March 2, 2018

For the Board:

We received a memorandum from the Agency of Education notifying us that the District is considered a high spending school district for FY17 based on our Special Education Expenditure Report and ADM for the 2016-2017 school year.

The AOE requested that I provide them the costs associated with specific students, services provided and placement information. I provided that information two weeks ago, before the deadline of March 1st.

While I cannot provide information to the Board based on specific students due to confidentiality, there are three overall factors driving special education expenses. Those costs are the tuition and transportation costs associated with our students who attend private day placements, the costs of providing specialized paraprofessional and other supports for other students allowing them to remain in our school programs, and providing related services from service providers not on staff. Additionally, the number of students referred to special education for evaluation and services has increased dramatically over the last two years.

Increasing services for all students and families through social worker services and more collaboration with local agencies will address some of these needs. We are currently sharing service providers with other school districts. We have also developed plans that would allow us to provide our own day program for some of our students, keeping them in our school community.

Respectfully,

Jan Cole