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Dear Keene School District Staff:

By this time, I had hoped to share with you more information about the State budget cuts that are under discussion in Concord. These include the elimination of building aid, a reduction in catastrophic aid, and doing away with the State's obligation to pay its portion of New Hampshire retirement. The impact of these cuts on the Keene School District will be significant. Keene could potentially lose millions of dollars in revenues from the State.

On May 10, district administrators proposed to the Keene Board of Education that we issue contracts to most of the certified staff who had not received their contracts prior to April 15. The Board debated the recommendation and ultimately decided to postpone action until they have a better understanding of how losses in state revenues will impact our school district.

Keene administrators have been carefully reviewing their budgets and working to find cuts that will allow us to bring back our current staff and recruit for open positions. Although these cuts will be painful, I am confident that we can find enough non-essential items in our budget to cover state reductions, at least in the short term. I am also confident that the majority of the staff members who were "pink slipped" will be issued contracts soon.

I know you share my frustration and disappointment in the lack of a resolution in the legislature. It is not too late for you to share your concerns with elected officials across the state.

I will continue to share news as I have it and work closely with the Keene Board of Education to issue contracts as soon as feasible.

Thank you for your understanding.

William B. Gurney