



## EAST HAVEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Joseph Maturo, Jr.  
Mayor

June 28, 2012

East Haven Board of Education  
c/o Thomas Hennessey, Chairman  
250 Main Street  
East Haven, CT 06512

**Re: J. Woodward Thompson Trust**

Dear Tom:

I write to inform you of a recent financial development which was brought to my attention this week.

In a letter dated February 28, 2012, The East Haven Arts Commissions asked Town Attorney Joseph Zullo to investigate the procedure for applying for funds from the J. Woodward Thompson Trust and for a determination of that Board's eligibility to receive such funding.

The Town Attorney informs me that the J. Woodward Thompson Trust was set up as part of a stipulated judgment in a case regarding the sale of the Union School property. The stipulation provides that the J. Woodward Thompson Trust is managed and controlled by the Board of Education and that the funds "shall be utilized for education uses and purposes, including supplemental education programs for the benefit of children and students of the public schools of the Town of East Haven and for scholarships for educational purposes to graduates of the public schools of East Haven."

The stipulation provides a limitation that such funds are "not to be used to provide or pay for expenses in the education process which normally are responsibilities of the Town of East Haven." Additionally, the stipulation provides that such funds "shall not be applied for the benefit of the Town of East Haven, whether in connection with education or otherwise for services or expenditures which normally and otherwise are the responsibility of the Town of East Haven."

Pursuant to the stipulated judgment, the process for applying for funding under the Trust is controlled and set by the Board of Education. Any entity's eligibility for receiving funding under the Trust depends on whether an intended use is consistent with the

language "education uses and purposes, including supplemental education programs for the benefit of children and students of the public schools of the Town of East Haven."

My purpose for writing to you is to make a recommendation that the Board of Education carefully assess making some of this funding available for supplemental purposes in upcoming years. Currently, the fund contains approximately \$430,000.00.

My recommendation is that the Board set a designated amount of money to be made available each year for distribution under the Trust (i.e. \$10,000.00). Additionally, the Board should devise an application procedure under which interested groups and individuals could apply to the Board of Education to receive funding.

I believe that that PTO and PTA groups, which already do so much great work for our Town and students, would be the primary applicants for these funds. Additionally, community groups like the East Haven Arts Commission would also be possible beneficiaries as they often perform student-involved activities.

Again, I stress that it is the Board of Education which controls this fund. The Board of Education ultimately is the decision-maker as to whether to use these funds and whether any intended use satisfies the purposes of this Trust.

I hope that you will consider my recommendation to create a procedure for drawing down on some of these funds. I believe doing so will result in new, supplemental educational opportunities for our students and, overall, an enriched student experience.

I have enclosed copies of relevant documentation for your review. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,



Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr.