



NORTH WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 8, 2010

Dear North Warren Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

Last Friday, I sent a letter to Governor Chris Christie in which I outlined the potential catastrophic impact that possible cuts in State Aid would have on our students and school. In that letter, I outlined a scenario whereby North Warren Regional may face up to a \$1.9 million shortfall in revenues as compared to the budget approved by voters last year.

I ask you to read this letter, which has been posted to the school website, www.northwarren.org, and consider the ramifications of such potential cuts in aid to your children and their education.

I promise you that my staff and I have been and actively searching for cuts that would allow us to operate with \$1.9 million less, as we cannot ask our taxpayers to shoulder that burden. Yet, that is the intent of the many unfunded mandates and cuts that have taken place over the past number of years. The Federal and State governments place more and more requirements on the schools, and then cut the funding that might help to support them. The burden gets shifted to you. That's always been unfair, in my opinion, but this time, your child's education could be at risk.

A District like ours, with a total budget of approximately \$17 million cannot possibly cut \$1.9 million more without affecting programs and staff. We are preparing lists of everything and anything that might be cut to reach the "doomsday" scenario. There can be no "sacred cows". Activities, athletics, clubs, courses, staff, and more will all be cut in some way in order to face the loss of State Aid to that magnitude.

The State's own Comparative Spending Guide specifies many areas where North Warren either leads the other 46 Regional School Districts in efficiency and cost effectiveness, or is in the top ten. We consistently demonstrate that we offer a quality education at a responsible and reasonable cost to our taxpayers.

I urge you to read the letter to Governor Christie, and to write your own letter to our Federal and State legislators. Their addresses may also be found on our website.

I also ask you to attend one of the many public presentations that will be made in the next two months regarding our budget. A list of these will also be posted on the website. March 30, 2010 will be the date of the final public hearing to review and adopt the final 2010-2011 Budget. This meeting will be held in the NWR Auditorium at 7:00 P.M.

Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts to provide an excellent education for our children.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Fogelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent