



Public Comment Responses Received During the WPS BOE Meeting on 2/10/2021

Below is the public record of public comment responses received during the 2/10/2021 BOE meeting.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- FY 2022 Proposed Budget of the Superintendent of Schools** - Comments are posted exactly as they have been received.

First and Last Name	Address	Please state your comment/question regarding FY 2022 Proposed Budget of the Superintendent of Schools.
Rosie Curtis	4 Heritage Ct	We encourage you all to have a direct conversation with our Principals to fully understand and learn from each other what their fears and concerns are and what impact the reduction of AP will have on ALL our schools. There's a reason why we, as PTA Presidents devote ourselves to serving our school community. We're the voice of our parents, but also our children and our educators who have put our children first in every way. Monday's vote and how nobody stopped to have a fair conversation with all the principals who were attending the zoom meeting has caused A LOT of hurt and pain. This is a significant programmatic change for our schools that are growing in numbers, especially RTI student numbers. Question yourselves why two highly talented and valued Principals are leaving our district.
Jill Dillon on behalf of PTAP	9 Rices Lane	Because we did not have a chance to comment Monday night, the PTA presidents of all eight schools wish to express our shock and outrage at the BOE's decisions Monday night to reduce services to our students in the midst of a pandemic when it is not warranted financially. The elementary school principals formally expressed their desire to keep the APs and outlined the damage removing them would cause. Mr. Thomas requested not to cut teachers at SHS. PTA Presidents met with BOE members in our capacity as parent advocates to express the same desires. Mr. Scarice expressed these cuts as a last resort and not recommended. If the BOE is not listening to Administration, Central Office or the PTA, who are you serving?

Kim Ceman	28 stony Brook Rd	<p>Dear BOE-</p> <p>The vote to cut 1.0 AP position was a lot to digest on Monday. I understand you have a fiduciary responsibility. I don't envy your position. I believe we elected you because we believe in your commitment to our schools and trust in your judgment. While I would have preferred to see this change happen in a different year when everything else around us was not so chaotic, I will trust in your judgment. I understand the currently shared AP at CES and GFS is believed to be working. Please share with us what benchmarks and standards helped you come to this conclusion. Additionally, please share with us, for moving forward purposes, what will be the benchmarks you use to evaluate if the 1.0 AP cut was the right or wrong decision? How will this be measured?</p> <p>Thank you, Kim Ceman</p>
Lindsay shurman	88 kings Hwy s	<p>This is not the year to lose an AP at the EI level at any one of our schools. I ask you reconsider and even look at reinstating 1.0 AP to retain the triangle structure recommended. At KHS alone, enrollment is up to 458, RTI numbers are soaring (up 17 children in tier 1 and up 6 children in tiers 2 & 3) - we cannot afford to squeeze admin or teachers more than we are - we are going to end up doing a disservice to all. The Westport school system is the reason we are in this town as well as many others - the system does not start with Staples...it starts at the EI level and that is where educational and emotional foundations are built. This cannot be ignored.</p>
Renee Plato Van Heerden	6 river lane	<p>If you damage the reputation of our schools by making cuts to elementary schools, the downstream effect will be on the quality of the student body that arrives at Staples. It is imperative you look at the short & long term impact. From kindergarten to high school, we must remain invested in our students. In doing so, you are investing in the economic health of Westport & our reputation as an education leader. It's a risky calculation to cut critical staff resources at this time in Westport. We've recently had an influx in our community resulting in an increased student body at KHS and other elementary schools. It is sending a toxic message to the newest members of KHS that we devalue our schools by cutting support, asking them to do more with less.</p>
Jill Dillon	9 Rices Lane	<p>Just my opinion now, not PTAP. I do not blame the current board or the current administration, BUT do you think that Westport has a culture that would be receptive to administration or teachers coming forward and saying, "This isn't working for us?" If the reduction in APs wasn't working for schools do you think they would just do what they always do and do their best to make it work no matter what, or would</p>

		they feel safe/valued/believed enough to come forward and say it's not working? Food for thought.
amy laurino	kingshigway school	Comment: Our AP is a valued member of our team, she structures so much of the day recess lunch schedules alone are like a full time job. In addition she is there daily for student and staff support to help keep our children and our staff emotionally safe and physically safe. She works tirelessly and with a smile to keep up with the many changes that happen each day in our building. Please reconsider cutting her position, she is most needed.
Rosie Curtis	4 Heritage Ct	We respect this is a democratic process and it seems that there was a communication issue, please recognize this as an opportunity to listen and figure out what is not working at our schools and look into how best we can support our administrators and teachers.
Jeni Bianco	2 Stony Point Rd	Is there anything as parents we can do to help save some of these positions? These teachers are fighting for us. It is our job to fight for them. Please give us ways to do so and help! Thank you and stay well