

I was hoping to speak the following to you tonight, with appropriate inflection and verve, but unfortunately my toddler has an ear infection and is pretty miserable. Fairly certain she'd have been screaming in the background. So instead, you'll just have to "hear" me as written here.

I am a Stamford citizen and taxpayer, and a product of SPS. For the past 20 years I have been an English teacher at Westhill, and for at least a decade a union rep for SEA as well. It feels silly to use this as my calling-card, but to put me in a place of valuation, last year I was voted the staff member the Class of 2023 wanted to have as their graduation speaker.

In any case, I write to you tonight first as a frustrated Stamford taxpayer. I believe that under the direction of this superintendent, central office administration has become incredibly bloated, to the point where no one there is doing much of a job due to redundancy and not really knowing what their job is. I have also seen this superintendent and her cabinet hire outside agencies and pay them exorbitant and unnecessary amounts for professional development, curriculum audits, and work that first, the central office admins should be doing, and second, they could pay teachers as actual experts to do for (insultingly) far less money.

HOWEVER - I am also writing as a teacher and union rep, and as such, to say to you DO. NOT. CUT. HER. BUDGET. Because doing so will do ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to address a bloated administration or wasteful spending on/hiring of outside agencies. Any cuts you make will ONLY impact teacher positions, and HURT STUDENTS.

If you, like me, are sick and tired of how the SPS monies are being spent, great. Use your power as an elected official to force your respective colleagues on the Board of Education to address such practices, and budgeting, GOING FORWARD. But any cuts you make NOW will only hurt teachers. And therefore, students.

Don't allow us to be abused further.

*Kate*

**Kate Tobin**

*English Teacher*

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"It is impossible to build one's own happiness on the unhappiness of others." — Daisaku Ikeda

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