgeted unemployment costs as a percentage of salaries for a few local school districts:

District	FY2013/14 Unemployment (\$)	FY 2013/14 Total Salaries (\$)	% of Salaries
Mansfield	104,810	17,576,370	0.6%
Coventry	25,000	15,298,786	0.2%
Tolland	124,030	28,674,626	0.4%
Willington	11,000	8,042,617	0.1%
Region 19	11,000	11,763,910	0.1%

2. What is the reason for the fluctuation in Food Services salaries and wages?

Response: As you know the Food Services Director was on sabbatical leave during FY 2011/12 and this has created some fluctuation in the budgeted salaries for FY 2012/13 and FY 2013/14.

Actual salaries paid for FY 2011/12 was \$365,090. This included a substitute cafeteria manager in place of the Food Services Director, reflecting a savings.

Budgeted salaries for FY 2012/13 is \$398,160 and estimated is \$370,115. The budget included an estimated cost of living increase for food service staff. At this time the contract has not been settled, so no increase is included in the estimated salaries figure. The current year also reflects Co-Directors, yielding a savings over one full time Director.

Proposed salaries for FY 2013/14 is \$405,426 and reflects a possible cost of living adjustment with a possible retroactive payment. It also anticipates the continuation of Co-Directors.

Martha Kelly

Actions

To:

(1) Fred A. Baruzzi

Cc:

Mark LaPlaca; Shamim-Patwa@mansfieldct.org; rwolzkelly@sbcglobal.net

Sent Items

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 11:17 AM

You forwarded this message on 2/12/2013 11:19 AM.

Fred: I am concerned about the precarious financial state of our State, which negatively filters to our town's "state". While the Governor's proposal to eliminate property tax on autos valued under \$28,000 may be just a trial balloon, it demonstrates the direction of his/his staff's thinking. Blending PILOT funds into ECS is a big shift; casino-derived funding has evaporated and doubtfully will recover, especially if casinos are built in the Springfield area.

National birth rates are in decline (we aren't replacing ourselves) -- reflected in our own school-age population. Even applying for a reduction in our MBR because of decreased enrollment -- at \$6,000 per student when we spend in the mid \$15,000s -- doesn't ameliorate our situation. And I don't think it is secure planning to habitually count on using reserve funds in special ed and the town's medical insurance plan.

In that vein and to be prepared for tough decisions, could you please put forth scenarios with a selection of choices:

(1) How our budget would be altered if the final proposed figure remained static at 2012-2013's \$20,588,160 (vs. the proposed \$20,941,020, an increase of \$352,860) -- plus the \$11,464 we are receiving for each of the next two years as part of the Governor's proposed ECS grant distribution scheme. If we had to contract the proposed increase of \$350,000+, what could that look like? We touched on altering class size ideals. (Hand-in-glove with that is because of Vinton's higher enrollment numbers, do we need to redistrict -- especially since the school building situation is in place for at least seven to ten years?)

(2) What about a proposal that does not include the nearly \$500,000 from the two primary reserve funds?

I realize the final question defies our MBR, but perhaps brainstorming will help the Board come to some conclusions and ideas about our future standing. The total of the figures in points one and two are far too close to a \$1 million increase (and last year's flat budget included nearly \$900,000 of grant and reserve funds). Despite the fact that our town solidly supports education, considerable tax increases may not be in our best interest.

Thanks so much. Martha Kelly

Martha Kelly

Inbox, Sent Items

Friday, February 15, 2013 4:24 PM

5 It is best to discuss this before the entire board. Thank you for your advice. Martha Kelly

Martha Kelly

Fri 2/15

Celeste N. Griffin on behalf of Fred A. Baruzzi

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 11:13 AM

Hi Martha,

4 Thank you for the question. I feel that any list requested by the Board regarding budget reductions should be done by the full Board meeting at a regularly scheduled meeting. Please raise your request during our budget discussion at our next meeting at Southeast on Thursday, February 21st.

Thanks,

Fred

Martha Kelly

Sent Items

3 Tuesday, February 12, 2013 4:24 PM

Thanks, Fred. Speaking only for myself, I would appreciate a list from you of budget items to consider putting on hold (reflecting Items 1 and 2 in my original note). Everyone is pinched; I hear it from various people, and I think we need to consider their situation so that we don't add more to their tax burden. What the state will finally do may not be cemented for quite a while. I'd rather be proactive and prepared than reactive and hasty. Martha Kelly

Celeste N. Griffin on behalf of Fred A. Baruzzi

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 2:37 PM

2 Hi Martha,

I appreciate your questions given the Governor's proposal and uncertainty regarding state aid to both towns and/or school budgets. I will investigate the questions you have raised in an effort to provide the Board with the most current information available at our next meeting on Thursday, February 21st. If other items of concern come to your attention in the meantime, please feel free to share them with me prior to the Board meeting.

Thanks,

Fred

Celeste N. Griffin

From: April Holinko
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 3:04 PM
To: MBOE Supt
Cc: April Holinko
Subject: Budget questions for Fred

Hi Fred,

I could review the budget several times over and still have questions regarding items I previously missed. In section 1 - overview, regarding staffing, I see there is an increase in 1 cert. staff at Goodwin, gr 1 and also an increase in 1 cert. staff at Southeast, grade 2. Are those increases due to higher student enrollments in those areas? Also, It appears that the increase in 1 cert. staff at Vinton Gr. 4 is off set by the decrease in 1 cert. staff at SE gr 4. I also noted the cert .5 decrease in each of the 4 grades at MMS. What area of staffing is that decrease?

As noted, the custodial maintenance is down by .5 as well as a .5 secretary position. What areas where these positions taken from? The bottom line question I would like to know is, How much money, specifically, are we saving by these cuts?

I also wonder if we should revisit the deferrals, during this difficult budget time there may be items of more importance to consider. We have put them off for so long, Are they more or less of a priority? I would rather it be a needs based list rather than a wish list.

While I believe the budget you presented was not totally unreasonable, I remain concerned about the 1.7 % increase. I have a feeling there will be unanticipated expenses coming up. These expenses will likely be due to mostly building needs such as repairs and needs in response to school safety. As was outlined in Section 2 of Revenues and the tax rate, the funding for Mansfield is unpredictable at best. With that in mind we need to plan for a "famine" scenerio. It would be helpful if the board had some creative suggestions on how we could make cuts if we needed to. Any ideas? We might all have to think outside of the box.

Thanks for the hard work you do,
April

**Class Size Survey
2012-2013
Update 2.21.13**

District	Class Size Guidelines
Brookfield	Elementary - 21 students Middle - 23 students
Canterbury	Pre-K - 18 students Kindergarten - 20 students Grade 1 - 22 students Grades 2-4 - 24 students Grades 5-8 - 26 students
Colchester	Grades K-2 - 23 students Grades 3-5 - 26 students Grades 6-8 - 30 students
Columbia	No guidelines
Coventry	Kindergarten and Grade 1 - 21 students Grade 2 - 22 students Grade 3-12 - 27 students
Griswold	No guidelines
Hebron	Kindergarten-Grade 1 - 18 students Grades 2-3 - 20 students Grades 4-6 - 24 students
Madison	Kindergarten and Transition - 20 students Grades 1-2 - 23 students Grades 3-5 - 24 students Grades 6-8 - 24 students
Mansfield	Kindergarten – Grade 3 - 14-18 students Grades 4-5 - 16-20 students Grades 6-8 - 21-23 students
Putnam	No guidelines
Tolland	Kindergarten - 20 students Grade 1 and above - no guidelines
Windham	No guidelines

E.O. Smith budget 2.9 percent larger

By MICHELLE FIRESTONE
Chronicle Staff Writer

STORRS — The Regional School District 19 Board of Education will begin its review of Superintendent Bruce Silva's budget during its meeting Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Silva's \$20.1 million budget represents an increase of \$564,390, or 2.9 percent, over the current budget.

"We're working very hard because we understand that the economy's not much better than last year or previous years," Silva said of his proposal, which covers operations at E.O. Smith High School in Storrs.

Tuesday's budget workshop is at 7 p.m. in the library media center of E.O. Smith High School, located at 1235 Storrs Road.

"As time goes on, we'll have to see what they like, and what they don't like," said Silva.

Once the board adopts a budget, it will be presented during a district meeting May 6 at 7 p.m. in the library media center of E.O. Smith.

Voters of the three member towns — Mansfield, Ashford and Willington — will vote on it at a referendum May 7.

District 19 Board of Education Chairman James Mark said he has not had a chance to review the entire budget, but expressed confidence in Silva.

"He knows what we have to work with," he said. "These are not easy times for everybody."

"The state's in a tough situation as well," said Silva.

Taking into account revenue, including tuition from Columbia, which also sends students to Smith, but isn't a member of the district, the total contribution from all towns will increase 0.5 percent.

Approximately 88.6 percent of the budget, or \$17,812,760, will come from the member towns' contributions.

Contributions from the member towns are prorated based on population.

Of the three member towns, Mansfield is the only one that will pay more than it is this year, as it saw an enrollment increase of 11 students, or 1.9 percent, while the other two towns had a decrease in enrollment.

Mansfield will enroll 604 students at E.O. Smith next year.

Mansfield will pay \$10,055,053 under Silva's proposal, an increase of \$551,504, or 5.8 percent, over the current budget.

Ashford will enroll 218 students, 14 fewer than the current year, while Willington will enroll 248 students, 33 fewer than the current year.

Under the budget proposal, Ashford will pay \$3,629,142, representing a decrease of \$88,941, or 2.4 percent, over the current budget.

Willington will pay \$4,128,565, representing a decrease of \$374,803, or 8.3 percent, over the current budget.

Enrollment changes, Silva said, were not a surprise, as the district maintains a five-year projection.

"We're usually pretty close," he said.

Silva noted the enrollment "certainly creates a greater burden this year on Mansfield."

In addition to member town contributions, other revenue is expected to total \$2,288,250, reflecting an increase of \$476,630, or 26.3 percent.

In his proposed budget, Silva included \$157,400 for school transportation funds, a flat amount from the current year, however, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has proposed those funds be cut from the state budget next year.

Other revenues include \$1,097,010 from Columbia for tuition, an increase of \$383,920, or 53.8 percent, and \$208,000 from an agriculture grant, an increase of \$52,750.

While the town council and Mansfield board of education are concerned about the possible reduction of state revenues, Silva noted District 19 gets "very little from the state," as the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant goes to the town.

Currently, Mansfield is getting \$10,156,014 and, under Malloy's proposed budget, would receive \$17,199,408 in ECS funds next year.

"They're balancing their books without being fully understanding" of the impacts cuts would have on school districts, Silva said, referring to the proposed state budget.

The budget is available for download on the E.O. Smith High School home page at www.eosmith.org by clicking on "superintendent's proposed budget for 2013-14 is now available" under news and announcements.

Charles H. Barrows STEM Adademy
MBOE Questions
Answers from Ana Ortiz (2.20.13)

1. What will be the cost per student for this program? Between \$4500.00 and \$5500.00
2. What will be Mansfield's required contribution per student if we decide to become a partner? The cost would be the per pupil, beyond state monies of \$7085.00, and bussing,
3. What will be Mansfield's required contribution per student if we decide not to partner? Partnership does not affect cost of tuition. It allows a vote on governance board to set tuition.
4. For a partner district, what is the minimum number of student required and/or what is the maximum allowed? Based on the size of Mansfield, the minimum would be 20 and there would be no maximum. The higher the maximum for a partner the more spots go to that town before other towns. It's a district's decision. We could reasonably allow a range of between 20-50 for a partner district to be held with a guarantee.
5. Does participation in the magnet school, either as a partner or participating in the lottery, effect ECS funding and if so, how? You pay a per pupil, so there is no impact on ECS funding.
6. If we are a partner district and unable to solicit adequate participation, are we financially responsible for the unfilled student slots? No. The slots would be offered to other partner districts or to non-partner districts as well.
7. Who pays for transportation for Mansfield students to the magnet school? Mansfield pays to transport its students. There are several options that Mansfield could consider to control costs.
8. If Mansfield students with special needs participate in the magnet school, either as a partner or through the lottery, are their special needs covered by the magnet school or Mansfield Board of Education? Whether a partner or not, SPED costs over per pupil amount is billed to Mansfield. Districts do have the option of providing the service themselves at the magnet school.
9. What effect does sending Mansfield students to your magnet school have on Mansfield's MBR requirement? It does not affect MBR.

Murphy A. Sewall, PhD

Chair of the Board of Education

Ana V. Ortiz

Superintendent of Schools



Superintendent's Office

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aortiz@windham.k12.ct.us

February 12, 2013

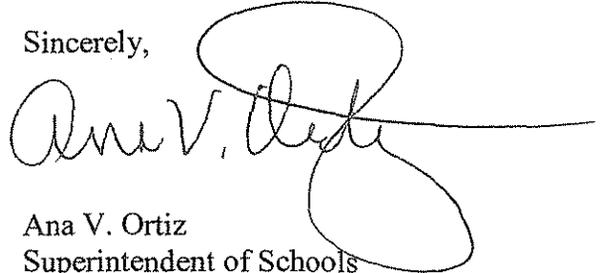
Dear URSA Superintendents:

This correspondence is a follow up to our December 6, 2012, meeting when I gave a short presentation on the Charles H. Barrows STEM Magnet School which is opening in August 2013. As I explained at that time, the Windham Board of Education is in the process of completing the construction of a STEM magnet school within its borders that would house students in grades PK-8. The operational plan for the school was submitted to the State in May 2012 and has been approved.

Funding for magnet schools requires that at least 25-30 percent of the students that attend are from surrounding towns; therefore, I am asking you to consider speaking with your board of education regarding your board's interest in endorsing this concept and making a commitment to provide this option to students in your town who are interested in attending the Charles H. Barrows STEM Magnet School. The cost to sending towns per student would be tuition costs in excess of state magnet school funding (currently \$7085 per student) and transportation which is reimbursable through the Magnet School Transportation grant.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration of this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Ana V. Ortiz
Superintendent of Schools