

March 3, 2015

Dear Parents and Constituents,

Following the release of the Governor's biennial budget on Tuesday, February 3, many questions have arisen regarding how the Governor's proposals will impact the Cambridge School District. This letter is intended to provide a brief summary of the fiscal impact of the budget proposal on our school district.

*State aid to the Cambridge School District.* The 2015-16 proposed budget contains a \$150 per student *decrease* in funding. This reduction in revenue will result in \$130,650 being cut from our budget. The reduction in state aid, combined with past reductions, will make it very difficult for our district to sustain our quality programs and services in the long-term.

*Removal of the 1000 student cap on private school vouchers.* These vouchers, as proposed, would be funded from public school dollars in which the voucher student resides. Voucher schools use your tax dollars, taken from the local public school, and are not accountable to the taxpayers or for their academic performance. Although the financial impact is impossible to calculate at this time, the net result will certainly be less state funding for K-12 public schools in Wisconsin.

*Independent Charter Schools.* Governor Walker's budget proposal would allow independent charter schools to begin operation in school districts outside the control of the local school board. If passed, this too will undercut the foundation of public school funding as well as erode the philosophy of local control that has been a foundation of governing in Wisconsin.

In summary, there is no question that should the budget proposal remain unchanged, the financial impact on the Cambridge School District will be significant and have ramifications for the programming offered to our students. The changing and unstable way that schools are funded has significant impact on the school board's ability to short and long-term plan.

Our State Assembly and Senate legislators have a voice in how the Governor's budget is implemented and are required to vote on the final version of the budget prior to it becoming official. Should you have questions or feedback specific to this budget, you may wish to contact one or more of your legislators who represent the Cambridge School District:

**[Senator Scott L. Fitzgerald](#)** - (R - Juneau) [Senate](#) District 13 - (608) 266-5660 [Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**[Representative Joel Kleefisch](#)** - (R - Oconomowoc) - [Assembly](#) District 38 - (608) 266-8551 - (888) 534-0038 - [Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Kleefisch@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**[Senator Stephen L. Nass](#)** - (R - Whitewater) - [Senate](#) District 11 - (608) 266-2635 - [Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**[Representative Cody Horlacher](#)** - (R - Mukwonago) - [Assembly](#) District 33 - (608) 266-5715 - (888) 529-0033 - [Rep.Horlacher@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Horlacher@legis.wisconsin.gov)

On Behalf of the School District of Cambridge, Board of Education,

Joe Pleshek - President

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