



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

November 4, 2019

Dr. Anthony Azar, Superintendent
Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District
2700 Regional Road
North Dighton, MA 02764

Katherine Cooper, Chair, School Committee
Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District
2700 Regional Road
North Dighton, MA 02764

Kenneth Pacheco, Chair
Dighton Select Board
Town of Dighton
979 Somerset Avenue
Dighton, MA 02715

Gerald V. Schwall, Chair
Rehoboth Select Board
Town of Rehoboth
148 Peck Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769



Re: Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District - Fiscal Oversight pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71,
§ 16B and 603 CMR 41.07

Dear Dr. Azar, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Pacheco and Mr. Schwall:

We are aware that your constituents recently voted against the school committee's latest proposed FY20 budget at the Rehoboth Town meeting on October 29, 2019, and that the district-wide meeting November 2, 2019 was canceled. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, § 16B and 603 CMR 41.07, in the event a local budget is not adopted by December 1, 2019, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) shall establish a budget for the year and shall assume fiscal oversight of the district.

Once the Department sets the final district budget for the year, the treasurer of the regional school district must calculate and certify to the member municipalities their respective assessments based on the statutory method. The member communities will be obligated to appropriate their respective assessments

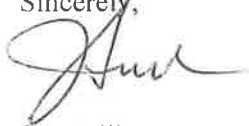
based on this budget and make payments to the regional school district consistent with the payment schedule outlined in the regional district agreement. This budget and the Department's fiscal oversight will remain in place until the end of the fiscal year or until the member towns have approved a budget for the subsequent fiscal year, whichever is later. It is important to note that this budget may be different than the interim "1/12th budget" under which the district is currently operating.

In preparation for the establishment of this final budget for FY20, the Department seeks your input. Accordingly, we request that you provide the Department with any information you or your constituents wish the Commissioner to consider in setting this budget. Please include information on other sources of town or district revenue that may be available to support the school committee budget, information on the district's outstanding debt and expenditures and how that compares to prior years, and any other information you believe is relevant to the Commissioner's determination of on the final budget for the year. Please send this information **no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019** by email to:

Christine Lynch at clynch@doe.mass.edu, and
Michelle Griffin at mgriffin@doe.mass.edu.

Please contact Ms. Lynch or Ms. Griffin if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jay Sullivan
Associate Commissioner

cc: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Jeff Wulfson, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator, Town of Dighton
Helen Dennen, Town Administrator, Town of Rehoboth
Christine Lynch, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Michelle Griffin, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education