



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**Avon Public Schools**

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**Gary S. Mala**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 9, 2014

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the start of the fall season. This message is a part of a sustained effort to communicate with you on a weekly basis for the purpose of keeping you updated about the major activities of the school district.

As you may recall, the district hosted the first Public Information Session recently that focused on the process and content of the recently released draft revisions to the Kindergarten through grade 8 English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum. Please use the link (<http://www.avon.k12.ct.us/district/teaching-learning/pages/curriculum-guides>) to access the revised curriculum being considered for approval by the Board of Education at its October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Also posted under the Teaching and Learning section of the district's website (<http://www.avon.k12.ct.us/district/teaching-learning>) is a list of questions and answers exchanged during the public information session.

As you may know, the district has implemented a new website that continues to be populated with information for each building, all district departments, the Board of Education and provides specific links to assist you with accessing important information during your child's enrollment. As with any new conversion, there are areas where the site can be improved. This work continues on a daily basis to better serve your needs as parents and residents of Avon. We thank you for your patience as we execute this transition to a new platform.

I am especially pleased to provide you the following link that provides you access to Avon Public Schools' ranking using SAT scores as the criteria. As you will see when you review the data, our students ranked seventh highest among other Connecticut high school students and more specifically, first among their peers in our immediate geographic area. The SAT data for all Connecticut high schools may be found at <http://www.courant.com/data-desk/hc-connecticut-sat-scores-by-school-20141007-htmlstory.html>

At the next meeting of the Board of Education, Avon High School Principal, Christopher Tranberg will present the findings and recommendations for improving Avon High School academic structure as developed by the High School Community Council. He will be joined by Mrs. Elizabeth Brisco, Coordinator of Internships and Transition Programs, who will present the Board of Education with a draft plan to advance the student internship as a part of the program of studies at Avon High School. We remain exceptionally proud of this initiative to provide our students "real life" opportunities in which they may apply their skills and talents with local businesses and professionals representing a variety of different careers. When fully established, Avon High School will be only the third Connecticut high school to have such a program joining those in thirty-three other states that offer internships as a part of the high school experience.

Last and certainly not least, I have commenced the process to assemble the 2015-2016 Superintendent's Proposed Budget that I will present to the Board of Education formally at its November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The

budget development schedule is provided below. Please pay particular attention to the date of October 16, 2014, 6:30 p.m., when the first of three Community Input Sessions is being hosted in the Avon High School Community Room. This first session is planned as an opportunity for me, as Superintendent of Schools, and my immediate staff to listen to your ideas identifying the areas upon which Avon parents and residents believe the budget should focus in the next fiscal year. In advance of this session, please feel free to review the district's Strategic Plan that has continued to serve as the guiding documents for all work that has been engaged in the district over the past two plus years.

***AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS***  
**2015 – 2016 Board of Education Operating Budget Development Time Line**

Friday, September 12, 2014	<b>Administrators receive 2015-2016 operating budget development forms and instructions from the Assistant Superintendent</b>
Thursday, October 9, 2014	<b>Administrators submit Operating Budget Requests to the Assistant Superintendent</b>
Thursday, October 16, 2014	<b>Community Input on the 2015-2016 Budget</b> 6:30 p.m. AHS Community Room
Thursday, October 16, 2014	<b>Superintendent Budget Meetings with Administrators</b> 3:45 p.m. PGS
Monday, October 20, 2014	<b>Superintendent Budget Meetings with Administrators</b> 10:00 a.m. Central Office 11:30 a.m. Pupil Services 2:00 p.m. Facilities 3:30 p.m. Food Service
Tuesday, October 21, 2014	<b>Budget development information provided at regular meeting of the Board of Education</b> 7:00 p.m. AHS Community Room
Tuesday, October 21, 2014	<b>Superintendent Budget Meetings with Administrators</b> 7:45 a.m. RBS 1:30 p.m. Technology
Wednesday, October 22, 2014	<b>Superintendent Budget Meetings with Administrators</b> 10:00 a.m. TBS 1:00 p.m. AMS 2:30 p.m. AHS (including Athletics)
Wednesday, October 22, 2014	<b>Community Input for the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget</b> 6:30 p.m. AHS Community Room
Tuesday, November 18, 2014	<b>Presentation of the Superintendent of Schools 2015-2016 Proposed Budget at regular meeting of the Board of Education</b> 7:00 p.m. AHS Community Room
Monday, December 1, 2014	<b>Community Input for the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget</b> 6:00 p.m. AHS Community Room
Monday, December 1, 2014	<b>Special Meeting of Board of Education Review of Elementary, Middle School, High School, Athletics and Technology requested budgets</b> 7:00 p.m. AHS Community Room
Wednesday, December 3, 2014	<b>Special Meeting of Board of Education Review of Pupil Services, Facilities, Food Services and Central Office requested budget</b> 6:30 p.m. AHS Community Room

Dates To Be Determined	<b>Special Meetings of Board of Education (if needed)</b> 6:30 p.m. AHS Community Room
Tuesday, December 16, 2014	<b>Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Action on 2015-2016 Proposed Budget</b>
	or
Tuesday, January 20, 2015	<b>Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Action on 2015-2016 Proposed Budget</b>
TBD	<b>Town Manager's Proposed Operating and Capital Budget submitted to Town Council</b>
TBD	<b>Budget Work by Town Council completed and Budget Submitted to Board of Finance</b>
TBD	<b>Public Hearing on Budget held by Board of Finance not later than three (3) weeks before May 2015 Town Meeting</b>
TBD	<b>Board of Finance Completes Work on Budget</b>
TBD	<b>Copy of Budget approved by the Board of Finance printed in Newspaper at least five (5) business days before the Annual Town Meeting</b>
TBD	<b>Annual Town and Budget Meeting First Monday in May</b>
May , 2015	<b>First Referendum</b>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 404-4700 or email me at gmala@avon.k12.ct.us.

I look forward to communicating with you again very soon and thank you for the continued opportunity to serve you and your children.

Enjoy a productive week and the long, holiday weekend.

Very truly yours,



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 Avon Public Schools  
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