

Dear Board of Education and Finance,

My name is Morgan Walton and I am teacher in SPS as well as have 3 students enrolled at Roxbury Elementary School. I truly can't imagine my student's elementary school experience without the amazing music program. My daughter Sienna is in 5th grade and has been playing flute for the past 2 years. She is so excited to continue band in middle school next year. Without the elementary school band program, there would be no students to feed into the middle school! This year the 5th grade put on an amazing performance in collaboration with the 2 music teachers at her school as well as the band teacher. The performance included dancers, singers, actors and a performance from her "rockchestra". They are also planning to march in the parade on Memorial Day. They have performed at the Stamford Mall for the holidays, an all school sing-along Veteran's Day celebration, and so many other amazing seasonal concerts. These concerts have allowed me as a parent to feel a part of the school community. My daughter's love and joy of music has also transferred to her younger siblings who are now so excited to be part of band next year. They also have been in awe of watching these performances. SPS's slogan is "mind, body, heart" and the band program has truly developed all of those areas in my children. Please consider the positive impact that band and music programs can have on our students when making decisions for budget cuts for next school year.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,
Morgan Walton