

My name is Dr. Scott Wyndham and I am the Director of Finance & Operations for Avon Community School Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today regarding the House approved budget and the impact it will have on Avon's students.

First, let me thank you for steps taken in the last biennium to address school funding. With increased funds, Avon was able to hire 34 additional teachers. By helping us hire more teachers, the budget you approved allowed us to reduce class sizes which had a significant impact on our students. However, even with those 34 additional teachers that were added 2 years ago, we still have not recovered from the drastic cuts made to education funding in 2009.

Even with the additional teachers we hired, since 2009, Avon has 27 fewer teachers, 20 fewer custodians, and 6 fewer administrators.....and in that time, we have grown over 900 students. We are as lean as we can be! We have contained healthcare cost – something very few districts can boast – with 0% premium increases for our staff in the last two years. In other words, we are doing everything we can to be efficient.

Avon has also been hit hard by property tax caps because we are over 70% residential (which is capped at 1% for property tax purposes). We have been unable to collect \$47 million in our property tax supported funds since 2009. In short, we are being hit on all sides of our budget.

On a state-wide level, the 1.1% increase in education spending doesn't even keep pace with inflation at 2.1%. However, for Avon, it's even worse! Under the House-approved budget, we will not be able to keep current programs and staff. In 2017, Avon receives \$548 less per student than the state average. In the proposed budget, next year our increase in per student funding would be just 0.7% - just \$39/student. We are bewildered by other suburban school districts receiving increases that are 3 times what we will receive!

Avon's projected funding would be 3 times less than last year's inflation rate. Our complexity funding would be decreased 31.4%. Nearly 30% of Avon students are in some level of poverty. Their needs persist, but with 31% less complexity funding. On top of that, Avon loses \$650,000 in Performance Grant funds that were distributed directly to our teachers. If our enrollment remains the same next year as it was this year, the insufficient increase in per student funding coupled with the loss of performance grant, will leave Avon Schools with almost \$90,000 less than we received this year in state funding – to educate the same number of students!

For Avon Schools, this budget is a critical juncture – are we able to continue to build on the improvements made in the last biennium or do we eliminate much needed supports to our students? We implore you to support a funding formula that rewards Avon's efficiency and performance with adequate funding. Thank you.