

Good afternoon,

I'm back again this week to speak to you because when I left last week I was nauseated by what I heard. The proposals Dan and Ruth shared with the board were very upsetting. Especially so when Mr. Zito began talking about going after the teachers' well being.

I appreciate the boards continuing concern about what is best for the students and which of the proposals would have the least affect on student well being. As I listened, it felt as if you were very strongly opposed to consolidating schools or using any of the one-time monies. However isn't doing so the best solution?

Please hear me out. I understand that the one time money is there for when times become difficult and money isn't coming in as well as in the past. So, if we do have a negative balance in 19-20 shouldn't the money be used as it now becomes a difficult financial time.

If a school is consolidated it will be very difficult for the students, parents, and teachers for a period of time. They will be very sad about losing something familiar and comfortable; however, I do not believe it would have a long lasting effect on anyone. Yes it will be difficult, a time of adjustment, but students will still have friends, and familiar faces around them. They will need to adjust to a new campus and learn their way around, but this will only be temporary. After a few weeks, possibly a month or even two, everyone will settle in and become one such as families do when parents remarry.

The other option being considered, was you cut a large amount of FTE such as ELD assistance, counselors, after school coaches, and social workers. Doing this, you impact MANY students for the entire year of longer if the money isn't received to replace these people. Students need counselors and social workers. Many students need someone to talk to and school may be the only place they have that option. As for after school

coaches, there have been a number of peer-reviewed articles that prove the value of school-based sports in health, social, and emotional well-being of students. Yet you are considering taking these positions away. Again, these positions may possibly be replace in time, but over all have very large detrimental negative effects on students when no longer available. These cuts would have an enormous effect on students' social emotional support. I know that Mr. Zito was asking which would be easiest to return, but is that necessarily the best option?

I understand consolidating schools is a HUGE ordeal, and the board members would have to hear from many irate parents, (You don't want to upset the voters. It is an election year after all) but in the long run wouldn't this option have the least amount of long term effects on the students?

Finally, in response to Mr. Zito's suggestion of putting together a proposal that takes away 4 days from the teachers, which roughly comes to a 2.2% pay decrease, I would like to ask when do you expect us to prepare for the school year if you take away the two days before school begins? How are we to set up our classrooms, get the student supplies organized, familiarize ourselves with the new students we will be spending the year? Another one of the days that was suggested was our conference day. Are you suggesting Mr. Zito that we complete of conferences on our personal time outside of our workday? This proposal is not only hurtful to the teachers, but would cause a very negative effect on the students. We must have time to prepare for the year and we must have time to conference with parents without asking us to give of our own time, although many of us already do.

In conclusion, I would just like to ask that you really take a long hard look at what is BEST for the students, not what is easiest for the board.