



Glastonbury Board of Education

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My name is Richard C. Brown. I am Chairman of the Glastonbury Board of Education.

My name is Alan B. Bookman. I am the Glastonbury Superintendent of School.

The East Hartford-Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School opened in 1992. For nearly two decades, the school has been successful for many Glastonbury families and has been integral to the success of countless Glastonbury elementary students.

Throughout those years, the Glastonbury Board of Education has continuously supported the school and its mission, and worked tirelessly to make it even better. We have also joined with Hartford and East Hartford in many other inter-district magnet schools including the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Two Rivers Magnet Middle School, Great Path Academy, and the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics & Science.

It is critical to our ability to continue these partnerships that we receive full funding from the State of Connecticut. As economic pressure on our local budgets increases, it will be virtually impossible to increase our local funding contributions without compromising the education for other Glastonbury students.

Likewise, we are very concerned about requiring Glastonbury taxpayers to fund out of our local budget programs such as pre-school through Parent Choice. Programs such as this can have a devastating effect on our local budget by diverting critical local financial resources into programs that we cannot afford to offer to Glastonbury parents who do not use Parent Choice at magnet schools.

Finally, we would like to go back to a discussion on the East Hartford-Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School. While there is much support for the program in our town, we are very concerned that the uncertainty of continuing funding is eroding that support, and is impacting our ability to move forward on the replacement of the old school building. Without a new, larger building, we will not be able to add Hartford and other school districts as partners. It would be a shame to see this highly successful inter-district magnet school cancel its plans to help other students from around the area. Yet without a strong commitment by the State, we are concerned that this could be the outcome.

Magnet schools are the right answer for many students. Please do everything possible to keep them successful.

Handwritten signature of Richard C. Brown in cursive.

Richard C. Brown, Chairman
Glastonbury Board of Education

Handwritten signature of Alan B. Bookman in cursive.

Alan B. Bookman, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools