

SCOTT COUNTY
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

149 South Elm Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694
Telephone (217) 742-3175 Facsimile (217) 742-3312

March 24, 2015

Governor Bruce Rauner
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

I am sure you are aware of the dire financial straits of Illinois' public school districts; however I wanted to let you know the magnitude of the impact on Winchester Schools.

Earlier this month, our Board of Education had to face one of the hardest decisions in recent memory. In order to attempt to balance the FY16 budget, they were forced to issue Reduction-In-Force notices to twenty-seven employees. This represents over 25% of our current staff.

These twenty-seven people are our friends and neighbors. They include teachers, aides, bus drivers, a cook, a custodian, a secretary and our Pre-K coordinator. I could go on and on about the devastation this will cause those 27 people and their families, our students, our community, and the remainder of our staff.

We also were forced to cut back on the services of our curriculum and technology director, reading specialist and special needs coordinator. It also means our students will lose the entire music and band program, special education services will be limited, bus routes will be longer, cafeteria offerings will decrease – again, I could go on and on about the negative effect on our students.

While trying to remain optimistic, if State Aid funding remains at the current 89% for next year; many of these cuts will become permanent. I feel I owe it to our board members, staff, students, parents, and community members to let you know what the State financial crisis is costing our district. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



David C. Roberts
Superintendent