

CITY OF OAK RIDGE



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

POST OFFICE BOX 1 • OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831-0001

September 11, 2013

Dr. Bruce Borchers
Superintendent of Schools
304 New York Avenue
P. O. Box 6588
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6588

RE: School Funding

Dear Dr. Borchers:

On behalf of the Oak Ridge City Council, I am able to respond to you and the Oak Ridge Board of Education (BOE) as to the Council's strong intent to resolve the present deficiency of \$250,000 associated with the State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) calculations. The City Council has asked me to convey their intent to address this matter positively with the Oak Ridge Board of Education for the benefit of Oak Ridge students, parents, and all concerned.

Since this matter was brought to our attention on August 13, 2013, along with the October 1, 2013 deadline, numerous questions have arisen about the MOE process. Although some questions remain regarding local funding, the City Council is prepared to assist the Oak Ridge Board of Education in meeting their responsibility to the Tennessee Department of Education.

In an effort to facilitate immediate action, the City Council has asked me to request a formal letter from the Oak Ridge Board of Education, or yourself, regarding a request for funding from the City, the reasons for the request, and Board decisions to close school operations on October 1, 2013 if funding is not obtained. This will be utilized for our records and audit requirements.

Formal action regarding your request will require one meeting of City Council to approve a funding resolution. We are prepared to call this meeting next week. Due to notification requirements for a special called meeting, we need to receive your letter no later than noon on Monday, September 16, 2013.

Since T.C.A. 49-3-314(c) states that "the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, withhold a portion or all of the state education finance funds that the LEA is otherwise eligible to receive" City Council is further requesting copies of any notices or communications as required by the above statute constituting formal notice from the Commissioner of the State Department of Education confirming that he has approved withholding State funds in whole from the Oak Ridge City Schools beginning on October 1, 2013.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to working toward its resolution.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Watson".

Mark S. Watson
City Manager

cc: Mayor Beehan and Members of City Council
Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney
Dr. Amy Fitzgerald, Government and Public Affairs Coordinator