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Good morning, everyone,

I hope you are staying warm.

I wanted to provide an update on school funding related developments.

On Tuesday, we received the full analysis of the impact of House Bill 186 on schools statewide. Needless to say, what we saw was not pleasant and very detrimental to our long term fiscal stability.

Essentially, what HB 186 will do is create a large structural deficit in our 4 year forecast. The state has given districts a two year bridge of temporary funding to help, but, just over the horizon we do have a challenge to tackle.

Our original plan (with all the facts we had) was to take a run at solving our emergency levy cycle. While this is still a problem, it may have to take the number 2 spot as we look at our financial health and priorities. We also have a short runway to get this moving if May was going to be the target.

The thinking is to regroup, engage ALL of civic leaders and develop a more comprehensive plan that includes educating our community over the next several months. I think we have their attention.

We know you are all busy, however, we are hoping to host another brainstorming/informational session on Monday February 2nd at 6:00PM. We will outline the impact of HB 186 and begin the process of laying out a comprehensive plan.

Stay Warm,
Patrick Ward