

Mount Arlington Public Schools
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Superintendent of Schools

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Principal

July 12, 2010

Dear Parents,

I trust that you are enjoying your summer days and that you have had the opportunity to relax and spend time with your children. We have been busy getting our schools ready for the upcoming school year. The buildings are being cleaned, daily schedules are being constructed, summer projects are well underway and with the aid of grant funds roof repairs at the Mount Arlington School are poised to begin.

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the final results of our school budget defeat. As you may know, our budget process begins in November of each school year with planning, order preparations State paperwork, and many public meetings, (of which we held 14 this year), resulting in an April vote. Our initial budget, that was presented to the public, reflected more than \$800,000 in reductions due to our Governor's cuts to school aid. Next, the voters of Mount Arlington by 39 votes subsequently defeated our budget. Therefore, when a school budget is defeated, the State regulations require the Town Council to make a final determination regarding the tax levy that will support our schools. Due to the difficult economic times and the defeat of our school budget by the voters, the Town Council made the determination to reduce our budget by an additional \$109,432. This amount was greater than the increase that we were asking. Therefore, your school tax levy will be reduced for the 2010-2011 school year to lower than the 2009-2010 school tax levy.

For the 2010-2011 school year we will run our schools with less money than we had to work with last year. That being said, we will manage our fine educational programs within the confines of the school day. I regret to have to be the person to inform you, that unfortunately, due to these reductions, we will be unable to provide for after school athletic or arts programs for the upcoming school year. Additionally, there will be no Main Office secretary at the Mount Arlington and Decker schools. I know that this will be frustrating for both parents and students; however, we were left with no options due to the initial reduction in State aid from our Governor, the defeat of our budget by the voters, and the final reduction of our budget by the Town Council.

During times such as the one we are currently experiencing, communities must come together in support of public school programs. Therefore, the Mount Arlington Recreation Department has asked that I direct your attention to their website in order for you to understand the athletic programs that they will offer to children in Mount Arlington. Please see <http://www.maborc.com/>. I wish to thank the Recreation Department for their continued support of children and our community.

Have an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Jane Mullins Jameson