

Janice Rockwood-Berry

From: Jeff Grocki <jeffgrocki@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Budget Comment
Subject: Budget Comments

Hello Jeffrey Grocki 14 Glen Rain Rd.

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the council just aimlessly pulling a number out of the air that the BOE needs to cut out of the budget.

Yes in these trying times we need to spend wisely agree 100% but we need to do better by our future leaders and equip them with the best tools avail to make them successful. in my opinion cutting \$750k out of their budget made by a group, that several times through the meeting showed they do not fully understand how a education budget works is of grave concern. I see the wanting to run the education budget on might be future grants about the equal of saying that I want to run my housing hoping that I win the lottery. I would hope that the council sees the error in their ways and understands being a member of the council is about much more than the mascot ticket you all ran on.

Thank You
Jeffrey Grocki
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Janice Rockwood-Berry

From: Lauren Klosowski <lklo2379@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 5:50 PM
To: Budget Comment
Subject: concerned parent

As a parent in the Killingly school district, member of the KIS PTO, former high school teacher (current college professor), married to a public school teacher this budget greatly offends me. I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts. This town had no traffic lights and three pizza places. There was no commercial tax base. The town continued to grow and from a high school graduating class of 40 to now over 200 in the graduating class, there is still no industry in town, and still no traffic lights. I taught in this town, Douglas, Massachusetts, for 8 years. The salaries of the teachers, administrators, faculty and staff as well as the four schools, are all paid by residential taxes. The demographic of Douglas is not much different from Killingly and yet our district has a different problem, the townspeople do not value education in Killingly. My parents have lived in Douglas since 1983 and every time the school needed money and every time they still need money, my parents vote for it. They do this because their children (myself and my two sisters) were educated in this town and all of us graduated at the top of our classes and went to great colleges. Their children got a great education and other people paid for it, now they pay it forward. In doing this, voting for the schools, they help pay good young teachers salaries. They help keep the pay scale for educators in Douglas competitive thus attracting good teachers. As a teacher, you choose your district to stay in by your 5th year, after that you are "too expensive" and younger teachers will be hired over you because they are "cheaper" for the town. Good teachers = better education. Better education = better schools. Better schools =...drum roll please...HIGHER PROPERTY VALUE. Which means, if you vote for the schools, the teachers, and improving the schools it IMPROVES YOUR PROPERTY VALUE. You will get better money for your house if you try to sell it. Plain and simple. My parents bought their house for 60,000 dollars in 1983...they have done small improvements but it is now worth over 500,000...Douglas is an excellent school district with exceptional teachers. My point is, if we want things to get better, we have to pay for it. We need to update old schools, we need to support our teachers...the lowest top step in the state when we have so much commercial tax base..its pathetic. We should be ashamed of ourselves. You can't expect teachers to take pay cuts and still produce top students. Think about your jobs, now take a 20 percent pay cut, are you going to stay, will you feel motivated to do your best? I don't think so. I think we need to stop expecting our teachers and schools to do the same.

Lauren Klosowski