

March 8, 2014

As you know, it's the dreaded budget season in towns all over Connecticut. From the RTM there is very little we can do to affect the independent Board of Ed, whose budget is approaching 60% of Fairfield's entire FY 2015 budget, if you count debt service from capital expenditures. Common Core and Teacher Evaluation implementation, among other highly questionable and costly unfunded state mandates, are **KILLING US. THESE UNFUNDED REGULATIONS, PASSED WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL INPUT FROM EDUCATORS, PARENTS, ADMINISTRATORS AND STUDENTS, ARE HAMSTRINGING AND DISTRACTING OUR BEST TEACHERS, LOWERING OUR ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PRODUCING BACKBREAKING OVERHEAD COSTS FOR TAXPAYERS.** Even worse, proven and productive programs in music, language, gifted ed and sports are being cut or substantially curtailed to offset skyrocketing BOE expenses. A disaster all around!

Thank you, Ellen Jacob, Fairfield, CT RTM, District 9 (203-259-3747; email: dancingusa@optonline.net)