

For Immediate Release: April 10, 2007

To The Editor:

In a story published in the Newburyport Daily News on April 5, 2007, titled "Triton, Pentucket winners in Legislature's budget," there were incorrect facts that we believe may adversely affect the understanding of the budget process for the families and residents of the Triton Regional School District member communities. While there was a retraction printed on Friday, April 6, 2007, we feel that the prominence of the retraction did not match the magnitude of the error and thus are providing further clarification.

It was stated in this article that due to a joint resolution that was filed by the House and Senate, Triton would be receiving an additional \$890,000 over what the Governor had proposed in the first round of the budget process, House I, which was filed on February 28, 2007. In actuality, the Governor's proposed budget called for \$8,460,603 in State Chapter 70 Aid while the joint resolution increased the total Chapter 70 Aid to 8,463,498. This change in funding amounts to an addition of only \$2,895 in state aid for Triton. Incorrect information was posted for Whittier and Pentucket as well.

We are unclear as to the cause of the error, but we believe it is imperative that all members of the Triton community understand that there was no such windfall of State Aid as detailed in the article. Even with this joint resolution signed into law, Triton is still \$124,676 short from what we budgeted for revenue from state aid. Once the State budget is finalized, we will be reducing the proposed operating costs by that total amount, not increasing assessments to towns to cover the difference.

The Massachusetts Department of Education has created a clear explanation of the process and results on their website at [http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter\\_08.html](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter70/chapter_08.html)

Please contact us at [shalloran@triton.info](mailto:shalloran@triton.info) or [bforget@triton.info](mailto:bforget@triton.info), or by phone at 978.465.2397 should you have any further questions or need clarification.

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