



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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

Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 29, 2013

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying what is rapidly developing as a pattern of glorious weather.

As you may or may not be aware, the Board of Finance, by unanimous vote, advanced the 2013-2014 Town of Avon Proposed Budget to referendum without modification. This budget includes the level of funding proposed by the Board of Education to fund many new program initiatives and courses that will positively advance the work of the district's Strategic Plan during the 2013-2014 school year and beyond.

On behalf of the entire school district community, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of Avon's Board of Finance for acknowledging the work of the town and district administration to develop and propose reasonable and responsible budgets. I look forward with great optimism to the referendum that is scheduled for May 15th. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Avon Senior Center.

In keeping with the district's method of open and honest communication, a public information session is being planned for the evening of June 12th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Avon High School Auditorium. The evening, hosted by the Board of Education's Communication Subcommittee, is being held for the purpose of discussing the work that will be pursued in our schools next year and beyond. Specifically, there will be brief presentations on the new course offerings included in the Avon High School Program of Studies for next year, the methodology upon which full day kindergarten and World Language (kindergarten through grade 6) will be incorporated into our elementary schools, the planned improvements to the safety protocols in each of our schools, the status of the district's curriculum revision work to align with the Common Core State Standards, the status of the Self-Study Phase of the accreditation process at Avon High School in preparation for the October 2013 visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges committee and the specifics of the plans to implement an Advisor/Advisee Program at both Avon High School and Avon Middle School. A Special Message will be communicated and will serve as a reminder of this event as we get closer to June 12th.

Additionally, the district is about to commence a series of electronic surveys to better assist us with meeting students' needs. Two of the three planned surveys will be to families who have made decisions to disenroll their children after grade 8 and those who may have disenrolled their children but subsequently re-enrolled them back into Avon Public Schools. The main

purpose of these surveys is to better understand where we may improve as a district and/or modify our practices to better serve the children for whom we are responsible.

The third survey will be conducted by seeking out and communicating with a randomly selected sampling of Avon High School graduates from the Class of 2003 through the Class of 2012. With this survey, the district seeks to understand what Avon Public School experiences prepared our graduates well for their college, university and professional endeavors and which practices did not. I believe that this information will be invaluable to us as we advance the future work of our schools and continue to implement the district's Strategic Plan.

Last and certainly not least and in keeping with the district's commitment to being proactive, all schools are presently preparing schedules, course assignments and class lists for next year's grade level assignments. It is our intent to make high school schedules available to students and families sometime during the first two weeks of June. Class assignments at the middle school and elementary levels will be made known to parents/guardians no later than the last day of this school year, June 27th.

As we close the third marking term for this school year, I wish to thank you for your continued support of your schools and for the changes being implemented to better serve the needs of you and your children.

As always, we look forward to providing you frequent updates regarding the work occurring in your school district.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy a productive week.

I remain very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools