

A Message from Mr. Waters

March 11, 2011

At the time of this writing it is painfully obvious that our state is in the midst of a very serious financial crisis. There is not anyone that doesn't recognize the need to make cuts across the board in an attempt to somehow get our fiscal condition under control. That is certainly true in regards to education as well. In the past, when the Governor would pass a budget most of us would expect that the legislature would step in and try to restore much of the money that was taken from our state aid for that year. During my trip to Albany on Tuesday March 1, 2011 I, along with a number of other North Country Superintendents, were told that we were not going to see that happen. Quite frankly, we aren't asking for that. What we are asking for is a more equitable distribution of the funding that is available. When you begin a comparison of our school district with some of the others in the state you can find that Governor Cuomo's budget has far worse impact on Harrisville CSD than it does in other parts of the state.

I would also point out that the Governor's blanket statement that school district's can save every job by simply using their reserves is a huge stretch from the truth. Having made that type of statement I can now understand why he could never get a job as a school superintendent. In fact I will suggest that his overall understanding of finance is questionable at best.

Plain and simple, we are faced with many challenges. The board and I accept that challenge and understand the responsibility of educating the children of this district and the ability of the tax payer to afford it. But I will not waiver that the struggle over funding this year is not with the local entity, but moreover with the elected official we call Governor.