

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Ernest Dodge <edodge@killinglyschools.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 9, 2023 2:26 PM  
**To:** Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; ullatiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** LETTER in support of LATIN at KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL - ERNEST DODGE, Latin Faculty at KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL

Dear members of the Killingly Town Council,

I want to express again that I am fully dedicated to serving Killingly Public Schools into the future in my capacity as faculty for the entire Latin program, as I have since 1982. I have no plans or desire to retire. Although I am a long-term faculty at Killingly, the reality is that I am recently married and expecting a child next year with my wife. I am a member of the Killingly and greater Northeast Connecticut community, and my position as a teacher at Killingly High School is the work to which I am seriously committed. And I have, as my fellow faculty and the Killingly administration through the years are aware, always placed the academic excellence and success of my students first among all other interests as an educator. My dedication has never been about my ego or career ambition, but about the talented, dedicated and intelligent students that represent the quality of education in the Killingly Public Schools system. It is for this reason that I came back to teach the Latin program after originally retiring nearly ten years ago. I realized that I missed my work and role as a teacher, and at the behest of parents, students and a former board member specifically, Mrs. Alexis Rich, I returned happily to Killingly High School. I am generous with my time, often staying after school multiple days a week throughout my career to tutor students, teach supplemental Ancient Greek, and serve as faculty advisor for student clubs, such as Academic Decathlon and state spelling bees. Last year, I took over AP English IV for the entire year with no advance notice as half-time faculty, when the current faculty needed to take leave. My administrative reviews and class visits have always received top quality evaluations throughout my career, and I've been appreciative of all I've learned from fellow faculty and administration. Lastly, I can also count three current Killingly High School dept heads, Ms. Gutierrez, Ms. Carver and Mr. O'Leary, as well as current faculty, Mr. Rosoti and Mr. Raheb, as my former students and now friends. These faculty directly lead and innovate the Killingly system, and I would like to think that their study of Latin and English in my classes contributed to their success as students, thinkers and educators. Their presence among us is a testament to the ethos of giving back to community that exists in Killingly and the northeast Connecticut region.

This is to say that my ethos and dedication to the students and system of Killingly Public Schools is true, long-term and committed to excellence. That excellence directly serves my students. I feel that possibility of eliminating the entire Latin Studies Program at Killingly as a result of possible school budget would be a great disservice to current and future Killingly students. The current Killingly BOE Budget has over \$1 million surplus this fiscal year. The program is successful, with solid enrollment for this and next year. All of my current 2022-2023 Latin students enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year. Killingly stands out for having a Latin Studies Program that ties students to the history of our Western Civilization, as compared to many area schools in this region which haven't

been able to keep Latin as a program. I know that many students achieve success by studying Latin, along with other major subjects in which they hope to major in college. To exemplify this, I have two seniors this year— Henrik Pawul, our current Valedictorian, who will major in Classics and Pre-Med and has been accepted early at Brown University and Aila Gutierrez, daughter of Ms. Gutierrez, who plans to pursue Pre-Med and Classics at multiple area colleges. Henrik's older brother, Christopher, studied four years of Latin at Killingly and was accepted at Brown where he is majoring in Classics and Biology. I have a junior, Melody and a sophomore, Andrew who are both currently studying in Honors Latin II. These students are excellent and serious students and both plan to continue in the Latin Program with AP Latin III and AP Latin IV, next year. Andrew and Melody represent the majority of my current Latin students who plan to continue their Latin study through a sequence of years as a foreign language in the Killingly system.

I can easily list the names by memory of hundreds of students who've studied Classics in college, alone or with co-study that directly supported their success and current careers. Christian Sarantopoulos, Megan Wade, and Kathleen Barbosa are all Connecticut lawyers and former Latin students who studied and majored in Pre-Law and Classics in college—Yale University, Boston University and Connecticut College, respectively. Latin is a subject that directly supports the success and co-study of other major subjects, like Pre-Med, Pre-Law, English, Religion and Education. I can also list the names of countless former English students whose study at Killingly directly contributed to their career success, as well. This success is an experience all dedicated teachers have; nevertheless, these students speak for the relevance and necessity of Latin at Killingly. My former students are members of our greater community—at Killingly, in Connecticut and throughout the United States—individuals who make this great country what it is today. I have done my part to give back to our greater community, and I wish to continue in this important work.

Sincerely,

Ernest Dodge

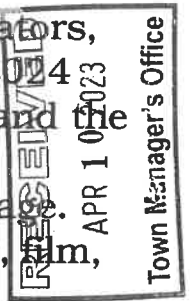
860-315-0348

[edodge@killinglyschools.org](mailto:edodge@killinglyschools.org)

Dear Board of Education and Town Council Members and Administrators,

This letter is in response to the proposed budget cuts in the 2023-2024 educational budget of 2 Spanish teachers (one at KIS, one at KHS) and the one and only Latin teacher at Killingly High School.

Many people don't understand the value of learning a second language. World Languages open the door to art, music, dance, fashion, cuisine, film, philosophy, science and more.



Knowing a second language enhances one's opportunities in government, business, technology, military, marketing and many other fields. Business skills plus second language skills make an employee more valuable in the marketplace.

A second language improves skills and grades in math and in English and on the SAT, ACT and GRE. Analytical skills improve as well as listening skills and memory. A second language builds aptitude in problem solving and working with abstract concepts. In addition, the learning of a second language creates more positive attitudes and less prejudice toward people who are different. Also, dealing with another culture enables people to gain a more profound understanding of their own culture.

In the Latin Program, students who study Latin and do well, continue with the language for multiple years. There's also the opportunity to earn college credit upon completion of the program.

Just as important is the fact that studying Latin helps students understand the English language, it's word usage and vocabulary. It includes the history of language along with Latin culture. Also, Latin is very useful to students who pursue a future in the sciences, the medical fields and law.

The elimination of the Latin teacher position totally destroys the Latin Program at Killingly High School. This would be devastating not only to the program but to those students currently enrolled in Latin classes or who were planning to take Latin. There is nothing to fill the void.

Equally troubling is the loss of a Spanish teacher at Killingly High School. The cutting of one of the three current positions shrinks the Spanish Program by one third. That's 33% less offerings available to students. In the current school year, Spanish 1 alone was offered in 5 class periods. Each class containing over 20 students. That's one teacher. How would the second teacher be able to teach all the other offerings? Obviously, there would be a severe cutback in the offerings.

The state mandates that all students must successfully complete one year of a World Language. In addition, most four year colleges require 2 or 3 years of a second language from a student who is applying for admission. Will students still be able to apply to their college of choice?

Hopefully, you will understand that these positions are crucial to the integrity of the World Language Program and that you'll reconsider eliminating these positions from the 2023-2024 budget.

I thank you for your time and apologize for the lengthy letter.

Susan Griffiths

70 Griffiths Rd, Killingly, CT 06239

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Kim Wainacht <kwainacht@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 9:32 AM  
**To:** Robert Angeli; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; Kyle Napierata; Lydia Rivera-Abrams; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Latin at KHS

To Whom It May Concern:

As a colleague of Mr. Dodge but most importantly as a parent of three KPS graduates, I am writing to voice my dismay at hearing that Mr. Dodge's Latin program is on the chopping block this budget season.

My children have told me more times than I can count that Latin prepared them for college better than any other course they studied at KHS. My son and daughter have gone on to graduate from college and have successful careers and to this day will still reference Latin in conversations. As a language arts teacher my daughter uses her knowledge of Latin to teach her students how to comprehend unknown words in their reading. This is just a shallow example of how classical studies such as Latin produce well rounded, educated people who have the knowledge and skill to propel them through college and through any career they pursue.

In short, I can't thank Mr. Dodge and his Latin program enough for the quality education my children received. It would be a terrible blow to future Killingly students to be denied the same opportunity because of a shortsighted budget cut.

Please keep Latin well funded at KHS.

Kim Wainacht

83 Perry St. Unit 174  
Putnam CT 06260

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Khloe Crossman <khloecrossman26@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:27 AM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Latin at KHS

To whom it may concern,

My name is Khloe Crossman, I am a recent alumni from Killingly High School. I am a freshman at Franklin Pierce University. I am writing this email in regards to the recent news I heard that the Latin program is on the brinks of ending. I was a Latin student with Mr. Dodge for 4 years and a student of the Latin Honor Society. My heart breaks not only for the program but also for Mr. Dodge hearing this news. While Latin may not have been my career interest while attending KHS, the program taught me much valuable information not only about Latin but also the person I am today. Latin has helped me strive to be a Biology major here at Franklin Pierce with a Bachelors in Science in their premed track program. Latin was a difficult subject, motivating me to continue with difficulty and pick up a minor in Chemistry. Yes, I understand Latin is an ancient language but I learned information about History in that class that no History course could ever provide. Not only did I learn information in this class that brought me to graduate 8th in my class and Vice President but I also learned valuable information from Mr. Dodge. Mr. Dodge is a kindhearted, understanding man who never asked for help but is now reaching out for help in fear that his program will end. Not only did he help shape the young, professional women I am today but he also helped shape my writing. His help with my writing helped land me a job here on campus as a peer tutor at the Writing Center. My heart aches knowing that the Killingly Board of ed is willing to give up such a prestigious program that has helped shape young adolescent minds for years now. Please reconsider your actions and leave the Latin program at KHS, give kids the opportunity to choose which world language to learn instead of being forced to take only Spanish.

Thank you for hearing what I have to say,

Khloe Crossman.

340 Christian Hill Rd, Brooklyn, Ct 06234

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Rebecca Snay <snayrebecca@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:29 AM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Latin program at Killingly High School

To Whom It May Concern:

I graduated from Killingly High School in 2007. I was enrolled in 4 years of Latin with Mr. Dodge. The knowledge and skills I gained from those Latin classes have been invaluable to me. Do not take that opportunity away from current and future students. Keep Latin in Killingly.

The Latin program at Killingly is truly a gem. If you've never taken Latin, you might just view it as a dead, useless language. But the linguistic and historical insight it provides is profound. It opens doors to access other languages, including our own. It provides a foundation for accessing terms within science and math fields.

It's a challenging language to learn, but has lifelong rewards. The process of learning the language takes stamina and perseverance. The habits you develop when studying Latin build character and help to shape the development of young adults into hardworking, educated citizens.

I am currently in my 9th year of teaching Language Arts in Ledyard, CT. A large part of the Connecticut ELA curriculum is related to determining the meaning of unknown words, including identifying Latin and Greek roots. I feel my background in Latin has made me a better teacher because of my understanding and appreciation for this historical language.

Please keep Latin in Killingly. It was truly the best course I took at the high school. It shaped me into the person I am today. It breaks my heart to hear that leaders in Killingly are considering taking away this opportunity for current and future students. Do what is right for kids.

Thank you for your time,  
Rebecca Snay

23 Strawberry St.  
Lisbon, CT 06351

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Penny Kostaras <penny.kostaras@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 2:33 PM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Keep Latin Alive at KHS - from Penny Kostaras, KHS class of 1997

Dear BOE, Superintendent of Schools and Town Council,

My name is Penny Kostaras and I am a Killingly High School (KHS) alumna, class of 1997. I am writing to implore you to keep the Latin program at KHS. As a former honors English and Latin student of Mr. Ernest Dodge, taking his Latin classes continues to have an invaluable impact on my life in language and in business. It is my hope that future students will be able to experience the boundless benefits of being educated in the classics at KHS.

I have always loved studying language, and that spark was lit at KHS where I studied Latin and Spanish. I took two years of Latin with Mr. Dodge, and it helped me understand Spanish on a deeper level. My Latin knowledge was the root of my success as a Spanish major at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. I lived in Spain for a year during college, and I was able to pick up the language quickly because of my strong background with Latin vocabulary, verb conjugation, grammar, and sentence structure.

After college, I met my husband who is from Italy. The Latin roots in the Italian language were, of course, very prominent, and by combining my knowledge of Latin and Spanish, I was able to become fluent in Italian within a few years. My in-laws and my husband's friends were shocked at my ability to speak Italian so well and so fast, but I wasn't. I had the foundation from my high school Latin with Mr. Dodge. Learning Italian quickly helped me to connect with the Italian people and culture in a way that opened doors to personal relationships that I hold dear and have changed my life for the better. My two children have been learning Italian since birth, and I am grateful that help them learn the vocabulary and explain grammar and usage to them in a way that makes sense to their young minds. Thanks to Latin, I was able to break through the language barrier, and my life is richer because I can communicate with my Italian family and friends, and help my own children as they learn the language.

After learning Italian, I began studying modern Greek. My understanding of Latin helped me easily decline nouns and conjugate verbs in Greek. In the last five years, I have passed the Greek government exam levels A2 and B1, and I am now studying for the B2 exam which I will take on May 24th of this year. As I study, I am constantly connecting the Greek language back to Latin, plus Spanish and Italian, to create a web of language knowledge that helps me retain vocabulary and understand syntax across all languages, including my native English. In my lifetime of studying language, I know that Latin is the glue that holds all four of my languages together.

Rather fortuitously, my language knowledge stemming from Latin has been key to my success in business. As a Tutor and Academic & Life Skills Coach, I am constantly using my knowledge of Latin roots to help students with their language acquisition. I teach Latin roots to eighth graders in my popular test preparation courses for private high school entrance exams. The exams consist of difficult vocabulary and grammar sections that are solidly based on Latin. I am well-known for my test prep course because parents feel confident in my abilities to teach vocabulary and grammar to their teenagers. Their trust means the world to me, and I know that it's my mastery of the vocabulary and grammar, which started from my days in Latin at KHS, that allows me to give my students an outstanding learning experience where they will be successful on test day.

As an aside, I once had a remote student from Philadelphia who was working with me on his time management and organizational skills, and he needed help in Latin. His parents were shocked that I could help him with his Latin homework, as academic coaches who know Latin are very rare (as are students even taking Latin in the first place; my student went to a prestigious private school in Philadelphia). I was able to break down his homework for him in a way that



he could be successful in the class, and his parents were grateful that they didn't have to comb the country looking for someone to help.

As you can see, my experience taking Latin at KHS was indelible to my life because it paved the way for me to acquire other languages and become a sought-after tutor and academic coach. By taking Latin, I was not only able to gain the problem-solving and critical thinking skills that Latin demands, but I was able to realize possibilities through language and business that were directly due to my Latin education.

Killingly High School students need Latin, and they deserve to be in Latin classes taught by Mr. Dodge, a dedicated, expert educator. Mr. Dodge's Latin program is an institution at KHS, and a rarity in public education. He has dedicated his career to the success of his students, and through the years has been proud to hear countless stories of students like me who go on to blow the doors of their lives wide open because they were able to have a unique, challenging, and invaluable educational experience by taking Latin at KHS with him.

I implore you to keep Latin studies alive at KHS for the benefit of past, current, and future students. Latin is a treasure at KHS, as is Mr. Dodge, and it is my hope that students will continue to enjoy this impressive, long-standing program for years to come.

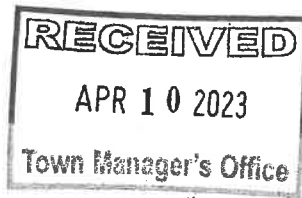
Sincerely,  
Penny Kostaras

Penny Kostaras  
Killingly High School Class of 1997  
120 Victoria Rd  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
Tel: (650) 483-5111  
Email: [penny.kostaras@gmail.com](mailto:penny.kostaras@gmail.com)

## **Penny Kostaras**

Academic & Life Skills Coach  
Founder & CEO, Wise Student  
(650) 483-5111  
[www.wisestudent.com](http://www.wisestudent.com)





**From:** Rich, Dax <daxrich@amazon.com>

**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 3:20 PM

**To:** [rangeli@killinglyschools.org](mailto:rangeli@killinglyschools.org); [ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org](mailto:ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org); Normand Ferron <[nferron@killinglyschools.org](mailto:nferron@killinglyschools.org)>; [jhegedus@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jhegedus@killinglyschools.org); [slannon@killinglyschools.org](mailto:slannon@killinglyschools.org); Jason Muscara <[jmuscara@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jmuscara@killinglyschools.org)>; [knapierata@killinglyschools.org](mailto:knapierata@killinglyschools.org); [lriviera@killinglyschools.org](mailto:lriviera@killinglyschools.org); Chris Viens <[cviens@killinglyschools.org](mailto:cviens@killinglyschools.org)>; Mary Calorio <[mcalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mcalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>

**Cc:** Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** Latin Program at KHS - Alumni's Experience for Consideration

Mr. Angeli, the Killingly Board of Education, and the Killingly Town Council,

My name is Dax Rich and I am a KHS alumni and the salutatorian from the class of 2012. My family has been an active part of the Killingly community since 2001 (my father worked at KHS, my mother was the board chair for several years, and all of my siblings [4 in total] went to KCS, KIS, and KHS). Killingly is our hometown and while we all live in different places across the country today, we still have our roots and friendships built in Killingly.

It has come to my attention that in a recent proposed school budget, Mr. Angeli has suggested the town remove funding for the Latin program at KHS. As a 4-year Latin student at KHS, I feel it is important I share my experience and the powerful effects this specific program has had on my life, both during my high school experience and after I graduated from KHS. I hope to share with you how a very inexpensive program will continue to result in an unparalleled learning experience, further enticing students to come to Killingly. While I wish I could stand in front of you at the Town Budget Public Hearing on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>, I am located in Dallas/Fort Worth Texas and will not be able to attend. I instead exhort you to consider my written thoughts as if I were in front of you today.

### **Impact in High School**

Latin provided a rigorous learning experience throughout the 4 years I attended KHS. From Day 1, I remember investing no less than 2 hours each evening studying and preparing for the following class's oral examination (we had classes every other day on an A/B schedule). These examinations required that I learn how to study effectively, a skill which would benefit me in every other class as well as in my undergraduate and graduate studies. In addition to the hours I spent studying, I also vividly remember the rich discussions we had about Roman and Greek cultures and their impact on modern day society and politics (I can't imagine many classes that allow Freshmen in high school to think at such a macro level). Walking into Latin class meant we each needed to be mentally prepared for a challenging and rewarding learning experience.

I found my English skills also improved as a result of Latin. While I read at a grade-appropriate level prior to high school, I found that by studying the roots of the English language and the impact Latin had on early English writers, I was able to jump at least 2 reading grade levels as a result of my Latin studies. This became even more evident in my AP tests for Latin and English, where I scored in the top 20% nationwide in both exams. Latin provided me the foundations to understand my own language and appreciate the world's history, such that I could perform more effectively in my exams and other classes. I attribute my graduation as second in the class largely to the skills and learnings I attained in my 4 year Latin class. Coincidentally, the valedictorian for the year was my good friend and rival, Aadam Barclay, who sat right beside me for all 4 years of Latin at KHS.

### **Impact After Graduation**

Shortly after my KHS graduation, I went on an ecclesiastic service mission for my church for 2 years to Peru. I was sent to a training center for 2 weeks to learn the foundations of Spanish. I was the only one who had not taken any form of Spanish in High School. Nevertheless, my understanding of Latin allowed me to easily understand the Spanish conjugations and grasp the concepts of the Spanish language. By the end of the 2 weeks, we were given an oral assessment of our Spanish skills and of a class of 62 where ~76% had taken Spanish beforehand, I ranked 2 out of 62.

Upon returning to school at Brigham Young University, I was able to complete my undergraduate degree in 3 years thanks in large part to my AP credit from Latin and English. I graduated Cum Laude and was able to attend school for two Masters degrees as well as join the workforce. Latin has been on my resume from my first job and having it on my resume provided me an unique opportunity to meet with a hiring manager who also took Latin in California. That connection resulted in my current employment where I own all Leadership Development training for 30,000 individuals across the EMEA, APAC, and North American regions at Amazon Web Services.

My professional career has benefitted from the lessons I learned in Latin class: understanding how to study, how to conduct myself under stress, how to think at a macro-level, and how to tie the stories of the ancient past to my own actions in today's society. Students will continue to find the same level of growth and opportunity by participating in the Latin program with minimal costs to the school's budget. The ROI for the Latin program is incredible and the benefits for the town extend far beyond the walls of the classroom. The Latin program creates leaders and thinkers who will continue to bless the Killingly community and attract the attention of potential students across the Connecticut region. I hope you will consider how this inexpensive language program will bring competitive value to the school district and continue to create engaged, knowledgeable, and devoted students both in the short and long terms.

I would be happy to get on a call or share additional thoughts and feedback as relevant. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if my experience would be beneficial in defending one of the most important education programs at Killingly.

Regards,

**Dax Rich, MBA, MSML**

*Senior Training Program Manager – Leadership Training Programs*

*Amazon Web Services – Global Learning*

DFW Site (CST Time Zone)

Alias: **daxrich**

Dax Rich

8400 Trickham Bend

Fort Worth, Texas 76131

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Drew Wainacht <drewyknot@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 5:36 PM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Budget

Dear Killingly Board Member and School Administrators,

As a father of three successful KPS graduates I know firsthand the importance of Latin class in their education and how it positively influenced and affected their adult lives. As a former Killingly staff member I've always been proud of this class offering and believe it would be a grave disservice to remove it from the curriculum. Please find the funds to continue this wonderful educational experience.

Thank you,  
Andrew Wainacht  
83 Perry St  
Unit 173  
Putnam, CT 06260

<jrockwood@killinglyct.gov>; Jason Anderson <janderson@killinglyct.gov>; Kevin Kerttula <kkerttula@killinglyct.gov>; Ed Grandelski <egrandelski@killinglyct.gov>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov>; Patti Larrow George <plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov>; Michele Murphy <mmurphy@killinglyct.gov>; Raymond Wood II <rwood\_ii@killinglyct.gov>

**Subject:** Fwd: Latin program at KHS

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kimberly Lewis <klewisct@gmail.com>

**Date:** Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 11:31 AM

**Subject:** Latin program at KHS

**To:** <rangeli@killinglyschools.org>

Dear Superintendent Angeli and the BOE:

I was a Latin student at Killingly High School for two years in the 1980's. I am distressed to hear the budget proposes to cut a program crucial to students' success in many subjects. I received excellent academic preparation at KHS and the Latin program had an integral part in that experience.

While I also took other languages, please note that Latin made learning them easier. Learning Latin requires a much better understanding of English grammar than is offered in most English classes. My son found out the same when he took it here in Enfield. Since so many English words are derived from Latin, it is indispensable when it comes to vocabulary on the SAT and also in the sciences.

I use my Latin skills every day as a critical care nurse. I didn't need to take Medical Terminology because it is based in Latin. Much of the Latin we translated pertained to ancient history, which is yet another overlap in the broader curriculum.

I have the fondest memories of my Latin teachers, Mrs. Rose and Dr. Dodge. Both of these fine educators were intrinsically involved in my personal success in their classes. They brought expertise, humor and experience to their classrooms and every student they teach is lucky to have them.

A vibrant Latin program is attractive to parents and students alike. I know this because I made sure my son's high school offered it because I am so aware of the advantages I enjoy academically since I have it in my background. Kindly preserve the reputation for excellence at KHS by funding this program. Only students who haven't taken Latin make the mistake of underestimating its impact on their education and professional futures. I hope Killingly won't make that error in judgment.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Fitzpatrick Lewis  
15 Marshall Drive, Enfield, CT 06082



To the Members of the Killingly Town Council,

I am writing this letter in support of the Latin program at Killingly High School. I graduated from Killingly High School in 2001, as valedictorian and a four-year participant of the Latin program. I went on to pursue a degree in Classics at Boston University, majoring in Ancient Greek and Latin, and was able to graduate in three years thanks in part to my Advanced Placement credits in Latin. I went on to complete an MAT in Latin and Classical Humanities at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I have now been a Latin teacher myself for the last seventeen years, mostly at Classical Magnet School in Hartford, CT.

It has recently come to my attention that the Latin program at Killingly High School may fall victim to budget cuts. This is unconscionable.

During my time in high school, Latin meant everything to me. I was a high achieving student who had never truly been challenged in school. Latin was where I excelled, because I was challenged with an intoxicating combination of all things I loved the most about different subjects: the logical constructs of math, the effortless draw of the historical background and the ancient world, the range and intrigue of the literature, the magic of reading hidden meaning in layers of poetic devices and meter, derivatives and building vocabulary... the list goes on. In Latin, there is something for everyone, and for every level of student. I was able to find myself in Mr. Dodge's classroom as he somehow ably led us to become adept at all of those skills. He always expected the best of every student and held everyone to high standards. It was everything I needed, and I was supported in every way. I attempt to emulate his example every day.

I have learned throughout the years that Latin will always be a safe haven for that introverted or unique student who seeks a sense of belonging. In Latin class they will find that niche that they were searching for and grow, like I did. This is an avenue that should continue to be available to students of Killingly High School. Mr. Dodge's greatest strength as a teacher is his ability to build meaningful and lasting relationships with his students. I say this as someone who graduated twenty-two years ago and has never been out of touch with him. I had a difficult streak of trauma during my time at Killingly High School. Mr. Dodge helped me through it, supported me, and was sometimes my only reason for getting up and going to school every day. I have let communication with most of my friends and teachers lapse over the years, but Mr. Dodge has remained a trusted friend, mentor, and colleague. My story is not singular, as I have met several other former students along the way who can say the same. The idea of willingly removing him from the community of Killingly High School would be such a tremendous loss to all.

So often we equate Latin as a privilege reserved for high achieving students. I have taught for sixteen years at Classical Magnet, where Latin is required of all students at all levels, and in an underprivileged community. In my time teaching, I have come to better understand what Latin offers to any student. The study of Latin builds an understanding of vocabulary and grammar, improves writing and fundamental reading skills, and encourages critical thinking and problem solving. There are so many benefits achievable by any level of student. They are skills I learned from Mr. Dodge, and transferred to my own students, often using his methods.

I ended up in Latin by chance. Spanish and French failed to draw my attention, and I was unwilling to give up music and art in my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. I signed up for Latin on a whim, or perhaps it was an

intervention of the Fates. Unlike other language offerings, Latin progresses in a way that makes it possible to complete two years at Advanced Placement level. The program at Killingly offers a distinct challenge, a fast pace, and an added advantage of being well versed in writing research papers. My first year at Boston University I chose to accept the challenge of my English professor to write a paper using the Latin Biblical commentaries of Bede. My professor, who studied Latin on the side, was so impressed he bragged about my paper to the other professors in the program, and ended up inviting me to complete an independent study working on Latin translations with him the following year. These are the sorts of rewarding opportunities and connections available to Mr. Dodge's students, and they should be the type of distinction Killingly High School is seeking rather than removing.

I am extraordinarily grateful for whatever twist of fate brought me to my choice of taking Latin, and it is my sincerest hope that other students in Killingly are able to take advantage of this program. Latin made my life richer in high school, and brought me many opportunities for college, including scholarships. Any extrinsic motivation aside, the study of Latin provides so many supplemental skills and an endless sequence of fascinating topics to explore.

I thank you for your time, and hope that you will consider these points before making a decision about the future of Latin at Killingly High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Gilbert".

Amanda Gilbert  
Killingly High School - Class of 2001  
Latin Teacher - Classical Magnet School

32 Croft Drive  
Manchester, CT 06042

Thank you,  
Amanda



## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Christopher Pawul <christopher162215@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:00 AM  
**To:** Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; plarrow@killinglyct.gov; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II  
**Subject:** Killingly High School Latin Program

Dear Members of the Town Council,

I am a current junior at Brown university and graduate from Killingly High School's class of 2020. I would like to voice my strong support for preserving Mr. Dodge's Latin program.

Latin has been an integral part of my education during high school and college. Latin has helped me develop a broad vocabulary, enhanced my reading and writing, and introduced me to general linguistic skills. Mr. Dodge's Latin class also exposed me to ancient history, literature, and art that I could not have learned in any other class. The benefits of Latin peruse to seemingly unrelated fields like biology. Whereas most students might have to memorize what "saltatory conduction" means in neuronal signaling, I can use my understanding of Latin to arrive at the same definition.

Latin has also helped me improve my understanding of people. I often had to think critically about the opinions of ancient authors and empathize with perspectives that are completely different than my own. These exercises have helped me become a better listener and more informed participant in civic matters.

Latin is also unique for its singular rigor. No other course prepared me for college like Mr. Dodge's Latin class. Mr. Dodge pushes students to break their academic limits while maintaining a classroom atmosphere that focuses on growth. His feedback is always clear, personalized, and constructive.

Finally, Latin was the reason I chose to attend Killingly High School. Many schools in Northeastern CT offer advanced STEM classes to their students, but Killingly is the only one to offer such a rigorous and unique Latin program.

I sincerely hope this program continues so more students can grow from it as much as I did.

Christopher Pawul  
76 Picabo Street, Danielson, CT, 06239

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Budget Comment  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:53 AM  
**To:** Janice Rockwood  
**Subject:** FW: In support of the Latin program at KHS - Irene Rose

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**From:** Irene Rose <prose02@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:49 AM  
**To:** Budget Comment <budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: In support of the Latin program at KHS - Irene Rose

Irene L Rose, 25566 Ashland Bend Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726 Thank you for your courtesy

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**From:** Irene Rose <prose02@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:38 AM  
**To:** Budget Comment <budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov>  
**Subject:** In support of the Latin program at KHS - Irene Rose

To think that Killingly is considering cutting Latin from the KHS curriculum when you have been offering the Latin program for several decades is foolishness. My name is Irene Rose. I taught one class of Latin from 1982 to 2003 along with my French classes.

This is not a note to tell you what you should already know but rather to tell you that it would be a monumental disservice to the parents of Killingly students if you allow the powers in control to drop Latin. It is the basis for teaching young people clear, concise language skills. Classical literature should be studied so our young people learn how this world of ours works. There is so much to learn from the Roman world that applies to today's world and you should not allow someone to steal this magnificent subject from your children. To believe that schools that include the study of classical Latin, literature and history is of no value in our modern world is a mistake. Do we have a lock on genius in 2023 that we don't need to turn to the past to understand human beings and what is happening in our modern world? Learning the language is just the beginning; the ability to read the Latin language in its pure form and not in someone's translation is an experience to be enjoyed and appreciated. Your young people deserve the best. How foolhardy we are in 2023. I am upset because I loved teaching at Killingly High School and find it hard to believe that you would allow someone who should have the good of your young people at heart to consider dropping Latin. Incredible shortsightedness.

Best wishes, Irene Rose

Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>; [slannon@killinglyschools.org](mailto:slannon@killinglyschools.org); Tammy Wakefield  
<[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** Don't cut Latin!!



To all the powers that be,

Let it be said, in no uncertain terms, that cutting the Latin program at Killingly High school is tantamount to saying that Killingly DOESN'T aspire to create future science, music, theology, philosophy, history, art and literature teachers, physicians or pharmacists - and any number of other necessary and needed vocations which all have Latin as the root to their terminology.

I personally referenced Mr. Ernest Dodge frequently for song text background over my 40 year career at Killingly High School. My students sang (no pun intended) Mr. Dodge's praises every single year I was a school colleague of his. Every Single Year, and over and over.

Mr. Dodge puts KHS on the map. He is in a league of his own, a legend, and a cut above so many of us faculty. To even contemplate the cutting of the Latin program is a major disservice to Killingly's population. Take this cut off the table immediately.

Yours very sincerely,

Pam Rodgers 29 Gilman St, Putnam.

KHS Choral Director/AP Music Theory and Music teacher, 9/1977-6/2016

Dear Members of the Killingly Board of Education, Killingly Town Council, and Superintendent of the Killingly Public Schools,

I believe that the Latin program must be fully supported without interruption. As the valedictorian of K.H.S. '87, I took four years of Latin and Senior Honors English from Mr. Dodge. Because of his love of Latin and his superb teaching, I chose to be Classics major at Bowdoin College, became a Latin teacher, and earned an M.A.T. in Latin and Classical Humanities from UMASS Amherst. I have taught in both public and private schools and am currently living and teaching in Italy.

Having studied Latin has provided me with more than just a profession as a Latin teacher. It has given me the ability to teach across disciplines, including English, history, and art history. Latin has made learning Italian and other Romance languages much easier. In addition, Latin, a member of the original *trivium*, a precursor to today's "liberal arts," was central in developing my communication and analytical skills.

Few of my former students have become Latin teachers. Many of them, however, cite Latin's complex grammar and syntax, which requires the cognitive skills of concentration and persistent effort, as valuable skills transferable to their professions ranging from the practice of law and medicine to baking and landscaping.

Instead of decreasing the number of electives, shouldn't Killingly, at a minimum, be committed to maintaining a robust choice of electives? Without Latin, K.H.S. will be a lesser school.

Sincerely,

Amy Beck Turner

444 North Houghton St., Clarksburg, MA 01247 or Via Cavour 77, Viterbo, VT 01100 Italy



## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Funatic 12 <rosatierik7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:19 PM  
**Subject:** Latin Program (KHS)

Dear Superintendent of schools, town council and board of education,

My name is Erik Rosati. I have been a killingly resident for 18 years and I teach Social Studies at Killingly High School. I am writing in favor of keeping the Latin program at Killingly High School.

I know the Latin program is one of the proposed cuts this year from the budget. While I never took Latin, I have seen countless students past and present see great success by participating in the Latin program. Some of our highest academic achievers have benefited from the Latin program in high school and in their collegiate band work careers. My younger brother Brandon also participated in the program and benefitted greatly.

I have had the privilege of taking AP English 4 with Mr. Dodge as a student. The writing, speaking, language, and analytic skills that he teaches in both his Latin and English courses are invaluable and have helped me tremendously. After his class, I never struggled on an essay again and I experienced great success in college due in large part to his teachings. Mr. Dodge does the same for his Latin students as well.

I also believe it is important to keep Latin so that Killingly can remain competitive with other districts like Woodstock Academy in terms of our course offerings. KHS has also struggled to retain world language teachers recently. Mr. Dodge is a dedicated and consummate professional who is at the ready to continue the Latin program and keep Killingly's course offerings competitive, we would not have to worry about finding certified staff for the program. The Latin program is a tremendous asset to the students and killingly school district.

Sincerely,  
Erik Rosati  
15 Luzon Ave  
Dayville CT, 06241

**ANDREW K. ROCKETT**  
**20 BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN DR.**  
**SOMERS, CT 06071**  
**860-978-1702**



Dear Members of the Killingly Town Council and Board of Education,

As a former principal of Killingly High School (KHS), I am writing to express my strong and continued support for the Latin program. During my tenure, I witnessed firsthand the benefits that this program brought to KHS students and the town of Killingly.

While Latin may be perceived as a challenging language to learn, I firmly believe that it is an essential component of a well-rounded education for all students, including those who may be struggling academically. The study of Latin promotes critical thinking and analysis skills, as well as a deeper understanding of history and culture, and it can inspire intellectual curiosity in even the most disengaged students.

As educators, it is our responsibility to provide all students with the tools and resources they need to succeed, and I believe that the Latin program at KHS is an important part of that effort. The dedicated teacher of the Latin program, Mr. Dodge, works tirelessly to provide students with the resources and support they need to excel in the program, and he understands the value of meeting students where they are and helping them to reach their full potential.

I have seen firsthand the positive impact that the Latin program has had on students of all abilities. For some, it has helped to reinforce their strengths and academic interests, while for others, it has provided a new and aspirational challenge that has helped to motivate and inspire them.

I strongly support the Latin program at KHS. It is a valuable and essential part of KHS's academic curriculum, and it provides students with valuable skills and knowledge that will serve them well in their future studies and careers. I urge you to continue to support and promote this program, as it is an important part of KHS's commitment to academic excellence for all students.

Very truly yours,

Andrew K. Rockett

Killingly, CT 06239

(860) 779-5335

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**From:** Emma Gilbert <[emma.gilbert@uconn.edu](mailto:emma.gilbert@uconn.edu)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:49 PM

**To:** Mary Calorio <[mcalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mcalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>; Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** Proposal to Eliminate Latin & Why it Must Stay

Hello to the Killingly Town Council,

I write to you today to share my disdain for the proposal to eliminate the Latin Program at Killingly High School. My name is Emma Gilbert, and I graduated as the salutatorian for the Class of 2022 at KHS. Now, I am an undergraduate student at UConn on a full-tuition scholarship and owe a lot of my success to the Latin program, as well as Ernest Dodge himself. I took Latin my sophomore and junior year at KHS, and when prior staff was unable to teach my AP English IV class during my senior year, Mr. Dodge stepped in to help.

To start with, you have to understand that Latin is more than a "dead language." It is, in fact, also about the process. Identified as "gifted," it was difficult for me to find classes that would challenge, engage, and enrich my learning, even in high school! Latin was the first way I was able to academically challenge myself, and it made me a much better student. The way that Mr. Dodge teaches it, it encourages excellent study habits and the ability to persevere, even when the learning is difficult. This has shaped my abilities as a student, and without Latin, I do believe that I would never have learned how to study until I was forced into it my first year of college. There is a reason why Latin students consistently end up in the top ten, if not the valedictorian or salutatorian, of their class.

Mr. Dodge himself fosters your ability as a writer, reader, and student, regardless of the class you are taking with him. His willingness to stay at KHS teaching Latin, as well as AP English at times, is truly a blessing. There is no one that is more qualified for the job than he is. For his talents as an educator to go unused feels wrong; I have met few others who care about their students and their education in the way that he does. The content of the class is difficult, but he makes his students *want* to learn. This is a rare skill, and should be used to its fullest extent as I am sure he intends to do.

Many others share these same thoughts, and I am sure you are receiving similar emails to this one since the proposal was released.

Thank you for your consideration,

Emma Gilbert  
22 Lincoln Rd  
Danielson, CT 06239



**From:** laura monarski <lmonarski@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 11:01 PM

**To:** [rangeli@killinglyschools.org](mailto:rangeli@killinglyschools.org); [ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org](mailto:ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org); Normand Ferron <[nferron@killinglyschools.org](mailto:nferron@killinglyschools.org)>; [jhegedus@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jhegedus@killinglyschools.org); [slannon@killinglyschools.org](mailto:slannon@killinglyschools.org); Jason Muscara <[jmuscara@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jmuscara@killinglyschools.org)>; [knapierata@killinglyschools.org](mailto:knapierata@killinglyschools.org); [lriviera@killinglyschools.org](mailto:lriviera@killinglyschools.org); Chris Viens <[cviens@killinglyschools.org](mailto:cviens@killinglyschools.org)>; Mary Calorio <[mcalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mcalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>; Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** KHS Latin Program

Dear BOE, Superintendent of Schools, and Town Council,

I am writing in support of Killingly High School Latin Program. I graduated from KHS/Vocational Agriculture in 2002. I am a former Latin student of Ernest Dodge, and it has come to my attention that Superintendent Mr. Robert Angeli recently submitted a budget proposal that may have included cutting the Killingly High School Latin Program. I wholeheartedly disagree with this cut and am deeply distressed that this would end such a unique and substantial experience for current and future students. The Latin Program NEEDS to remain in Killingly, it was one of the most influential and rewarding classroom experiences I have had in my entire academic career. Mr. Dodge's Latin classes were not just about learning a foreign language, they were a haven, a stark contrast from the chaos going on in my troubled home as a teen. His classroom offered what I needed to succeed during the most crucial years of my life. Latin courses were highly structured; assignments were challenging but Mr. Dodge was always willing to work with students that wanted to improve their classwork and life prospects. I entered KHS with little to no sense of self, I was lost, but in his classes I truly felt supported and was able to develop a sense of accomplishment that motivated me to complete high school and go on to be the a first-generation college graduate, obtaining Bachelor of Science in Pathobiology and Veterinary Science from UConn, Storrs.

Mr. Dodge's classroom instruction style taught me how to approach learning in a systematic way, to break things down into simpler elements, and through remaining diligent and persistent I could use this process to navigate my way through a variety of complex problems. I continue to use this process in my career as a R&D Scientist at Pfizer Inc, Groton whether I am performing quality control of data and reports, reviewing protocols and standard operating procedures, or creating guidance documents.

In closing I would like to say that Latin is more than just a classical language, although it does assist me greatly with English, scientific, and medical language, it is far more than that... Mr. Dodge's Latin Program was a holistic culmination of experiences that illuminated my high school years and continued to positively influence my life into adulthood and parenthood. I have a 14-year-old and although my son is lucky enough to enroll in Latin at Norwich Free Academy, I am still envious of Killingly residents and participating Vo-Ag students from surrounding towns who have the honor of placing their kids in Mr. Dodge's class. I am truly grateful and proud to have been a part of the Killingly High School Latin Program.

Though I am not a Killingly resident I would like to offer this comment at the Town Budget Hearing on April 13th.

Sincerely,

Laura Monarski

860-917-1954

6 Caribou Dr

Norwich CT 06360

.<budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov>; rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron  
<r.ferron@killinglyschools.org>; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara  
<jmuscara@killinglyschools.org>; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens  
<cviens@killinglyschools.org>

**Subject:** Latin Class



Hello my name is Donna Coutu(Candiloro), and I am a Killingly graduate from 2014, and I still live within the district.

Latin is an integral part of education from understanding the basis of the English language to scientific terms that doctors use.

I personally didn't take Dodge's class but so many of my friends did. They loved the course and Mr. Dodge, even the few that I knew that struggled in it which wasn't many! Dodge was always there to help them through. He is an amazing Latin teacher and supported a few friends with life chats as well. Losing Dodge and Latin is losing an amazing part of the killingly education system which in my opinion is already crappy. PLEASE, DONT MAKE KILLINGLY ANY WORSE. (Don't even get me going about the mascot)

On top of that Killingly is already lacking in language classes, I was so disappointed when I got to high school and all I could take was Spanish, French, or Latin. And if I had been so inclined to be a nurse or a doctor of any specialty I would have taken Latin. Every student from Killingly that aspires to be a nurse or a doctor will be set behind others from districts that do teach the subject.

Also, Latin helps with learning other languages too. So, they help with the VERY FEW other languages Killingly offers.

Anyway, thank you for coming to my TED Talk.

Donna Coutu

21 Jacques Rd Danielson CT 06239

Town of Killingly

172 Main Street

Killingly, CT 06239

(860) 779-5335

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**From:** Karen Klein <[kklein@brandeis.edu](mailto:kklein@brandeis.edu)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 5:47 PM

**To:** Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>; [rangeli@killinglyschools.org](mailto:rangeli@killinglyschools.org);

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<[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Jasen Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>;

Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George

<[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II

<[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** Letter in Support of the Latin Program

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a friend of Ernie Dodge and am writing in support of keeping the Latin program. I am now 86, but years ago as a student in public highschool in Fargo, North Dakota, I was the beneficiary of a wonderful Latin program. We started with the basics: simple reading, vocabulary, tenses, endings, etc. That knowledge not only enabled me to go on to understand English more fully, but to understand the grammatical structures of different languages and read lyric and epic in Latin. In our last year, we read the Aeneid. I clearly remember the day our teacher, Della Crothers, told us that the love story of Dido and Aeneas was fiction. A bunch of teenagers into ideas of true love, we wept. The crying wasn't because of the sad ending; it was because we so wanted their love to be a true story.

I went on to get my undergraduate degree from Radcliffe College in Cambridge, MA and my doctorate in Medieval Comparative Literature at Columbia University in New York. As part of my graduate work, I studied historical documents from Italian Podestas. Although the Vulgate was very different, my original study of Latin helped me navigate the texts. And, even better, knowing Latin words enriched and enlarged my English vocabulary. With my PH.D. I wound up teaching literature/humanities at Brandeis University for 37 years/

I hope my personal story will help convince you of the merits of retaining your Latin program.

Thank you for reading my message.

Karen Klein  
416 Mount Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

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**From:** Josh Bryer <[joshua.s.bryer@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.s.bryer@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 3:53 PM

**To:** Mary Calorio <[mcalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mcalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>

**Cc:** Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** In defense of Latin at Killingly High School

Dear Town Manager and Town Council,

My name is Joshua Bryer and I am an alumnus of Killingly High School. I recently learned that the proposed budget for Killingly fiscal year 2024 excludes the Latin Program at KHS. This would be a grave mistake; any budget presented to the residents of Killingly must include it. Please accept my letter in defense of the Latin Program of Killingly High School.

During my time at KHS, I completed all four years of Latin including UCONN ECE / AP Latin III and IV. Because Latin is a classical language, its study focuses on learning to read and engage with ancient texts. The curriculum at KHS teaches the Latin grammar, syntax, and core vocabulary in the first two years of study. Starting in Latin I, students gradually increase the quantity and complexity of text they can read. By their junior year of high school, students are able to grasp classical texts such as poems by Catullus, orations by Cicero, and The Aeneid, an epic poem by Virgil. These works have been taught in translation in the Western world at the collegiate level for centuries, and Killingly students access them in the original Latin as high school students. In addition to the value of learning another language and all the associated benefits of studying literature, students of Latin learn about ancient Roman culture and history directly from the sources. Moreover, KHS students' hard work is rewarded with 6 college credits at UCONN and the opportunity of college credit from successful completion of the nationally-recognized AP exam, both of which are accepted by and transferable to most colleges in the US.

I graduated as salutatorian of the KHS Class of 2011 and was the first in KHS' history to attend the University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League university in Philadelphia that accepts less than 10% of its applicants every year and consistently ranks in the top 20 universities of the world. Although Penn does not offer merit-based scholarships, admission to Penn and similarly elite colleges is the golden ticket for the average family in Killingly. Due to my household's income, I received nearly a full-ride with more than \$230,000 in grants from the University of Pennsylvania over my four years of study. Because Connecticut is a rich state with highly competitive secondary schools, both private and public, Penn dedicates (or at least used to dedicate) an Admissions Officer (AO) directly to managing Connecticut's applicants despite Connecticut being one of the smallest states geographically. During accepted students' preview weekend, I met my AO and learned that I stood out amongst my fellow applicants because of my academic background, especially due to my study of Latin and pre-Socratic philosophy. As I recall, my AO personally reached out to Kevin Marcoux to speak about the curriculum at KHS because she was unfamiliar with the town of Killingly and was impressed with the course of study I was able to complete.

While many may think that the study of an ancient, "dead" language is not worthwhile, this could not be further from the truth. Studying classical languages such as Latin teaches discipline, pattern recognition, logic, rhetoric, and skills required to study effectively and efficiently, among many other tangible and transferrable skills. Beyond scoring the top score (5 out of 5) on the AP Latin: Virgil exam during my senior year at KHS, I placed into the highest level of undergraduate Latin at Penn. In undergrad, I studied the sciences and the humanities, and ultimately majored in classical languages and literatures. Had I not pursued a degree in classics, my AP Latin score would have satisfied my

university's language requirement and exempted me from taking four courses in language collectively valued over \$26,000. My advanced standing in Latin achieved through high school study allowed me easily to learn classical Greek in my early university years, which in turn informed my study abroad in Athens, Greece during the fall of my junior year. In that semester abroad, I obtained a basic proficiency of modern Greek, a distinctly different language than classical Greek. I was able to continue my study of modern Greek in intermediate and advanced heritage-speaker courses. In my senior year, I also studied Urdu-Hindi, the language spectrum most widely spoken in Pakistan and northern India, to understand better the culture, art, literature, and music from this area of the world, and to better relate to and serve Urdu-Hindi speaking people both in the US and potentially abroad. The skills I mastered in high school Latin have allowed me to master varying levels of proficiency in four languages, two classical and two living, and to access worlds and people, past and present. Resultant to my unique take on education, I was invited to speak at the Penn Senior Classics Colloquium of 2015 on the value of a degree in classics in the 21st Century. Today, I am a published clinical research professional at the top academic dermatology center in the US. My work supports and advances the knowledge, science, and treatment of rare dermatological conditions, and effective writing and communication are paramount to distilling complex information to patients, researcher colleagues, and the public. Therefore, it is not an exaggeration to say that my study of Latin at KHS directly and indirectly opened doors for me academically, intellectually, humanistically, and professionally.

My story is nowhere near unique. My high school Latin classmates held diverse interests in vocational agriculture, art, music, the humanities, math, and the sciences, to name a few. I am not aware of a KHS graduate who successfully sought admission to a top college/university and did not take Latin. Beyond high school years, I can personally recall at least a dozen KHS alumni concurrent with my time at KHS who continued their study of Latin and the classics at the collegiate level. Alumni of KHS' Latin program have gone on to pursue successful careers with a bend towards careers in public service including law, medicine, and education.

While I am defending the Latin Program at KHS, I am also writing in defense of one of my first mentors. Mr. Ernest Dodge is solely to credit for the success of the Latin Program in the last 40 years and has played a large role in the success of scores of KHS alumni throughout these years. He is generous of spirit and time, and eager to match his students' passions. This ethos inspired me early on to share my love of learning with classmates. By graduation, I had completed hundreds of hours of peer tutoring. I continued tutoring throughout college and my first job after college was teaching an afterschool program at a West Philadelphia public high school. Mr. Dodge regularly accommodates and crafts personal curricula for students to independently study subjects not offered in the school's official curriculum. He taught approximately 20% of my high school credits. Even outside of class time, he and I would discuss classics, English literature, current events, and my plans for the future. When I was applying to college, his workshopping my application to perfection helped me earn a seat at an elite university. I am wholly unsurprised that his classes continue to be well-attended and draw students from neighboring towns to KHS. As I understand, the annual cost of the Latin Program to the Town is approximately \$44,000, the cost of 0.5 FTE. In the simplest cost-benefit analysis, the price of abandoning this continuously successful and fixed, low-cost program would be indefensible when considering its exponential return on investment. To divest from the Killingly Latin Program is also to lose the unmatched institutional knowledge and experience of Ernest Dodge. No one, not even a budget, wins by removing Latin from the curriculum of KHS. A Superintendent, Board of Education, and Town that values the quality education of its students would prioritize retaining and honoring Killingly's existing Latin teacher while also supporting his search for a successor, if and when he so chooses, at his initiating, to ensure the Latin Program's continued success for generations to come.

Please do the right thing. Continue to support and to fund the Latin Program at Killingly High School. Amend the proposed budget to include Latin at KHS.

Respectfully yours,

Josh Bryer 4801 Pine St, Philadelphia, PA 19143.

KHS Class of 2011

Phone: 860-634-7009

Email: [Joshua.S.Bryer@gmail.com](mailto:Joshua.S.Bryer@gmail.com)

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Matt224288 <matt224288@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 7:34 PM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment; Budget Comment  
**Cc:** FRANKCOSTA@aol.com; Matthew M.P. Costa; Ernest Dodge  
**Subject:** Letter to Killingly Board of Education re. plans to cut Latin Studies Program  
**Attachments:** 20230411 COSTA MATTHEW - letter to Killingly BOE v2.docx

Dear Killingly Schools Superintendent, Members of the Board of Education, Members of the Killingly Town Council, et al.,

As a Class of 1988 graduate of Killingly High School, I wish to register my objection to the proposed cuts to the Latin Studies Program.

Please see attached letter.

Yours respectfully,  
Matthew M. P. Costa  
Major, United States Air Force (Retired)  
Killingly Class of 1988

Mobile: 202.631.9861  
E-Mail: matt224288@aol.com  
Mailing: 6736 Anders Terrace  
Springfield VA, 22151

Sent from my iPad



## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Matt Combs <mcombs@erland.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 6:55 AM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; Budget Comment  
**Cc:** emcombs@daykimball.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org;  
jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara;  
knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio;  
Andy Whitehead; wakefield@killinglyct.gov; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin  
Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy;  
Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** RE Latin Program at KHS  
**Attachments:** RE Latin Program at KHS.pdf

Good morning,

Please find the attached letter regarding my feelings on the upcoming budget discussions and subsequent vote.

I am a past student (class of 2007), but not currently a resident of the town of Killingly. If you need to reach me, this is the best email address to do so. Should you need it, my current address is:

62 Jeffrey's Neck Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter

Matthew B Combs  
Project Executive / Shareholder



Erland Construction, Inc.  
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April 12, 2023

ATTN: Mr. Robert Angeli, Superintendent &  
Mr. Norm Ferron, Chairman of the Killingly BOE

**RE: Budget of the Latin Program at Killingly High School**

As a graduate of the 2007 class of Killingly High School, I felt a surge of emotions when I learned that the Latin program was in serious jeopardy.

I believe that I was graced with the great fortune of having had a number of tremendous teachers instruct my AP courses. My history, calculus, English, and above all, Latin, programs provided the foundation for any successes I have since met. I would argue that this is more true than even my college education.

These courses provided me with a key that could open any door. The structure of these programs provided me with the knowledge to be able to *learn*. What I mean by that is more than just the technical content of the courses, I learned the ability, and confidence, to be able to teach myself. I am not sure that I fully understood this during my time as a student, but looking back, there is not a doubt in my mind that they fundamentally transformed my ability to surmount any challenge.

As such, the aforementioned surge of emotions that I felt when I learned that something that so shaped me was at risk, was akin to the feeling of finding out that a family member was in peril. I feel obliged to be a part of preserving this institution and providing future students with the same opportunity that was afforded to me. I have been lucky to be able to professionally benefit from the gift bestowed to me, and in return, I am willing to continue that gift forward.

If, and only if, the budget to the Latin program is restored to its full (and notably meager) requested value, I will contribute a donation in the amount of \$10,000. This donation is made on behalf of myself and my brother, Evan Combs, who will also be submitting his own feelings on the matter. This is to be used by the AP courses at Killingly High School for texts, course materials, field trips, events or any other application that the AP Instructors deem best fit to advance the educational experience of those AP Students.

Furthermore, there is an argument to be made that to cut this, or any such program, does not make business sense. Such programs create grateful alumni, which if tapped into, could provide tremendous resource. I would find it difficult to image being the only person so shaped, and willing to contribute to their continued success. These programs are an investment in the future and shutting them down deprives the schools' future of its own potential return.

I am unable to attend the upcoming meetings, but am confident that this body will make the correct decision to reinstate the budget to the Latin program.

Sincerely,



Matthew B Combs

Current Address:  
62 Jeffrey's Neck Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938

Hello Professor Dodge, and hello to everyone else involved in Killingly High School or town budgetary discussions,

My name is Zane Cooke, and I would like to add my voice on behalf of the Latin program at Killingly High School. I am a member of the KHS Class of 2014, where I was also a four-year student of Professor Dodge's Latin curriculum. I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read the arguments that he has laid out in support of continuing the program, because he has done so better than I ever could myself.

Far from being a mere matter of tradition, the Latin program carries true and legitimate value for students, especially when one considers how little funding it requires compared to other initiatives. Given the current fiscal year's BoE budget surplus and the remarkably reasonable program cost of \$44,000, I am surprised to hear this has even come up for debate, but hopefully you are willing to listen to those of us who have benefitted from the institution that is Professor Dodge's Latin program.

I have had mixed feelings over the years about Killingly High School and my education there, but the Latin curriculum, and specifically Professor Dodge's curriculum, has forever been remembered as one of my favorite aspects of that time, as well as one of the most difficult. These courses taught me how to write well, and how to read Latin, but they also prepared me for the rigors of collegiate studies. I earned 154% of the credits I needed for my undergraduate degree in my four years at UConn, a pace of work I was able to keep thanks to the early exposure to college coursework in KHS' Latin program.



Originally I decided to take Latin because I wanted to become a doctor, and I had heard Latin was ubiquitous (a good word we owe to Latin) throughout the medical field. Now, after a brief career as an engineer and EMT, I am fortunate enough to be a medical student at the University of Texas at Austin. As it turns out - Latin really is everywhere. From the anatomical vocabulary of my first-year courses to the abbreviations in prescription dosing (an as-needed medication is a PRN med, coming from 'pro re nata' meaning "for the present matter"), constantly I recall and utilize my Latin education. As I learn Spanish to better care for the patient demographics of Texas, Latin again is my foundation and fast-track, as it was in the past when studying Swedish, and German before that. Aside from linguistics and medicine, Latin's touch is found throughout law, philosophy, theology, and among the texts and teachings that form the foundation for Western civilization, and even then theoretical roots of our own nation.

To end the Latin program would be throwing away the cipher that grants access to entire ancient worlds of wisdom for generations of Killingly students. As one of countless whom Professor Dodge has taught over the years, mine is only a single perspective on the issue, although I am certain if you were to reach out to other prior KHS Latin students, you would hear much more of the same.

I am not totally certain what the current state of this discussion is, or who will read this email in time for it to influence the budget, but please, do not remove Latin from Killingly.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I am happy to speak further on my experience if you have any questions.

Regards,

Zane Cooke  
4600 Mueller Blvd, Apt 2027  
Austin, TX 78723  
[zane.cooke@utexas.edu](mailto:zane.cooke@utexas.edu)  
757-560-0699

--  
MD Candidate, Class of 2025  
B.S., M.S. Biomedical Engineering



**From:** Nicholas Gieda <[nick.gieda@gmail.com](mailto:nick.gieda@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 8:45 AM

**To:** [rangeli@killinglyschools.org](mailto:rangeli@killinglyschools.org); [ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org](mailto:ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org); Normand Ferron <[nferron@killinglyschools.org](mailto:nferron@killinglyschools.org)>; [jhegedus@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jhegedus@killinglyschools.org); [slannon@killinglyschools.org](mailto:slannon@killinglyschools.org); Jason Muscara <[jmuscara@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jmuscara@killinglyschools.org)>; [knapierata@killinglyschools.org](mailto:knapierata@killinglyschools.org); [lriviera@killinglyschools.org](mailto:lriviera@killinglyschools.org); Chris Viens <[cviens@killinglyschools.org](mailto:cviens@killinglyschools.org)>; Mary Calorio <[mcalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mcalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>; Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** Latin Program at Killingly High School

Dear BOE, Superintendent of Schools and Town Council,

I graduated from Killingly High School in 2007 and was a member of the Latin program with Mr. Dodge for all four years. It was one of the highlights of my time at Killingly High School and it was one of the major programs that I feel set me up for success in life.

I went on to attend the United States Air Force Academy, and since then have been serving with the USAF. I feel as though the Latin program helped to give me the necessary tools to learn other languages, as I was able to score in category IV on the Defense Language Aptitude Battery, which allowed me to study Arabic while at USAFA. Latin helped me to better understand grammar rules and also how to adapt to new language rules such as how conjugations and declensions factor into the language.

It was a wonderful opportunity that I had to study Latin in the Killingly school system, and I wish for as many future students as possible to be afforded the opportunity to continue their studies. I can't imagine the frustration and disappointment students who are 1-3 years into the Latin program would feel knowing that they can't further their studies while at KHS and would need to swap to a different language program.

It's rare in my experience of talking with others to have this opportunity to study a classical language, and many have been shocked that I was able to learn Latin, as many only ever had the option of Spanish and French.

Killingly is very lucky to have Mr. Dodge in the community to be able to share his knowledge and dedication to this subject with his students.

I hope the town is able to keep the Latin program alive and funded for many years in the future, as it's vital to present students with the opportunities to study the subjects they are passionate about and can use in the future.

Thank you!

Very respectfully,

Nick Gieda

402 Little Gem Ct, Niceville FL 32578

Gabriel A. Weaver  
720 Smoke Tree Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015

12 April 2023

Killingly School District  
79 Westfield Avenue  
Danielson, CT 06239

To Whom it May Concern:

The Latin program at Killingly High School, taught by Mr. Dodge, taught me how to think, set the direction for my life, and gave me the strength to “perfer et obdura” through very difficult times. I am writing to give my strongest possible support, unequivocally and without reservation, to the Latin program at KHS as well as to its steward, Mr. Ernest Dodge. Not only has this program touched innumerable lives but the program also empowers its students, through the liberal arts, with skills which if lost, will make our communities and society less cohesive and resilient.

Mr. Dodge's Latin class set the course for the past 23 years of my life and empowered me to succeed in a variety of disciplines. Latin taught me the importance of memorization in order to master material within a discipline. Memorization provides one with the command of the material to put it within the context of one's own life. Furthermore, in the age of increasing fragmentation of attention through digital devices, the discipline of memorization is vital to ensure that our students can gain clarity in a very dynamic world. Second, Latin teaches one how to focus in depth by learning grammar, which defines a structure to language. Not only are such structures vital to comprehend Latin, but learning grammar helps one to read and write in other languages as well, including English. Finally, Mr. Dodge always made sure that we understood *why* we were learning. Education is not about regurgitating facts that one memorizes, but seeking answers through dialogue with others via the Socratic Method. In this manner, one can reinterpret the lessons of the Classics, applicable to the human experience in general, within one's own life or community. Furthermore, Mr. Dodge's example of serving others through his vocation demonstrates a rare but much-needed quality in today's world, service to others not based on a bottom-line but on a brotherly love (agape) for young adults and our society's future.

These lessons served me well through a variety of disciplines and gave me a unique perspective within the STEM fields. For example, as a Non-resident Fellow at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies, I worked on the Multitext of Homer Project as well as the Archimedes Palimpsest Project. This perspective on the historical transmission of text informed my dissertation at Dartmouth College in Computer Science and I have published several peer-reviewed papers on the topic. Indeed, the Theory of Computation, foundational to Computer Science, is based on mathematical formalisms of languages. Latin and the Classics continue to inform that perspective today as a Senior Critical Infrastructure Analyst at Idaho National Laboratory via domain specific languages and language-theoretic security (LangSec). The importance of a liberal arts education, as taught by Mr. Dodge, isn't just a set of platitudes on a page, I've lived it and seen it in my own life. Studying the structure of language from a historical perspective is vital to understanding the impact of modern technology on how we communicate. Mr. Dodge's discipline is a much needed balm in a world increasingly being pulled in another extreme direction, a direction that values automation and speed more than empathy and co-creating meaning. The mathematicians and scientists that can write and communicate have more say in which problems we should solve as a society and *why*. I firmly believe that if you want to be able to exercise free will in a STEM field, writing is absolutely essential.

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention that Mr. Dodge has the highest character and is an excellent role model as an educator. He personally helped me to navigate a very difficult time during high school when my father was very ill in the ICU and subsequently bedridden. Furthermore, Mr. Dodge

encouraged me to pursue the Classics and even drove me to the College of the Holy Cross for a tour. Mr. Dodge changed my life and was a light in a very difficult and confusing time. Thanks to him I discovered a love of languages and this motivated me to major in Classics and Mathematics and minor in Computer Science.

Without a strong community, such as the one Mr. Dodge has built, educational facilities are but a husk. Facilities come and go and so do people, but the ability for students to comprehend and navigate the world through language, self-inquiry, dialogue with others, and writing, are the means to realize a tangible, lasting, and resilient society. Mr. Dodge's Latin program exemplifies this philosophy with proven results at a very low cost. However, to assign a metric such as cost to Mr. Dodge's Latin program would be a gross oversimplification, convenient for accounting, but misleading.

To kill the Latin program is to chop down a tree that consistently yields fruit because of the unwavering commitment and care demonstrated by its steward for over 40 years. On the one hand, such a tree represents the Responsibility, Excellence, and Dedication—the core components of Killingly High School's mission---of Mr. Dodge's unwavering vocation to serve others through Latin. Viewed in another light, one could view it as a family tree which spans multiple generations (including my brother and sister) and KHS alumni/ae that have been positively impacted by Mr. Dodge. To kill the Latin program would chop down that generational tree, and would deny subsequent generations of the opportunity to draw forth their own ideas and hope to make the world a better place (the very etymology of the word education, ex-duco). To *suggest* cutting the Latin program is at best an honest mistake, to *actively choose* to cut the Latin program, is to betray both Killingly High School's mission---Responsibility, Excellence, and Dedication---as well as one of its finest teachers. The fruit of Mr. Dodge's Latin program speaks for itself and he has spent his entire 40 year career living the KHS mission. Speaking from the mind and the heart, both professionally and personally, your choice is a no-brainer, support those who passionately live the mission you espouse or become a bureaucratic husk of an educational institution.

Sincerely,

Gabriel A. Weaver, Ph.D  
Valedictorian, KHS Class of 2000



27 March 2023

Alexander Grey, M.Sc. (*Lond*)  
260 Hartford Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234



Mr. Robert Angeli  
Superintendent of Killingly Public Schools  
79 Westfield Ave  
Killingly, CT 06239-0210

**Re: Elimination of Latin at Killingly High School**

Mr. Angeli,

Hello, my name is Alexander Grey, a graduate of Killingly High School in 2015. I write today after hearing the concerning news of the district's intention to eliminate the Latin program at KHS soon. I understand that, in a vacuum, this makes budgetary sense. Mr. Dodge is a part-time teacher, the program has fewer classes than other world languages in the department, and Latin is, as the jab so often goes, a dead language. I hope, then, to clarify why the elimination of this program, while budgetarily sound, would be a profound disservice to the students and the district. I hope, with this letter, to suggest that money alone cannot drive policy when dealing with the hearts and minds of students, and, as educators, we should be willing to sacrifice a king's ransom for their benefit.

I understand the financial difficulties here quite personally. I work at the University of Connecticut, which is facing a budgetary shortfall in excess of \$150,000,000 and is considering raising tuition by nearly 20%. I have the luxury of being funded through the United States Navy for my work with the University, and for having the Navy pay for my PhD studies beginning in the Fall. Yet, my Department had to rescind offers from accepted students due to a sudden lack of funds. I saw tenure-line jobs evaporate after interviewing extremely-gifted young academics who would have done great work for the School. Even in Connecticut, a state with some of the best schools in the nation, education is underfunded, and students suffer as a result. Your position may not be unique, but it is exceptionally difficult. I know my ask may very well result in the loss of another promising program within the Killingly School District, should the voters be unwilling to stomach a larger budget. But I fought for UConn to weather the storm, and I am equally-willing to fight for the students of Killingly High School.

Allow me to give you a bit of my profile. For most of my early years I lived in Plainfield, a district with a 30% college attendance rate. My mother, who worked multiple jobs most of my life, saved as much as she could to be able to buy a house in Rogers so we could move to Killingly for high school; she believed it was the best school in the area, and gave me the best chance to grow. My mother was a Killingly graduate herself, and when she was a student, she was terrified of Mr. Dodge, the Latin teacher who had a reputation for being difficult, but seemed to churn out the best students in the school with the consistency of the sun setting and rising. She told me very explicitly that I was going to take Latin, because, by some property she didn't understand, that teacher had a gift she felt I needed. And she was correct.

My first year at Killingly was transformative in many ways, and most of those transformations came from Latin 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of a brand new building. In hallways too new to be scuffed by shoe marks yet, I read a book filling with a language last spoken by men and women who could not have fathomed the printing

press. I was pushed, for the first time in my life, to not just coast through classes and to rest on my laurels as a “gifted student” — whatever that title may mean. Mr. Dodge knew each of his students’ limits, and he made sure to push us to them, and through them, to new heights. Many students didn’t appreciate the pressure. As high school freshmen, I understand the culture shock that came from Latin 1. I considered leaving Latin quite a few times myself. But the reason his students are so fiercely loyal, why I am writing a letter eight years after leaving KHS, is because Mr. Dodge inspired us to be better. He unlocked the wisdom of the ancients and helped us engage with the fundamental questions of what it meant to be human.

During my time at Killingly, I, as all students do, took English all four years, including AP English twice. The only time I ever saw a sentence diagramed and explained to me was in Latin. It was not enough to learn Latin, we had to know how the language underpinned the grammar and rhetoric of English. We became better writers, better debaters, and better thinkers because we were learning two languages simultaneously; neither of which were taught in any other classroom in the building. In Sophomore English I may have read *King Lear*, but it was only in Latin that I learned to read meter while dissecting the poetry of Virgil. I took a business law course, but I only learned the language of law and why some ideals are worth defending when we translated Cicero. I read the dry histories of the World Wars, but only through the *Aeneid* did I come to understand the tragedy of scores of men dying for strips of dirt. Keeping Latin in the curriculum allows students to simultaneously learn all the myriad facets of the humanities, and to understand their other studies more deeply. There are many who make the classic argument that Latin is the underpinning of medicine or law. I don’t buy them. You can learn the handful of Latin phrases necessary to write a legal brief; doctors can commit the Latin names of species and medicines to memory without needing to know their roots. What Latin did teach me, though, was how to *think*. How to connect all my studies, which we so often treat in isolation, into one common project. Studying Latin made me think differently, and deeply, about what it meant to be human. There is a great deal of heroism and tragedy we read across four years of Latin; stories that drove me to tears, and not just because of a difficult clause to translate. I would not be as cogent a thinker, as strong a writer, as passionate an advocate, if it wasn’t for the transformations Latin alone among the courses at KHS can facilitate.

And please do not think that the impact of this one language sequence is known only to those few who have stuck with Mr. Dodge for four years. When I went off to my undergrad at the College of the Holy Cross, his name was known by the faculty. I had a meeting with the Department Head of Classics when enrolling in a course on Roman poetry. When I said I went to Killingly, he said “oh, another Dodge student. Say no more, I know you folks well, some of our best students.” I was made a friend of the department based entirely on my association with my high school Latin teacher. There is a deep respect in Worcester for a public school in Connecticut that still offers Latin. Killingly is known for producing deep thinkers. It is a school that is respected. That respect would be squandered if we culled the Latin program.

And even further afield Killingly is known for their odd Latin program in rural Connecticut. When I studied for my master’s at the London School of Economics, I often relayed with pride the tales of learning Latin under Mr. Dodge. I was able to help my dissertation advisor while she was starting to learn the language. My Latin is what compelling me to keep studying the classics in grad school, and which compelled me to write my dissertation on Plato’s influence in modern American politics. That paper was eventually picked up by the most important journal in my field, without revision. The editorial team said the work was something “the present world, not least America, needs to read.” I gloat, but only to highlight the fact that whatever accomplishments I have made in my career thus far are due entirely to the continuing effects of Mr. Dodge and the Latin program at Killingly. My obsession with classics, my shouting from my soap box that they still matter, came from him and, at least in this one instance, I was able to convince others that

maybe there was a point. I hope you too may see the importance of keeping Latin, and continuing to produce students who dare to think deeply about the world around them.

I was so proud when I finished my degree abroad that I was able to return to eastern CT. As I mentioned before, I work at UConn, as the Program Manager of the UConn Navy STEM Program within the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology, overseeing a \$3,000,000 grant to build workforce development in the region. The Navy is facing a serious workforce crisis in southern New England, the only place in the nation that is capable of building and repairing the submarines which keep America safe. This region of Connecticut built me. Killingly ensured that I, the grandson of an EB pipe fitter, and the first person in my family to go to college, could live in London, work for the Navy, and pursue a PhD. And I was excited to begin giving back to the district that gave me so much, to work closely with Killingly in my outreach efforts to get students excited about learning, about engineering, and to show them the world of opportunities in their backyard.

It has been extremely painful for me to be ignored by the district unilaterally. I have called your office in my official capacity. Even before hearing of the financial straights that have led to you considering removing the Latin program, I know the district was not overflowing with money, and I was willing to invest my grant dollars into supplementing and supporting your curricula as best I could. I have called every school in the district. I have spoken to nearly every principal. None have been interested in entertaining the idea of allowing my outreach, at no cost to the school. I sponsor programs that allow teachers to come to UConn, gain insights into how to integrate STEM into their curricula, and return to their classrooms with thousands of dollars of equipment. I was met with silence.

Now I understand. It appears the example comes from on high, from leadership that is looking to cut the programs that best prepare students for the wider world. Of course Killingly would not be interested in helping their students; they're unwilling to save the best programs they already have, let alone gamble on bringing another one in. I was rarely challenged at Killingly, and, without Latin, I am not sure I would have had the chance to find all the successes I have had thus far in my young life. I worry that, by cutting this program, Mr. Angeli, you may very well squander the best means for Killingly students to understand themselves and the world. I hope this letter may help change your mind. I have tried whenever I could to fight for Killingly students to have a better future. I hope you will too.

A concerned friend of the school,

Alexander Grey, M.Sc. (*Lond*)

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Denise Walsh <walshd79@netscape.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:58 AM  
**To:** Budget Comment  
**Cc:** edodge@killinglyschools.org  
**Subject:** Re: Budget Comment

Dear Members of the Killingly Town Council,

I would like to commend those students who are taking Latin for the following reasons:

You will have the opportunity to enter into Ivy League colleges. According to William Fitzsimmons, Harvard University's dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid said, "studying Latin really makes you stand out as a candidate for admission into any college – even the most competitive Ivy League and state universities."

Your verbal SAT scores can be 140 – 160 points higher with two or more years of Latin, as compared to your Latin-less peers. This comes from Richard A. LaFleur, former Head of Classics, University of Georgia.

Speaking of SAT's, according to a 20-year study by Swarthmore Center for Education and Economics, not only are your SAT verbal scores higher than students who take other languages such as Spanish, French, and German, your SAT math scores are also higher. In fact, one quote from the Center says, "Public schools should shift their curriculum by eliminating Spanish offerings and requiring Latin."

Thinking of going into the medical profession? Well, the Association of American Medical Colleges says that "students who major or double-major in Classics have a better success rate of getting into medical school than do students who concentrate solely in biology, microbiology, and other branches of science." (Princeton Review)

If you are thinking of law school, according to the National Jurist, "The law school applicants with the highest-grade point averages and LSAT scores studied classics in college."

Even though this information may not help keeping a Latin program at Killingly, let me finish by giving my daughter's experience. Lisl Walsh, a 1999 graduate of Killingly, went to Oberlin College and graduated with her degree in Classics with highest honors. She earned a Fellowship and entered her PhD program at the University of Southern California and is presently an Associate Professor of Classics at Beloit College in Wisconsin. All of this would not have been possible if it weren't for the great teaching of Mr. Dodge.

Killingly has an opportunity to keep a program that may not have a large student population, but the students who are in this program will more than likely attend and graduate from college, go on to graduate and PhD programs, law school and medical school. It would be an unfortunate mistake to take something away that would bring pride to this area.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Walsh  
Professor and Department Chair - Mathematics  
Quinebaug Valley Community College

Home Address  
19 Maryland Street  
Danielson, CT 06239

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Caroline Lacerda <carolinetlacerda@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:20 AM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Support for Latin program at Killingly High

To whom it may concern,

I write to you as a former KHS student, and once a member of Mr. Ernest Dodge's Latin class (2006-2009) to implore you to keep the Latin program at Killingly.

As I understand, there is a budget proposal which entails cutting the Latin program being presented today, and I am shocked that this would even be considered.

The Latin program was an incredibly positive boost during my formative years where I not only experienced the learning of the Latin language, but was exposed to the humanistic values of the Classics, poetry, history and literature - all through the wonderful teaching method of the passionate Mr. Dodge.

As an adult, I've had the unique opportunity to live abroad in Europe (where I currently reside) and my Classics/Latin background have given me an edge in my career (writing and speaking foreign languages). Not only that, but all my former classmates from the same class have gone on to become successful doctors, lawyers, writers and scientists...It would be a shame if current and future students at KHS did not get this same opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration and I sincerely hope the Latin program is kept.

Kind Regards,

Name: Caroline Lacerda  
Current permanent address: Boshovestraat 164, 2100 Antwerp - Belgium  
Phone number: +32 468097832



Matthew M. P. Costa  
Major, United States Air Force (Retired)  
*Killingly Class of 1988*

*Mobile: 202.631.9861  
E-mail: matt224288@aol.com  
Address: 6736 Anders Terrace  
Springfield VA, 22151*

#### MATTHEW M. P. COSTA STATEMENT

Dear BOE, Superintendent of Schools and Town Council,

I wish to add my voice to those who write to you today to reverse the proposed budget cut, and restore full funding to the Latin Studies Program at Killingly High School. Further, I ask that you oppose any future attempts to eliminate the Latin Studies Program.

I am a 1988 graduate of Killingly High School; as a "military brat" I transferred during my junior year. One of the first people I met in Killingly was Mr. Ernest Dodge. Due to a multi-week gap during my transfer, Mr. Dodge offered to bring me up to speed with after-school study sessions so that I could continue with Third Year Latin, for which I remain grateful. He was an advisor and mentor in my youth, and today I am proud to claim him as a friend.

My mother was herself a school teacher, and she taught me to read. Just as importantly, she taught me to look up words I didn't understand or couldn't pronounce, and thus began my interest in languages. I would read books about languages, I would study my grandfather's old books and missals and hymnals; I would study word origins, and wonder that so words came from Latin.

Professionally, first as an Air Force officer and now as a civilian in the Department of Defense, I write for a living. I have written foundational analysis of adversary systems, and analysis on political issues, military affairs, counter-drugs cooperation. I have written training materials and instructed tradecraft, and provided recommendations to senior officers and political appointees. As a legislative liaison for a national agency's Congressional Affairs office, I tracked and summarized legislation and wrote materials to help guide the director in her interactions with the Congress. My job is to communicate information, to recommend, to persuade.

I don't say any of these things to boast. I'm immensely grateful for the opportunities I've had.

I mention these experiences because Latin isn't just foundational to Western Civilization; Latin lies at my foundation, too. My four years of studying Latin didn't just give me access to one language. Latin filled in gaps in my own understanding of English compositional structure. It was Latin which drew me to my life-long study of French.

The study of the Latin language can't be separated from the study of Roman culture; and Roman culture is essential to understanding the foundation of Western Civilization. Latin introduced me to Roman

culture and art and poetry and plays, the writings of military generals and orators and proto-historians. Latin introduced me to a wider world, a broader array of cultures which interacted with Rome. Latin drew me to the lifelong study of history.

Latin is the shared patrimony of the West – our music, our art, our science, our literature, all trace back inexorably to Latin. Latin is the corner-stone for all of Western culture and civilization that has proceeded these past two thousand years. What can remain standing if you tear down the foundation?

Don't eliminate the Latin Studies Program at Killingly High School.

MATTHEW M. P. COSTA



Dear BOE, Superintendent of Schools and Town Council, As a former student of Killingly High School, and with a nephew in the Killingly Public Schools system, I want to express my strong disapproval of the proposal to end the Latin Program at Killingly High. Eliminating the entire Latin Studies Program at Killingly would be a great disservice to current and future Killingly students. The current Killingly BOE Budget has over \$1 million surplus this fiscal year. Killingly stands out for having a Latin Studies Program that ties students to the history of our Western Civilization, as compared to many area schools in this region which haven't been able to keep Latin as a program. This unique feature, like Vo-Ag and other vital programs, draws students to Killingly from the surrounding areas. It is an asset that Killingly offers and that should not be removed. Many students achieve success by studying Latin, along with other major subjects and languages. As a former English student of Mr. Dodge's I can personally attest to the usefulness of Latin, as he infused many of our discussions with supplemental information that Latin scholars would appreciate. Latin directly supports the success and co-study of other major subjects, like Pre-Med, Pre-Law, English, Religion and Education. Please keep this program that helps Killingly students succeed and makes Killingly Public Schools distinguished in such a positive way.

Sincerely, Nita Vitaliano

151 Cider Brook Drive in Wethersfield CT 06109.



<mmurphy@killinglyct.gov>; Raymond Wood II <rwood\_ii@killinglyct.gov>; Budget Comment  
<budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov>

**Subject:** Medical student, scientist, and killingly high school alumnus - please keep Latin at Killingly



Dear Superintendent of Schools, Killingly Board of Education, and Killingly Town Council,

I hope that this letter finds you well. My name is Zach Demarais and I am a proud alumnus of Killingly High School, having graduated in 2015. I am writing you today because it has been brought to my attention that the Latin program at Killingly High School is in jeopardy of being discontinued, something that I believe would be an immense mistake and that I implore you to reconsider.

I took several years of Latin in my time at Killingly, and feel that it has been an important springboard into my ongoing academic career, the course of which since I have left Killingly is as follows:

I graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2019, majoring in Physiology and Neurobiology and minoring in Molecular and Cell Biology, completing my degree with the following honors: *Summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, and I was a three-time Babbidge Scholar. While at UConn, I was also employed for two years by the University in their department of Kinesiology, doing research for multiple branches of the military looking at the impact of heat stress on physiological function and performance. If curious, some of that work is declassified and has been published [here](#).

From UConn, I was fortunate to have been accepted to medical school, a member of a matriculating class of 95 students chosen from 7,214 applicants (~1.3%) at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. I belong to the class of 2024, and as such my last year of medical school will begin at the end of this month. Concurrently, for the last two years, I've also been involved with research at the Yale School of Medicine in the department of Neurocritical Care, working in the fields of genetics and stroke. I've been fortunate to have been included as an author on a few very significant original research publications from Yale (in journals such as [Neurology](#) and [Stroke](#)), and have given two separate presentations to physicians and scientists from all over the world at international research conferences.

The reason that I mention the above milestones is because I largely attribute this academic success to a great head start that I had received in high school from the Latin curriculum; enough so that I wrote about it at length in my medical school applications. Latin is very much the language of science and medicine, and I use this knowledge in my daily work as a student physician. Whether it's describing a pertinent anatomical location on a patient to my colleagues or placing an order for my patients to be "NPO" or "nil per os" before they undergo a procedure, Latin is pervasive in this profession.

Moreover, should a young person attending Killingly High School decide on a career path different from that of science or medicine, there are other skills that the curriculum has provided me that are of ubiquitous importance. The two that I most value are a vast improvement in communication skills, both written and spoken, and a degree of comfort with learning quickly. The first of which is a byproduct of Latin's unique ancestral position to many languages, English included. To have effectively learned the curriculum, we first had to deconstruct and fully understand English from a technical perspective. I remember beginning Latin 1 as a sophomore in high school and being asked what the past perfect verb tense is, I also vividly remember not knowing the answer at the time because it had never come up before. Furthermore, having never had any formal training in any other languages, I am still able to parse out phrases in other languages that are also progeny of Latin, such as Spanish or Italian. To the second aforementioned skill, perhaps the most important

for any graduate of Killingly High School that is interested in pursuing post-secondary education, I would attribute this to the unique rigor that the Latin curriculum lent itself to. There was not a single other course during my time at the high school that necessitated learning how to study effectively; Latin filled that gap and is the sole reason that I performed as well as I did when I first entered college. In my personal experience, there was no learning curve to overcome during my freshman year of college because I had already overcome it during my sophomore year of high school.

Lastly and most importantly, I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns on this important matter. I am very grateful for the many ways in which I have benefited from participating in this curriculum, and I look forward to the students of Killingly High School continuing to benefit from this unique opportunity for generations to come. I know that you have the best interest of the students at heart, and trust that you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Zach

23 Peeptoad Road, Dayville, CT., 06241.

[knapierata@killinglyschools.org](mailto:knapierata@killinglyschools.org); [lriviera@killinglyschools.org](mailto:lriviera@killinglyschools.org); Chris Viens <[cviens@killinglyschools.org](mailto:cviens@killinglyschools.org)>; Mary Calorio <[micalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:micalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>; Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>

**Subject:** Save Latin at Killingly



To the Town Council, Board of Education, and Superintendent:

I am Aadam Barclay, graduate of Killingly High School ('12), Dartmouth College ('16), and incoming J.D. candidate at the University of Pennsylvania Law School ('26). As a proud alumnus of Killingly's Latin program, I write to express my shock and dismay at the proposed elimination of Latin from KHS.

I struggle to convey just how important Mr. Dodge's Latin classes have been in my academic, professional, and personal journey, a sentiment I know countless alumni share. It was not originally my intent to study Latin at KHS - at the time, I thought that the school's short-lived Mandarin program would prove more useful - but I have never once regretted my decision to study a "dead" language. I urge the Town Council and Board of Education to recognize the indispensable benefits of studying Latin and to continue funding the program. While learning Latin enriches our lives in countless immeasurable ways, connecting us to an intellectual tradition spanning thousands of years, I will focus here on the more immediate, tangible benefits for KHS students.

On the first day of Latin 1, Mr. Dodge has traditionally asked students why they chose to study the language. The answers usually range from interest in Roman history, to professional ambitions of becoming a doctor or lawyer, to aspirations of learning other languages, but Mr. Dodge emphasized to my class that learning Latin helps us to better know English.

Especially as English classes have deemphasized grammar and syntax, many students' first exposure to the fundamentals of language comes from learning Latin. Understanding the mechanics of language offers high school students an immediate, practical advantage. Students who attend public schools like KHS must distinguish themselves from their private school peers to impress college admissions committees, and the most direct comparison is standardized testing. The documented boost in scores that studying Latin provides KHS students allows them to compete with students from much wealthier, more prestigious schools. For my own part, Mr. Dodge's Latin program enabled me to achieve the test scores I needed to attend Dartmouth College, which only accepted 10% of applicants in 2012 and where more than half of students' families made more than \$200,000 annually. Students who seek to attend professional schools after college must excel at still more standardized tests. I credit my study of Latin for my success at the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), which made my application competitive for the top law schools in the country.

Clear, precise writing is the single most important skill for any college-bound student. Students will be expected to read more than is humanly possible and will write papers on dense, scholarly articles under tight time constraints. Students in AP Latin at Killingly routinely write essays on ancient Roman poetry and history, performing the nuanced textual analysis required for study of any of the social sciences or humanities. While I chose to major in Ancient Greek and Latin at Dartmouth, I had no trouble succeeding in courses on international relations or American political philosophy thanks to the fundamentals I learned from Mr. Dodge's Latin classes.

The skills students learn from studying Latin will continue to serve them well after graduation. For my first postgraduate job, my application stood out from a stack of more than 800 because of the quality of my writing sample. I have encountered Classics majors nearly everywhere I've worked, from my first internship at a management consulting firm to my current position as a researcher at a government accountability watchdog organization. While Killingly is a small school, the quality of Mr. Dodge's program has made a name for the town. A few weeks ago, at an admitted students reception for Boston University Law School, I mentioned to a colleague that I studied Latin at KHS. That individual, a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, immediately mentioned interning with a KHS Latin student at the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Dodge's passion for Latin and decades-long commitment to Killingly's students surely merit the program's modest costs. If the town truly wants to prepare its students to succeed in college and beyond, it must amend the budget and keep Latin alive at KHS for years to come.

Respectfully,

Aadam Barclay  
923 10th St NE, Apt. B / Washington, DC 20002.



Dear Members of the Killingly Community,

My name is Michael Weaver, and I am a 1987 graduate of Killingly High School, who currently resides at 175 Thompson Pike, in Dayville, Connecticut. When my good friend Ernie Dodge asked me to meet with him last month, I was both shocked and surprised to discover that Killingly High School intends to dismantle its Latin program. I wholeheartedly believe that doing so would be a great disservice to the school, its students, and the future of Killingly education as a whole. From my perspective, an investment in the Latin program that Ernie has carefully cultivated over so many decades is an investment in the future — not only for its students, but also for the educational system of Killingly as a whole.

By now, many of you realize that the Latin program has helped students attending Killingly High uncover new possibilities for learning and for life. I have little doubt that many of these possibilities would have remained unrealized without access to the Latin program. As Michael Raheb mentioned in his previous address to the Board of Education, Killingly's Latin program has helped give rise to a large number of school valedictorians over the past twenty years. I do feel that it is important to point out that Michael's statement is important, not only for what it does say, but also what his presence within Killingly's educational community says about the type of mindset that Ernie helps cultivate — largely through his example — to his students. After graduating from college, Michael could have chosen to go almost anywhere, and yet, he chose to return to Killingly to teach in the very same school where he first cultivated his love for Latin. As evidenced by this example, Ernie's presence and desire to give back to the community has instilled a similar set of values within the students that he comes into contact with, inspiring them to not only be good students, but also decent human beings with a strong sense of community.

Not only does the current Latin program help students qualify for college credit through the University of Connecticut, it has also helped open doors to students growing up in a small town in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut. I have little doubt that these doors would have remained closed, or at least much more challenging to open, without Killingly's Latin program — as evidenced not only by other's experiences, but my own personal experience as well.

As a 1987 graduate of Killingly High School, Ernie Dodge's Latin classes, along with his English courses, were instrumental in allowing to get into the main campus of The Pennsylvania State University to pursue a degree in engineering. After taking the SAT's for a second time, I came back with a score of 1340: 670 for verbal, and 670 for math and science. My father, a metallurgical engineer who worked at General Dynamics for many years, gave much of this credit to Ernie's careful cultivation of my language and communication skills through his unique approach towards teaching Latin and English. My father was tough when it came to academics, since both of his parents were school teachers and he himself graduated from Carnegie Tech, now Carnegie-Mellon University.

Math and science always came relatively easily for me, while I found language and communication much more challenging. As an engineer at Penn State, I learned how to simplify complex problems to make them more solvable and workable in the creation of technical systems. I still apply these principles when developing and designing web-based applications using high-level computer languages.

However, all of my technical skills would be for naught if I were unable to communicate my ideas and insights to others, just as I would be at a loss as to what needed to be created without an understanding of the ideas and insights that my clients communicate to me. As paradoxical as it might seem, I have learned that the success of highly technical projects,



is heavily dependent upon my communication skills — skills that I initially developed and honed in English, but most especially the Latin classes that I took at the high school level with Mr. Ernie Dodge.

My three years of Latin were not only invaluable in boosting and evening out my SAT scores, but the act of translation also helped me wrestle with the ethical implications of the systems that I create and the impact of my decisions upon others and the world at large. Ernie's approach to learning is unique because he forces you to directly work with material that can be interpreted in a number of ways, depending upon the context of the text itself — much like what each and every one of us must do throughout our lives on a daily basis.

Life itself is ambiguous by its very nature. While each of us might start with an idea of how our days will unfold, truth be told, much of our lives are exercises in interpretation and translation. These are the same skills that Ernie's Latin classes help cultivate in his students, skills that these students will use and reflect upon throughout their entire lives, invisibly affecting the quality of their interactions with others. I believe that the need for these skills is even more important in our increasingly technology-centric world. Thanks to advances in technology, the questions that the next generation will have to wrestle with will have as much to do with what should be done, instead of what can be done.

These questions are incredibly complex and require individuals with different perspectives to come together and communicate with one another, which is itself an act of translation, interpretation, and clarification. In many ways, our future may very well hinge upon individuals having a solid grasp of the fundamentals of our language and communication skills, both of which have their foundations in Latin.

Latin serves as the living root and life-line to the origins of our English language, providing a much-needed connection to the original foundations of Western culture and civilization. Time and time again, I have returned to the Latin roots of our language while searching for a better word to clearly communicate a complex idea, or to help me accurately interpret another person's unique perspective. These are skills that I first learned to appreciate in Ernie's Latin classes, allowing me to take a more human approach to life despite having an incredibly strong set of technical skills.

Although I cannot be sure, it seems that for some people, the Latin program at Killingly High School has been reduced to a simple line item on a spreadsheet, when in truth it is so much more. How does a spreadsheet account for the ability of someone to actually work towards and realize their dreams by being held to higher standards and pushing themselves beyond previously perceived boundaries? Can pure numbers illustrate the importance of imbuing students with a deep sense of care and respect for the humanity of others, allowing them to see individuals as more than biomechanical machines for making money? In a world of ever-increasing technology, don't we have a responsibility to ensure that people not only retain their humanity, but also respect the dignity of others?

As a former graduate of Killingly High School who will turn fifty-four in the next few months, I am well-past the half-way mark of my life. This timeline causes me to contemplate what type of world future generations will have to face so that they can live life to their fullest, and in turn, share their abundance with others. Thanks to the work of Ernie Dodge, I too have been able to realize many of my dreams. I have worked as an engineer, programmed complex systems for a number of small businesses, and written three books on the history of science in the Western world. I have also had the honor of teaching undergraduate classes in self-defense, stress-management, and martial arts on the University Park campus of The Pennsylvania State University. Despite having a technical education in engineering, I have also guest-lectured in symbolism and myth for both English and Philosophy classes at Penn State. In more recent times, I was a guest lecturer at the Pomfret

School, first for Josh Lake's Cosmology class and then my friend Anthony Foronda's class in website development and design.

Thanks in large part to the hard work of Mr. Ernie Dodge, whose passion and love of the classics has helped inspire my own love for all aspects of life, I have been able to live a very full life indeed. Shouldn't others, who wish to do so, continue to have similar opportunities to live their own life to the fullest while contributing back to our culture?

With highest regards,

Michael Weaver

KHS Class of 1987



**To:** Mary Calorio <mcalorio@killinglyct.gov>; Andy Whitehead <awhitehead@killinglyct.gov>; Tammy Wakefield <twakefield@killinglyct.gov>; Janice Rockwood <jrockwood@killinglyct.gov>; Jason Anderson <janderson@killinglyct.gov>; Kevin Kerttula <kkerttula@killinglyct.gov>; Ed Grandelski <egrandelski@killinglyct.gov>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov>; Patti Larrow George <plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov>; Michele Murphy <mmurphy@killinglyct.gov>; Raymond Wood II <rwood\_ii@killinglyct.gov>; Budget Comment <budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov>; rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron <nferron@killinglyschools.org>; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara <jmuscara@killinglyschools.org>; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; lrivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens <cviens@killinglyschools.org>

**Subject:** Regarding Latin program at KHS funding



Dear BOE, Superintendent of Schools and Town Council,

My name is Sulisay Phonekeo, and I am a former student of Killingly High School from the academic year 2006-2007. I am writing to express my disappointment in the new year budget proposal that excludes Latin from the upcoming academic year. As a former student of the Latin program at KHS, I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Latin is not just a language that is no longer spoken, but it is very much alive in modern times. Its influence can be found in scientific articles, mathematical books, and all Romance languages. Although I am no longer actively learning Latin, the knowledge I gained from the language has tremendously helped me in my future learning. It taught me the structures and connections within a language and, most importantly, how to analyze language as a scientific process that iteratively improves.

The analytical skills that I learned from the Latin program still hold great value to this day, and I credit it to my success in my education and career. The program taught me how to analyze language and make connections, which I still use in my everyday life as an engineer. With the ever-growing amount of information, it is impossible to memorize every fact and equation, but the ability to make connections is essential for information searching. These skills are what pushed me to excel in my education in the engineering and computer science program at Georgia Institute of Technology (BSME, MSME, MSCS).

The Latin program at KHS was one of the most challenging and rewarding classes I took during my tenure. It was a big contributor to my success down the line, and I still remember it fondly to this day. I urge you to keep supporting this program, as it can make a significant impact on students' future success.

Sincerely,

Sulisay Phonekeo

1656 Westwood Ave. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** CHRISTOS HAVELES <chaveles@ucla.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:06 PM  
**To:** Janice Rockwood  
**Subject:** Re: Keep KHS Latin

Hello Jan - please find my home address added to my comment below. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you,  
-Christos

Dear BOE, Superintendent of Schools, and Town Council,

My name is Chris Haveles, an alumnus of Killingly High School (KHS) Class of 2011. I graduated as Valedictorian, Class President, and President of the National Honor Society. I studied four years of Latin and one year of AP English IV under one of the greatest educators Killingly High School will ever know — Mr. Dodge. After high school, I attended Stanford University — one of the most prestigious universities in our country, which greatly influenced the trajectory of my life and career. I caught the eye of the admissions committee because of my Latin background. It allowed me to connect with one of Stanford's application essays that I later found out challenged many others — even with the help of hired college coaches. Because of my Latin education by Mr. Dodge, I was able to craft an original essay independently about Latin that earned me admission to Stanford with a full tuition scholarship.

I continued to study Latin while at Stanford which helped me to excel in my premedical coursework and on my MCAT exam. This success, which sprouted from the formative experiences and work ethic I gained from KHS Latin, led to the tremendous privilege in obtaining one of the most selective medical school acceptances in the country — at UCLA with the David Geffen medical scholarship, totaling nearly \$300,000 during my four years of medical school. This allowed me to become a doctor while not only graduating with no debt, but also getting paid while completing my graduate education. As was with my case, Latin at KHS uniquely challenges students and rewards them exponentially. It has instilled a dedication to my work which contributed to my receiving a residency position in one of the most competitive specialties in medicine — plastic and reconstructive surgery. To this day, I credit Latin for contributing to my successes. Now as a doctor, Latin has allowed me to pick up several other languages. This has allowed me to better communicate with my patients that don't speak English as their primary language. It has allowed me to connect more easily from a fundamentally human level with those who are among the most vulnerable in our society.

Of course, I am not an outlier — there is certainly a correlation between Killingly High School students who study Latin and their academic successes in high school and beyond in their future careers. KHS Latin alumni have pursued noble careers as educators, lawyers, doctors, and engineers and lead a life that actively betters our society.

A decision to cut Latin as a program from KHS cannot be done in haste. The decision must be evidence-based. How many students over the past several decades have studied Latin and graduated top of their class, attended elite colleges, or pursued careers in science, education, law, and medicine? How many Killingly students have been awarded scholarships for their study of classics? How many former AP English and Latin students have invested back into the Killingly community as educators in the school system or other significant roles in the community? Surely the successes of hundreds of KHS Latin students is worth more than the low cost of funding the Latin program. Listen to the voices of KHS alumni from around the country — clearly, the return on the investment in the KHS Latin program speaks for itself. I implore you to do your due diligence as you sit in positions of power. Failing to consider these data is a disservice to the future generations of Killingly High School students. Failing to acknowledge the profound impact Latin has on students as it connects them to the humanities is a disservice to the Killingly community.

Mr. Dodge dedicated his career to building a legacy with the KHS Latin program. This Latin program sets KHS apart — not just from other northeastern Connecticut schools but from thousands of high schools across the country. I hope as you listen to each story that you think about how students' paths would have been altered without the positive influence from the institution that is the KHS Latin program. Please allow a program that has opened doors for countless students for over 40 years to continue to transform lives. Please keep these doors open for our future students.

Chris Haveles, MD  
KHS Class of 2011

3061 David Avenue  
Danielson, CT 06239

On Thu, Apr 13, 2023 at 5:58 PM Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)> wrote:

Christos, Could you provide your address for the record? Commenters are required to include their name and home address for the record. I will include it with your comment.

Thank you,

Jan Rockwood

Executive Assistant

Town Manager's Office

Town of Killingly

172 Main Street

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Janice Rockwood  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:58 PM  
**To:** Janice Rockwood  
**Subject:** FW: In Support of the KHS Latin Program

**From:** Michela Veillette <michela.veillette@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:19 PM  
**To:** [rangeli@killinglyschools.org](mailto:rangeli@killinglyschools.org); [ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org](mailto:ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org); Normand Ferron <[nferron@killinglyschools.org](mailto:nferron@killinglyschools.org)>; [jhegedus@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jhegedus@killinglyschools.org); [slannon@killinglyschools.org](mailto:slannon@killinglyschools.org); Jason Muscara <[jmuscara@killinglyschools.org](mailto:jmuscara@killinglyschools.org)>; [knapierrata@killinglyschools.org](mailto:knapierrata@killinglyschools.org); [lriviera@killinglyschools.org](mailto:lriviera@killinglyschools.org); Chris Viens <[cviens@killinglyschools.org](mailto:cviens@killinglyschools.org)>; Mary Calorio <[mcalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mcalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>; Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>  
**Subject:** In Support of the KHS Latin Program

Dear Superintendent of Schools, Killingly BOE and Killingly Town Council,

I hope this email finds you well, and I thank you in advance for your consideration.

My name is Michela Veillette and I am a graduate of Killingly High School (Class of 2013), where I took four years of Latin. When I heard that the Latin program was in jeopardy, I knew I had to write to you all and share my experience.

Latin was a challenging and rewarding piece of my high school experience. It was not a course that you could rely on Google for - you yourself had to sit down and do the reading and the work. This was important for my development both as a high school student and as a person. For this reason alone, I'd love to know that the Latin program lives on, giving every student that opportunity. But in addition to the discipline I gained, I also gained an understanding and appreciation of language that I still carry with me today. Latin helped me tremendously with my English reading and writing skills, and I know it's responsible for my high SAT scores in those areas, which led me to the next chapter of my education.

After I graduated from Killingly, I went on to study at Boston University. When I met the other students, I quickly learned how many of them had come to BU by way of private schools, prestigious ones not just in the United States, but from all over the world. I was intimidated

and almost felt I didn't deserve to be there, but I soon realized that I was just as prepared as them - and Latin played a big role in that preparation.

The BU administration itself proved to value my Latin education as well. Thanks to years of learning from Mr. Dodge, I scored a 5 on the AP Latin exam, which BU considered worthy of not just one, but two college course credits. Along with my other AP exam scores, I would've been able to graduate a semester early if I had wished to, which would've saved a nice chunk of money (I chose to double major instead). I also discovered, through my friendships with members of the BU admissions staff, that Latin is one of the courses on a high schooler's resume that signals an interest in new and different things, and rounds out the experience of the general curriculum that we all follow. I think it's fair to say it was one of the factors that contributed to my earning a half tuition scholarship to go to BU.

**Thank you again for your time – I urge you to consider the following benefits that Latin offers and reconsider your position to take away the Latin program from the current and future students of Killingly High School.**

- **Language skills**
- **AP Latin Exam = 1-2 college credits**
- **Latin adds to the “well-rounded” image of an applicant that college admissions wants to see**
- **Higher SAT scores**

Thanks again,

Michela Veillette

216 W Broadway, Boston, MA.

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Janice Rockwood  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:59 PM  
**To:** Janice Rockwood  
**Subject:** FW: Budget Cuts: KHS Latin & Mr. Ernest Dodge

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**From:** Sydney Zicolella <[sydneyanastasia04@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyanastasia04@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 7:47 PM

**To:** Andy Whitehead <[awhitehead@killinglyct.gov](mailto:awhitehead@killinglyct.gov)>; Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>; Ed Grandelski <[egrandelski@killinglyct.gov](mailto:egrandelski@killinglyct.gov)>; Jason Anderson <[janderson@killinglyct.gov](mailto:janderson@killinglyct.gov)>; Janice Rockwood <[jrockwood@killinglyct.gov](mailto:jrockwood@killinglyct.gov)>; Kevin Kerttula <[kkerttula@killinglyct.gov](mailto:kkerttula@killinglyct.gov)>; Mary Calorio <[mcalorio@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mcalorio@killinglyct.gov)>; Michele Murphy <[mmurphy@killinglyct.gov](mailto:mmurphy@killinglyct.gov)>; Patti Larrow George <[plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov](mailto:plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov)>; Raymond Wood II <[rwood\\_ii@killinglyct.gov](mailto:rwood_ii@killinglyct.gov)>; Tammy Wakefield <[twakefield@killinglyct.gov](mailto:twakefield@killinglyct.gov)>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <[utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov](mailto:utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov)>

**Cc:** [bpplacido@killinglyschools.org](mailto:bpplacido@killinglyschools.org) <[bpplacido@killinglyschools.org](mailto:bpplacido@killinglyschools.org)>; [edodge@killinglyschools.org](mailto:edodge@killinglyschools.org) <[edodge@killinglyschools.org](mailto:edodge@killinglyschools.org)>

**Subject:** Budget Cuts: KHS Latin & Mr. Ernest Dodge

Mr. Angeli, Mr. Ferron, and Fellow Board Members:

Hello, my name is Sydney Zicolella. I am a Killingly High School graduate. I want to start by stating: I was a Latin student of Mr. Dodge's during my time at KHS. I also sat in regularly in his AP English IV class during my senior year, when I had free periods and study halls, instead of choosing to do something else (and frankly, non-school related) with my time. I passed all of my Latin courses throughout the semesters with at least a B+ average, and most of the time, I made the strong A or A+, thanks to the sophisticated and seasoned guidance of Mr. Dodge.

Ernest Dodge is a caring and intelligent teacher whose teaching style pushes you to do better and succeed intellectually. If you walk into an Honors or AP classroom, and ask if there are any students who take Latin, at LEAST one of them are guaranteed to raise their hand – and every year, they come out on top – Most of them have gone on to be Killingly's Valedictorian or Salutatorian (Jacob Brower and Emma Gilbert, to just name two).

It is becoming more and more of a rarity to find teachers who actually show compassion and care for their students, but are also tough when they recognize that their students need a bit more of a push to make it. Dodge is both of those things. I can attest to that.

I have now personally gone on to graduate within the top students of my class. My friend who also took latin with me, made Salutatorian. I am double-majoring in Journalism and Political Sciences, with a minor in Digital Marketing, and was able to skip all of my required college english classes needed for my Associates Degree due to my extensive knowledge of the English language. I have worked with the New York Times on a story, and have made incredible connections, such as the New England Bureau Chief of the New York Times, Ellen Barry, who would concede if I sent her a quick text or email. I work full time, as well as commute as a college student full time, and have been successful there as well. I work for a small business where I regularly interact with non-Americans, and was hired due to my impeccable skills in communication, language, and customer service.

Latin was, without a doubt, a major factor in my successes. I was a good english student before my classes with Mr. Dodge, however, Latin allowed me to expand my knowledge and understanding of literature, music, language, math,

culture, and history. Latin with Mr. Dodge also prepared me for the rigorous intensity of college courses– in which students are expected to take their own organized and understandable notes, study to UNDERSTAND (not just to memorize), comprehend vast amounts of material from all around the world, write studious essays, communicate effectively, ask questions, know how to comprehend peer-reviewed texts, and think outside of the box– all skills that Mr. Dodge’s courses helped me and my peers to cultivate. Not EVEN to mention Mr. Ernest Dodge’s impeccable credibility, he is one of the few teachers certified at Killingly to readily prepare students for college and workforce experiences, BEYOND the basics. His classes, without a doubt, allowed me to be not only a great student, but a DISTINGUISHED student. When applying to colleges, I got accepted into 7 of the 8 I applied to, 3 of them being extremely prestigious in reputation, in places like Manhattan, Boston, and New York City.

Latin is a necessity in Killingly High School, and is one of the main distinguishing characteristics between Killingly and other surrounding schools in the area. During my time as a student, I knew of multiple students who came to Killingly due to the Latin Program. Every time I mention my previous enrollment in a Latin program, nearly every response is “Wow, that’s actually so cool,” followed directly by, “Where did you go to school?”

If student exploration, innovation, intellectualism, and success is within your best interests, PLEASE do NOT cut the Latin Program.

Sincerely,

Sydney A. Zicolella  
23 Hutchins St. Danielson, CT 06239  
Killingly High School 2022 Graduate

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Budget Comment  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:01 PM  
**To:** Janice Rockwood  
**Subject:** FW: KHS Latin program

From: Greg MacKay <[gmack011@outlook.com](mailto:gmack011@outlook.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:29 PM  
To: Budget Comment <[budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov)>  
Subject: KHS Latin program

Hello friends,

I sincerely hope your inbox has been flooded with support for the KHS Latin program. I attended KHS from Putnam specifically to take Latin in 1996. Mr Dodge and that program are staples in the school and the community. It would be a literal Greek tragedy if you closed down Latin. There are very few extras that schools have held on to over the years that make them stand out, Latin is one of those things that makes Killingly so great. Also, why are you any cutting programs when you have a surplus in the school budget. If you fail to see the value in the classics and specifically the Latin program at KHS then I wonder what reasons you're giving for closing it. Please reconsider, and I sincerely hope you're so inundated with emails and calls that you grow a greater appreciation for what that program gives to your school system.

Respectfully,  
Greg MacKay  
4 Dolores Cir  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259

(860) 230-7947  
Act silly. Work hard. Be kind.



## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Sean O'Leary <solearykhs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:17 AM  
**Subject:** KHS Latin Program and Ernie Dodge

Good morning. My name is Sean O'Leary and I am a graduate of KHS, as well as a current teacher at the school. I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Latin program at KHS which is in danger of being cut due to budget constraints.

I am saddened at the prospect of limiting the opportunities we offer to our students by removing the Latin program. I take great pride in the fact that our students have access to a comprehensive, diverse educational experience that has the potential to satisfy any and all of their needs, including our best and brightest students.

In addition, I can personally attest to the quality of instruction that is offered by Mr. Dodge, having had him as my English teacher as a sophomore and again as a senior. Of all of my high school teachers, Mr. Dodge is the teacher most responsible for preparing me for college, and the person I will always attribute much of my post-secondary success to.

To lose either the Latin program or Mr. Dodge would represent a significant blow to both our students and the school and I sincerely hope that we can find a way to avoid it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Sean O'Leary

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Sedona Riley <sedonapratt.sp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:21 PM  
**To:** rangeli@killinglyschools.org; Idombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Killingly High School Latin Program

Dear Mr. Robert Angeli and honorable members of the Killingly Board of Education and Killingly Town Council:

My name is Sedona Pratt, and I am writing to you *in support of Mr. Ernie Dodge's Latin Program* at Killingly High School. I am a proud KHS alum (2015-2019) and a current senior at the University of Vermont, where I am pursuing a degree in Secondary Education and Biology.

I was appalled to hear about the proposed cut to the Latin Program at KHS. Mr. Dodge and the Latin Program changed my life. My knowledge of Latin has helped me every day since I graduated- whether I am in the field identifying trees or in the lab preparing samples, I always remember my time spent in Mr. Dodge's classroom. Not only did he and his program facilitate my scientific understanding, but Mr. Dodge himself is a treasure. He is a wealth of knowledge, with lessons that I remember vividly even over four years later, and that I am sure I will carry with me for the rest of my life. His attention to detail, passion for teaching, and love for his students is palpable.

It would be a devastating loss to cut this program- not only to Mr. Dodge himself, but to the young adults of Killingly High School, to the community, and to Killingly as a whole. I urge you NOT to cut the Latin Program at Killingly. I urge you to NOT let Ernie Dodge go. I urge you to NOT devastate the *thriving Latin program* that exists at Killingly High School.

In the words of some Latin scholar from some time long ago, "*mortui vivo docent*". The dead teach the living. We have so much to learn from the Latin program. Don't deprive the future Latin students of Killingly High School of their chance to learn from some of the greatest scholars of all time. Don't deprive them of one of the best teachers Killingly High School has. I urge you- DO NOT cut the Latin program, for we are far better with it than without it.

Sincerely,

Sedona Pratt

Sedona Pratt (she/her)  
The University of Vermont, Class of 2023  
The College of Education and Social Services  
Secondary Education Biological Sciences Major  
[sedona.pratt@uvm.edu](mailto:sedona.pratt@uvm.edu)

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Janice Rockwood  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:02 PM  
**To:** Janice Rockwood  
**Subject:** FW: A plea for Latin

From: lisaprofetto@gmail.com <lisaprofetto@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:36 AM  
To: rangeli@killinglyschools.org; ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron <nferron@killinglyschools.org>; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara <jmuscara@killinglyschools.org>; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; lrivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens <cviens@killinglyschools.org>; Mary Calorio <mcalorio@killinglyct.gov>; Andy Whitehead <awhitehead@killinglyct.gov>; Tammy Wakefield <twakefield@killinglyct.gov>; Janice Rockwood <jrockwood@killinglyct.gov>; Jason Anderson <janderson@killinglyct.gov>; Kevin Kerttula <kkerttula@killinglyct.gov>; Ed Grandelski <egrandelski@killinglyct.gov>; Ulla Tiik-Barclay <utiikbarclay@killinglyct.gov>; Patti Larrow George <plarrowgeorge@killinglyct.gov>; Michele Murphy <mmurphy@killinglyct.gov>; Raymond Wood II <rwood\_ii@killinglyct.gov>; Budget Comment <budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov>; Budget Comment <budgetcomment@killinglyct.gov>  
Cc: edodge@killinglyschools.org  
Subject: A plea for Latin

Dear Killingly personnel:

As I peruse Facebook in the middle of the night, I read this post from my chorale teacher, Pam Rodgers and the name Ernest Dodge catches my eye. I was so blessed to have Mr Dodge for Honors English at KHS in the 1980's. He challenged me to think critically when analyzing prose , drama or poetry. He taught me to write with succinct argument and with passion. He encouraged me to expand my vocabulary, a skill that still impresses today. I continue to use the tools he cultivated in my raw adolescent mind in my 30 year history as a pediatric and family nurse practitioner. These persuasive skills are very especially useful when composing prior authorization letters for insurance in order to get coverage for a patient's medical needs. Additionally, my narrative notes sometimes elicit comments from patients and colleagues, "your

description [of the clinical scenario] was so vivid". Ernie Dodge's lessons still apply.

I understand that the Latin program at Killingly is in jeopardy . I unfortunately did not take Latin in high school (never used French, Mme Rose). Nonetheless, I strongly feel that the study of Latin is useful in many pursuits post secondary education. I obviously use Latin root etymology in medicine. My son is a classically trained chef (Culinary Institute of America) and uses Latin. I would certainly be impressed if a TikTok influencer used Latin!

I am very cognizant of budget constraints, but I am also familiar with better cost cutting measures. Having a Latin program elevates a high school. My Killingly education held up against my prep school educated college classmates. Let's not dumb down rural Connecticut secondary education.

Sincerely

Lisa A. Profetto, MSN, APRN  
KHS Classic 1985

Sent from my iPad

## Janice Rockwood

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**From:** Caitlyn Meagher <meaghercj2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 9:11 PM  
**To:** ewdodge@hotmail.com; rangeli@killinglyschools.org; ldombkowski@killinglyschools.org; Normand Ferron; jhegedus@killinglyschools.org; slannon@killinglyschools.org; Jason Muscara; knapierata@killinglyschools.org; Irivera@killinglyschools.org; Chris Viens; Mary Calorio; Andy Whitehead; Tammy Wakefield; Janice Rockwood; Jason Anderson; Kevin Kerttula; Ed Grandelski; Ulla Tiik-Barclay; Patti Larrow George; Michele Murphy; Raymond Wood II; Budget Comment  
**Subject:** Why Latin?

Good evening Everyone,

I hope this email finds you all well. I am Caitlyn Meagher and I graduated from Killingly High School in 2011, Obviously the budget has been a hot subject as of late.

I remember back to my days of high school and people wondered why there was a need for Latin. I took three years of Latin in high school. I went on to graduate from the University of Maine with a bachelor of the arts in English. After college, I have worked a couple of different jobs before I got my current position.

I am going to be honest, I am not sure what I can say that will persuade you to save the Latin program. I am sure you have gotten many emails about how Latin and Mr. Dodge has directly impacted his students' lives. Instead, I think I am going to talk about how learning Latin helped in my college days and my career.

Latin itself is one of the language roots of the English language. Most grammar has its starting point in Latin. Though grammar was taught at Killingly schools, I was one of the Phonics kids and Phonics wasn't useful for grammar. In the first year English class at my school, the graduate student teaching the class often spoke about the use of punctuation. A common mistake most people make is putting in too many commas. I remember being taught that you put a comma wherever you would breathe in a sentence. Commas aren't meant to mark where you breathe. They are meant to separate clauses or different parts of a sentence. I learned about the proper use of the comma in AP Latin 3. I was one of the few students in my first year English course that knew how to punctuate their own essay.

While in school, I took two semesters of French and two semesters of German. Unsurprisingly, I didn't struggle with the reading side of French or the grammar lessons because French and Latin shared a lot of common ground. I picked up fast on their similarities and used my knowledge of Latin as a building point. For my last year of school, the French classes were at the same time as a class I needed for graduation. In my final year, I took German. I had expected German to be just as hard as French, if not harder. To my pleasant surprise, German followed similar rules to French and Latin. Though the words were different, a lot of the grammar rules were the same. All three languages found their basis in gendered words and declensions.

Currently, I work as a personal lines account manager for an insurance agency. I have actually gotten my Property and Casualty license as well as my Life and Health designation. Insurance is a contract. Occasionally, they have Latin phrases or terms in them. Even the parts that are in English are difficult to read at times. Reading for interpretation / information is a skill that I am glad to possess.

I think it is impossible to know just how big an impact Latin has had on my life. We move through time in one direction. Looking back now, I wouldn't have changed or traded my time in Mr. Dodge's class. Are there things I wish I did different? Yes, but I believe that is true of everyone. But taking Latin in high school is not one of those choices. I was able to engage with the material and apply what I learned to other fields of my life. I was able to build on the

knowledge I got from Latin and apply it to furthering my education. I learned how to write clearly and express my thoughts in a concise way. I believe the Latin program is one worth saving.

Kind Regards,  
Caitlyn Jean Meagher