

Cape Schools Open Minds  
and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

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Superintendent of Schools

September 6, 2018

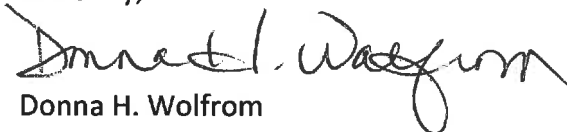
Dear Town Council Members:

At the August 13, 2018 Town Council meeting you received a request from me, on behalf of the school district, to place a question on the ballot for the November referendum regarding voter approval of the Cape Elizabeth School Department to participate in a collaborative partnership, the Greater Sebago Education Alliance, with at least nine other school districts. The Alliance was developed in order to increase efficiencies through enhanced purchasing power and to provide a collaborative professional learning community that would support the generation of ideas and solutions in order to continually improve our work.

The information on the additional subsidy that the Cape Elizabeth School Department would receive was based on my understanding of the original plan of increasing state subsidy by \$46 per student. This would have provided an additional \$72,772.00 to Cape Elizabeth Schools. However, I was informed after your meeting that while the amount of additional subsidy was based on \$46 per student, the Commissioner of Education's interpretation of the additional subsidy was that the total amount would then be run through a funding formula. A band of 30% to 70% was established and because we are a 7% receiver, we received 30% of the original \$72,772.00. As a result, after reviewing the EDU279, the amount received by Cape Elizabeth Schools would be \$22,121.40, based on an enrollment of 1603 students. In speaking with Aga Dixon, attorney for Drummond Woodsum, many school officials were not aware that the funding was to be run through the formula.

I apologize for any confusion that my misunderstanding presented and I ask that the Town Council still support placing the question regarding district participation in the Greater Sebago Education Alliance on the November ballot.

Sincerely,



Donna H. Wolfrom  
Superintendent of Schools