Hustisford School District

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Douglas W. Keiser, Ph.D. District Administrator

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Michael Gerlach
Director Financial Services

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March 16, 2015

Dear Parents and Constituents:

Following the release of the Governor's biennial budget on Tuesday, February 3rd, many questions have been raised how the Governor's proposals will impact the Hustisford School District. This letter is intended to provide a brief summary of the fiscal impact of the budget proposal on our school district.

State Aid to the Hustisford School District. The 2015-16 proposed budget contains a \$150 per student *decrease* in funding. This reduction in revenue will result in \$98,100 being cut from our budget. The reduction in state aid, combined with past reductions, will make it very difficult for our district to sustain programs and services in the future.

Removal of the Student Cap on Private School Vouchers. Removing the cap on vouchers, as proposed, would be funded by taking dollars away from districts where the voucher student resides. Although the financial impact is impossible to calculate at this time, the net result will be less state funding for K-12 public schools in Wisconsin.

Independent Charter Schools. Governor Walker's budget proposal would allow independent charter schools to begin operation in school districts outside the control of the local school board. If passed, this will undercut the foundation of public school funding by taking money away from the local school district and it will erode the philosophy of local control that has been a foundation of governing in Wisconsin.

In summary, if the Governor's budget proposal for K - 12 public education remains unchanged, the financial impact on the Hustisford School District will be significant and it will have significant ramifications for the programming offered to our students.

Our State Assembly and Senate legislators have a voice in how the Governor's budget is implemented and are required to vote on the final version of the budget prior to it becoming law. Should you have questions or want to provide feedback specific to the State budget, you may wish to contact your legislators.

Senator Scott L. Fitzgerald – (R - Juneau) Senate District #13 (608) 266-5660 Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Mark Born – (R - Beaver Dam) Assembly District #39 (608) 266-2540 Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov

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