

David Campo

From: Mary Childs <childsmm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 2:21 PM
To: David Campo
Cc: Mary Childs
Subject: RTM comment

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Dear Mr. Campo and RTM members, I am writing to you as a resident of Waterford for over 37 years. I have three children who attend our Public School System. I am concerned about the proposed cuts to the BOE budget. The proposal to cut \$470,000 is concerning for a multitude of reasons.

This committee represents the residents of Waterford not only the taxpayers. Our youngest residents, our students, while not a large part of the tax base, need to be the center of all considerations for suggested budget cuts. What the BOE presentation showed you was that our kids are greatly benefitting from the way we currently supply services to them, during a regular school session. Please review the power point data and ask questions about what those slides mean and what those numbers represent. Our students deserve and have the right to the quality education that we have been able to provide them with and have the right to continue to expect quality education.

Instead of making a blanket percentage cut, arbitrarily totaling \$470,000, and reminding the Superintendent that the Board of Education can ask for more funding from the General Fund later, the Members needed to make a more realistic proposal. To ask the Superintendent to look for additional places to be more efficient and find areas to make cuts would have been more diplomatic. It was stated that individual line items cannot be addressed by the RTM. That being said, the suggestion of using a Coach to cover a classroom while a teacher has a meeting as a way to reduce the budget by \$470,000, is unacceptable. The intricacies of a school day and the functioning of a student body rely on an entire team of professionals including custodians, administrative assistants, administrators, teachers, paras, and a variety of related service and support staff. Your proposed cuts would drastically challenge the ability to function successfully.

As members of our elected town representatives, you have undertaken a massive role. I humbly suggest that instead of politicizing this and siding with a particular party, you instead listen to your neighbors. Many of your neighbors came to Waterford for the great school system. The State recognizes this truth, as should you.

I do not typically respond or offer opinions to your membership, as I trust that typically you have our community's best interest in mind in all of your proceedings. At this point, I feel that you are challenging my trust. Respectfully submitted, Mary Moffett Childs

2020 MAY 14 PM 3:10

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