

To the Board of Finance Stamford, CT  
PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL MEMBERS  
1/29/24

Dear Sirs:

We are writing regarding proposed budget cuts to the music and arts curriculum in the SPS.

We understand that it is being considered to eliminate the instrument program at the elementary schools, among other changes. We wanted to voice our opinion that these programs provide a wealth of benefit to children which should be part of their total education.

We had the pleasure of attending the fifth grade performance last week at Roxbury School and we would encourage you to watch the video of the event. Participation cut across numerous instruments in the full band, as well as a choral performance and dancers, all in a 1990's theme. The outcome was professional beyond our expectations.

The children who have had exposure to playing these instruments in elementary school will have the opportunity to build on that experience into middle and high school. If this were cut, we think the impact would be very negative.

We understand the challenges in working through the budgetary process, but hope that a full assessment of how capital is allocated across the entire school system, to include administration costs, will underpin the process, and the instrumental program will not be eliminated..

Thank you.

Marilyn & Gary Freeman  
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Stamford