

# Wolcott Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools

Anthony J. Gasper, Ed.D.

1488 Woodtick Road • Wolcott, Connecticut 06716

(203) 879-8183 • FAX (203) 879-8182

Business Manager

Todd W. Bendtsen, C.P.A.

Director of Student Learning & Teaching

Frank Purcaro



Director of Student Services & Alt Programs

Kevin Hollis

February 14, 2017

## A LETTER TO THE WOLCOTT COMMUNITY

Wolcott Parents and Community Members:

Today, we write to you in solidarity and in opposition to the proposed budget released by Governor Malloy on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Included in his proposal are a number of cuts and extra costs for education in Wolcott and many other Connecticut towns. The proposed cuts and extra costs for Wolcott would total 5.1 million dollars. The Governor proposes to reduce the Education Cost Share grant to towns and also to bill towns for contributions to the teachers' retirement fund. If the Governor's budget were to pass as proposed, it could be crippling for the educational programs that we are able to provide to Wolcott's children. Otherwise, it would require substantial increases in local taxes to make up for the reductions in state aid to Wolcott.

The Governor's proposal strongly cuts educational funding to towns like Wolcott while giving large increases to urban districts. Some Connecticut cities will gain between 40 and 50 million dollars. While we know and understand the challenges of urban education, serving students in our cities should not be done at the expense of Wolcott's children.

We strongly encourage you to be engaged in the state budget process by following the story as the budget is debated in the legislature and also by contacting our state legislators.

In partnership,

Handwritten signature of Patricia Najarian in blue ink.

Patricia Najarian  
Board of Education Chairman

Handwritten signature of Thomas Dunn in blue ink.

Thomas Dunn  
Mayor, Town of Wolcott

Handwritten signature of Tony Gasper in blue ink.

Tony Gasper, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools