



Chesterfield Kids Deserve School Funding

Now: Tax Breaks Can Wait

283 have signed. Let's get to 500!



Jackie Halaw **started this petition** to Chesterfield Township Board of Education and 2 others

Chesterfield School District is expected to receive an additional \$1,582,592 in state aid for the 2018-2019 school year. We have gone from 9.5% to 58% of our state aid due to the persistence and relentless hard work of many community members and elected officials in the fight for fair school funding.

The undersigned Chesterfield residents request that all the additional funds we will receive for the 18-19 school year should be absorbed into the school budget and capital reserve in order to rectify the chronic underfunding that has impacted the children of this community. We request that any tax breaks being considered should be postponed for at least one school year.

We respectfully request that you consider the following as you determine how these funds will be spent:

- **Settle the Teachers' Contract:** Teachers impact student achievement more than any other aspect of schooling. Our teachers and staff deserve a fair contract and funds should be allotted to settle their expired contract as quickly as possible. They should receive at least the county average settlement.
- **Improve Curriculum and Instruction:** During years of underfunding, curriculum and instruction has been shortchanged. More curriculum kits and resources should be purchased where they have been reduced in past years and shared among teachers. Professional development for staff is needed to properly implement the board-approved curriculum and continue the program review cycle. We need to expand the arts, music, STEM, and Gifted & Talented programs. Supplemental resources are needed to sufficiently challenge all learners at all levels throughout the content areas in order to provide an education that is equitable with the other Northern Burlington sending districts.
- **Keep Class Sizes Small and Ensure Proper Staffing of Teachers and Paraprofessionals:** The school needs to be properly staffed with an adequate number of teachers, guidance counselors, physical education, art, library, and music teachers to meet the rigorous requirements of the NJ Student Learning Standards and NJ statutes. We need district-employed paraprofessionals, not outsourced employees, to support some of our most challenged students.

The New Jersey State Constitution guarantees a "thorough and efficient education" for all New Jersey children. Each year the state calculates the "Adequacy Budget" or the amount of money to provide the constitutionally-mandated thorough and efficient education for every school district. Chesterfield has, until now, been unable to reach the adequacy budget and has a cumulative adequacy deficit that has in turn negatively impacted the curricula, programming, and resources at Chesterfield Elementary School. Even with taxpayers trying to make up for the severe state underfunding, our school has operated with an Adequacy Deficit of over \$5.8 million dollars in just the last three school years. That is a three-year cumulative deficit of over \$7500 per student.

Our teachers and staff have done more with less, and our community has rallied by paying more than our local fair share of taxes and by fundraising extensively. Despite our community's best efforts, our children have been deprived of an education comparable with surrounding communities. The education and welfare of the children must be the primary focus and be rectified first and foremost.

This fight for fair funding is not over and although we may possibly be on the path to a fair solution, it is premature to offer tax relief at this early stage. There are no guarantees that we will receive a higher percentage of state aid next year even if A2/S2 is signed into law. If the state does not pull in the projected revenues, then they will not have the funding to increase school aid. We must use this funding wisely and for the benefit of Chesterfield's children while considering the long-term goals of full funding and tax relief.

Thank you for your time, attention, and service to our community.

Start a petition of your own

This petition starter stood up and took action.
Will you do the same?

Updates

Sent from my iPhone

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Kelly D'Oria	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	I, as well as my children, put in countless hours to fight for our fair share of school funding. We do not want a tax refund until this school is funded at 100%.
anna fe rebadavia	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	Funding should go towards the needs of the school children & teachers, support staff. Tax breaks should not be considered until after we receive 100% full funding.
Swathi Hegde	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	Chesterfield kids deserve better education...
Venkata Gunturu	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-12	Kids needs this they are the future
Shreekant Dhopte	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	I support spending the funds received towards students education. I do not want a tax refund
Srujana Gavini	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	Our kids need better and permanent teachers
Joanne Blundell	Mantoloking, NJ	2018-07-12	These kids deserve to be treated with the same funding as others
Tom Flaherty	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	We need to invest the \$1.5M back into the school budget - the intended reason. If we don't and give the funds back as property tax relief it will be counter to the state of NJ reasons to give us the funds and will surely guarantee that we won't receive any additional increases. Then next year, let's reassess and determine at that time if property tax relief is possible.
Lori Craven	Roswell, GA	2018-07-12	I have friends in Chesterfield and moved away from their due to inadequate services at school for my children.
Lisa Tichenor	chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	Oh absolutely!! Instant ta relief is a fantasy. We need to deal with reality and use the money towards what we needed it for in the first place!
Ajeet Peraty	Edison, NJ	2018-07-12	Yes. this funding should definitely go to the improvement of the school and bringing the salaries of teachers competitive with the other school districts.
Kiran Kakumani	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	I am signing because I agree with what petition says
Rajeev Singh	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	Kids education is first priority, They are the future.
Bhaskar Patil	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	I agree with petition
Chad Wozniak	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	Let's take 2 years and get the school back up to snuff with the additional funding we are to receive, then we can revisit tax relief.
Jessica Wszolek	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	I'm signing because we fought for school funding not tax relief. These kids deserve every bit of this money!!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Erica Marett	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12	I'm signing because our kids and their education are the priority right now!
Gloria Kusnirik	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-12	GJ Kusnirik
Laurie Cassidy	Sayreville, NJ	2018-07-13	Improve curriculum, settle the teachers contract fairly, and keep class size small.All important things that will benefit the community much more than a small onetime tax break.
Hilda Kalisch	Ewing, NJ	2018-07-13	All children deserve a complete education, not just certain districts! Come on governor, want to give free college to illegals but our children suffer!
Michele Henry	US	2018-07-13	Underfunding some districts to the benefit of other districts has gone on too long. Chesterfield (along with many other underfunded districts) deserves their fair share.
Victoria Wolochow	Wadsworth, OH	2018-07-13	Our students, teachers and community deserve their fair share.
Laura Carrier Garofalo	Mount Laurel, NJ	2018-07-13	Chesterfield students deserve fair funding.
Pauline Clark	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13	I'm signing because we need to fix everything that was under funded first. Immediate tax breaks would only reverse what we fought so hard to get. Maybe in 3+ years we should see our taxes reduced.
Sara Rao	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-14	My first preference is for school.
LISA WILLOWS	Pleasantville, NJ	2018-07-16	They deserve a contract
Debra Wichtel	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-18	I believe funds should be used only for the academic benefit of the students. Teachers' contract must be settled if we expect any improvements to be implemented. Bike racks can come from fundraising. Academic coaching services need better definition if support for same is expected.

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Jackie Halaw	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Andre Halaw	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Ingrid Halaw	Crossville, TN	2018-07-12
Andrea Katz	Lancaster, PA	2018-07-12
meredith mccabe	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Karen Severe	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-12
Kim Collura	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Kelly D'Oria	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Erin Flaherty	New Castle, DE	2018-07-12
Lisa Kalm	District Heights, MD	2018-07-12
anna fe rebadavia	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Kristin Goldmacher	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
todd wszolek	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Nicole Sass	Bordentown, NJ	2018-07-12
Matthew Litt	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Jarrett Elsea	Cherry Hill, NJ	2018-07-12
renee farrar	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-12
Stacey Bernabe	Swedesboro, NJ	2018-07-12
Jon Katz	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Christopher Carlini	Columbia, MD	2018-07-12

Name	Location	Date
Mary Hing	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Peter Brittain	Halethorpe, MD	2018-07-12
Vandana Singh	Philadelphia, PA	2018-07-12
Padma Bethapudi	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Stephanie Rutkowski	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Jeffrey Severe	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Kelley Johnson	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Karthikeyan Prabhakaran	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-12
Tracy Mann	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-12
Ryan Mattek	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Rob Sheerr	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Shannon Coleman	Sewell, NJ	2018-07-12
Jonathan Tew	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Stacy Sarno	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Steven Jablonski	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Danielle Shugard	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Justin Storchlic	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Krishna Palakodeti	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Kelly Levinson	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Lakshmi Pendyam	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Madhava Indla	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Christy Green	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12

Name	Location	Date
Vamseedhar Kondraju	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Raj Nayak	Bangalore, India	2018-07-12
Amy Locascio	Philadelphia, PA	2018-07-12
Lalith Pasupuleti	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Swathi Hegde	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Christine Raba	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Jessica Anderson	Covington, LA	2018-07-12
Henry Krzewinski	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Angela Dito	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Eshwar Nagaraj Subramanya	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-12
Beth Reale	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Jennifer Thatcher	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Joseph Casto	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Raj M	New York, NY	2018-07-12
Renee Szkubiel	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Srinivasa Bhimireddy	Bordentown, NJ	2018-07-12
Venkata Gunturu	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-12
Rebecca Polito	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Pete Collura	Lancaster, PA	2018-07-12
Aisling O'Hara	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Brian Goldmacher	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Mike Farrar	Asheboro, NJ	2018-07-12

Name	Location	Date
Kerri Lynch	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Azmath Rehman	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Ramesh Babu Nelluri	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Joelle Mileski	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Colleen Morgan	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Hanumanth Damera	Media, NJ	2018-07-12
Tom Flaherty	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Amy Burns	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Cheryl White	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Mihaela Hogas	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-12
Shreekant Dhopte	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Srujana Gavini	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Joanne Blundell	Mantoloking, NJ	2018-07-12
Mike Jones	Beach Haven, NJ	2018-07-12
Dennis Rebadavia	Princeton, NJ	2018-07-12
Janice Armenante	Columbus, NJ	2018-07-12
Andrea Bucchere	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Srinivas Yadlapalli	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Lori Craven	Roswell, GA	2018-07-12
Lisa Tichenor	chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Elizabeth Rego	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-12
Ajeet Peraty	Mount Laurel, NJ	2018-07-12

Name	Location	Date
Kathleen Hutchison	Bordentown, NJ	2018-07-12
sheri Sheridan	Blackwood, NJ	2018-07-12
Dana Hanf	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Rajeev Singh	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Kiran Kakumani	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Satya Iruku	Chesterfield, NM	2018-07-12
Melinda Hanley	Burlington, NJ	2018-07-12
Kristen Purdy	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-12
Bhaskar Patil	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Cindy Winkowski	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Devkumar Hirian	Old forge, PA	2018-07-12
Todd Hutchison	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Lauren Santise	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Kristen Wade	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Roopa Bellur	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Chad Wozniak	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Rahul Kate	Pune, India	2018-07-12
Stephanie Santoro	Chicago, IL	2018-07-12
Pallavi Kate	Pune, India	2018-07-12
Sarah Casto	North Chicago, IL	2018-07-12
David Beans	Englishtown, NJ	2018-07-12
Alan Canny	Columbia, MD	2018-07-12

Name	Location	Date
Dionna Herring	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
SharanKumar Yelsangi	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Marlene Sanderfur	Knoxville, TN	2018-07-12
Joseph Casto. Sr.	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Sue Muzzillo	Hyattsville, MD	2018-07-12
Stacy McManus	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Virginia Bogart	Bordentown, NJ	2018-07-12
Molly Cannizzaro	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-12
Priya Menon	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Preethi Chembath	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Jessica Wszolek	Bordentown, NJ	2018-07-12
Henry Chou	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
shamita kumar	Franklin Park, NJ	2018-07-12
Kari Forwood	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Magdalena Lubov	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Kate Morrison	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Mary Nell Tabayoyong	Merchantville, NJ	2018-07-12
Erin Litt	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
JON INWOOD	Brooklyn, NY	2018-07-12
Erica Marett	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Paula Cranston	West Chester, PA	2018-07-12
Sujata Bhagavathula	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-12

Name	Location	Date
Ron Hing	Philadelphia, PA	2018-07-12
Justin Bilik	Columbia, MD	2018-07-12
Samantha Reina	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Melissa Chou	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Stephanie Hope	Bordentown, NJ	2018-07-12
Marsha Green	Robbinsville, NJ	2018-07-12
Joyce Beans	Roeboling, NJ	2018-07-12
Cassandra Greenberg	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Gloria Kusnirik	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-12
Emily Cranston	Philadelphia, PA	2018-07-12
Elizabeth Casto	Sewell, NJ	2018-07-12
Ana Teodorescu	Hamilton, NJ	2018-07-12
Robert Reina	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Amol Takate	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-12
Regina Bertothy	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Jennifer Hanley	Mantua, NJ	2018-07-12
Corissa Kanuck	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Lesley Molina	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-12
Debbie Petito	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-12
Mona Cartwright	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Brenda Stampfel	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Ray Lamboy	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12

Name	Location	Date
Priya Bala	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-12
Yasmin Maher	Brooklyn, NJ	2018-07-12
Ryan Nanola	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-12
Bhupender Kaur	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Amy Emanski	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-12
Erin Potter	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Jason Stampfel	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Kari Keintz	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Arvind Bellur	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Alex De La Torre	US	2018-07-12
Tracey Miller	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-12
Michael Reale	Chesterfield, VA	2018-07-12
Cindy McNally	Cherry Hill, NJ	2018-07-12
Laurie sloan	Vincentown, NJ	2018-07-12
Aiden Owens	US	2018-07-13
Bethann Molesky	Riverside, NJ	2018-07-13
Valerie Lydon	Brick, NJ	2018-07-13
Courtney Kovac	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-13
Harikrishna Esanaka	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-13
Allan Forsyth	Mount Holly, NJ	2018-07-13
Sangeetha Kesavan	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-13
Christine Forman	Wrightstown, NJ	2018-07-13

Name	Location	Date
Kim Barca	Robbinsville, NJ	2018-07-13
Danielle Christiansen	Burlington, NJ	2018-07-13
Betsy Farnham	Tabernacle, NJ	2018-07-13
Jillian Biddle	Freehold, NJ	2018-07-13
Leia DeLisa	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Chris Timmons	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-13
Natasia Shuford	Burlington, NJ	2018-07-13
Nicole Pucci	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-13
Joanna Jones	Fanwood, NJ	2018-07-13
Melissa Hillman	Halethorpe, MD	2018-07-13
Laura Bonilla	Pittsburgh, PA	2018-07-13
Jill Daly	Medford, NJ	2018-07-13
Alison Trahar	Australia	2018-07-13
Todd Friends	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-13
Angela Mangaro	US	2018-07-13
Dereth Ahmed	Philadelphia, PA	2018-07-13
Maria Maroldo- Prince	US	2018-07-13
Coty Calvanese	Burlington, NJ	2018-07-13
Maureen Mastropierro	Toms River, NJ	2018-07-13
Amber Fenimore	Burlington, NJ	2018-07-13
Kristen Prince	Jackson, NJ	2018-07-13
Poonam Lalwani	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-13

Name	Location	Date
Melissa Midora	Clementon, NJ	2018-07-13
Angela Abreu	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-13
Adam Levinson	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Albert Basden	US	2018-07-13
Leighann Platt	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Angel Quintano	US	2018-07-13
Bethann Lutz	Collingswood, NJ	2018-07-13
Marguerite Wilkie	Burlington, NJ	2018-07-13
Josh Watson	Chesterfield Township, NJ	2018-07-13
Alli Prince	Brick, NJ	2018-07-13
Meghann Clark	Delran, NJ	2018-07-13
Melissa Bender	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-13
Jennifer Molnar	US	2018-07-13
Laurie Cassidy	Sayreville, NJ	2018-07-13
Laura Flynn	Haddonfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Cheryl Dawson	Florence Township, NJ	2018-07-13
Robert Ortiz	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-13
Hayley Peoples	Greeneville, TN	2018-07-13
Laura Loninger	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-13
Alaina Dill	Trenton, NJ	2018-07-13
Tina Hartley	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Brianna Piontek	Halethorpe, MD	2018-07-13

Name	Location	Date
Munesh Velloor	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Joan Ferraro-Mueller	Freehold, NJ	2018-07-13
Hilda Kalisch	Ewing, NJ	2018-07-13
Satish Aithagani	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Michele Henry	US	2018-07-13
Linda Molesky	Phillipsburg, NJ	2018-07-13
Esteban Park	Jacksonville, FL	2018-07-13
Victoria Wolochow	Wadsworth, OH	2018-07-13
Michelle Marie	Mount Laurel, NJ	2018-07-13
Marisa Mirigliani	Wilmington, DE	2018-07-13
Uday Reddy	CHESTERFIELD, NJ	2018-07-13
Tracey Mendoza	Voorhees, NJ	2018-07-13
Laura Carrier Garofalo	Mount Laurel, NJ	2018-07-13
Jill Moraca	Princeton, NJ	2018-07-13
jayaprakash velecheti	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Katie Zuzzio	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Suzan Giordano	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Pat Kroupa	Medford, NJ	2018-07-13
Evan martin	US	2018-07-13
Terra Madden	Williamstown, NJ	2018-07-13
Clay Hall	US	2018-07-13
Megan Corcoran	District Heights, MD	2018-07-13

Name	Location	Date
Jennifer Hutchison	New Egypt, NJ	2018-07-13
Mary Kurfuss	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Ashley Williams	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
yvonne daniels	US	2018-07-13
Ammber Hoang	Duluth, GA	2018-07-13
Pauline Clark	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-13
Melissa Sakimura	Cape May, NJ	2018-07-13
Braylen Johnson	US	2018-07-13
Jay FRIENDS	Macedon, NY	2018-07-14
Youssef Kamal	US	2018-07-14
Sara Rao	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-14
Susan Becker	Bordentown, NJ	2018-07-14
Elaine Menon	Philadelphia, PA	2018-07-14
Ashlee Miller-Berry	US	2018-07-14
Mary Barbara Theokary	Philadelphia, PA	2018-07-14
Sam Carman	US	2018-07-14
Jesse Boncek	Plymouth, MA	2018-07-14
Samantha Legorreta	US	2018-07-14
Tara Masiejczyk	Blackwood, NJ	2018-07-14
Gail Mindlin	Newtown, PA	2018-07-14
Gabrielle Mcallister	US	2018-07-14
Jeanne Christiansen	Mount Holly, NJ	2018-07-14

Name	Location	Date
Sylvia Baskin	US	2018-07-14
Jessica Thompson	US	2018-07-14
Heather Rattmann	Ashburn, VA	2018-07-14
Shaylen Braide	US	2018-07-14
Ashia Ellison	US	2018-07-14
Frank Russano	Corolla, NC	2018-07-14
heather kane	New Haven, KY	2018-07-14
Jeremy Majeski	Miami, FL	2018-07-14
Claudia Herpich	Toms River, NJ	2018-07-15
Jan Alexander	Doylestown, PA	2018-07-15
Janice Miller	Charlotte, NC	2018-07-15
Karen Archer	Freehold, NJ	2018-07-15
Davender Singh	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-15
Mary Teresa Deloche	Mount Holly, NJ	2018-07-16
LISA WILLOWS	Pleasantville, NJ	2018-07-16
Stephanie Pizzillo	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-16
Leah Hegar	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-16
Wanda Ortiz	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-16
Daniel Schaffener	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-16
Aaron Kearns	Crosswicks, NJ	2018-07-17
Lynne Gadaleta	New Milford, NJ	2018-07-17
Chad Plotkin	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-17

Name	Location	Date
John & Michelle Raymond	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-17
Ashley McKiernan	Burlington, NJ	2018-07-18
Debra Wichtel	Chesterfield, NJ	2018-07-18
Thomas Lapp	US	2018-07-19
Dianne Gerrety	US	2018-07-21
Debbi Sturm	US	2018-07-21
Marle Weber	US	2018-07-21
Nancy Kilian	US	2018-07-22

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

From: Kelley Johnson <kelley.m.johnson77@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 23, 2018, 9:55 PM

Subject: Re: use of state funds - BOE to act for educational welfare of the child

To: Scott Heino <sheino@chesterfieldschool.com>

Cc: Jignesh Shah <jignesh_shah1@chesterfieldschool.com>, Christina Hoggan <christina_hoggan1@chesterfieldschool.com>, Terran Brown <TERRAN_brown1@chesterfieldschool.com>, Laura Bond <laura_bond1@chesterfieldschool.com>, Amy Jablonski <amy_jablonski1@chesterfieldschool.com>

Good evening. I am once again writing to express my opinion regarding the use of the state funding. I am disgusted and so, so disappointed that the residents of Chesterfield who fought so hard for additional state funding now have to fight our own board to use the money for our kids. Those of us fighting were not fighting for tax relief, we were fighting for more educational opportunities for our children. To take \$214,000, which could be used for so many things at the school, and use it for a measly \$111/household/year tax cut is a slap in the face to everyone who gave time, energy and tears to the funding efforts.

The facts facing our district are such that even with the additional funding, we are only funded at 56% of our fair funding amount. Our school has a lot of needs, whether or not they were in Mr. Heino's original budget proposal. Until (a) we are close to 80% of the state funding we should be receiving, (b) our teachers have a contract, (c) we have adequate or any STEM programs, and (d) we have sufficient technology, consisting of more than 1-1 tech for a few classes, I do not see how tax relief is at all in the education welfare of the children. I believe the Board has an ethical duty, and notwithstanding the guidance from the state on the use of additional funds permitting tax relief, the facts as they pertain to Chesterfield do not permit the Board to grant tax relief.

I also ask that the Board promptly settle the contract with the teachers' union. The updated budget proposal includes after school programs and family nights. How does the Board plan to provide these, notwithstanding the funding, if there is no contract with the teachers? The lack of the contract, not funding, prevented clubs from occurring last year. How does the Board expect to have a functioning school if we start another year without the contract in place? We cannot have another year of no bulletin boards, no clubs, limited teacher participation in events, and bad morale. Please work with the union to promptly finalize the contract. The teachers have the support of most of the public, and we are waiting for the Board to act.

Please do not vote to approve the budget on Wednesday. Please do promptly act to finalize the contract with the teachers, with enough time for teachers to enter the school year with good morale.

Please also include this in the official correspondence noted in the meeting agenda.

Regards,

Kelley

On Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 2:08 PM, Kelley Johnson <kelley.m.johnson77@gmail.com> wrote:

Scott,

Following up on our conversation, I believe the Board has a duty to make all decisions in terms of the "educational welfare of the children" in accordance with Chapter 12, Section 18A:12-24.1 of the NJ statutes and our BOE's Bylaw 9271 (part of the Code of Ethics). Additionally, per Section 18A:11-1 of the NJ statutes, the Board shall "perform all acts and do all things, consistent with law and the rules of the state board, necessary for the lawful and proper conduct, equipment and maintenance of the public schools of the district."

Unless the state's perimeters for the funds require a reduction in taxes, I don't see how our Board can argue that a decision to use any funds for tax relief this year meets these standards. When our school has been so underfunded for years, and we are spending much less per pupil than neighboring districts, it is hard for me to imagine how tax relief is a decision made in terms of the educational welfare of the children. It also seems to me that all state funds are needed for the proper conduct and maintenance of the school.

As I mentioned in our short conversation, I may mention this in public comments at tomorrow's meeting, depending on the budget presentation and the other public comments. I did not want to blind side anyone by mentioning ethical duties for the first time in a public meeting, which is why I called you. Accordingly, I am copying the board on this email so that they are aware of my thoughts.

I would also like to again reiterate that absent a state directive, tax relief seems to be an invitation to the state to discontinue any additional funding received this year in the next few years. We all know that this fight will continue for years as state budgets are negotiated and the now-overfunded districts fight to retain their overfunding in court and at the state house. It will be an uphill battle for Chesterfield to argue that we must retain our additional funding and receive more funding to get us closer to 100% when the funds we did receive were used to provide a relatively small amount of tax relief per household. This will be compared to overfunded districts who will be yelling about all the educational services they must cut because of their loss of state aid. I can envision the soundbites now, stating that a wealthy district like Chesterfield with a median income of over \$140,000/year/household (using Terran's numbers) used part of its new state funding to provide a \$250/household tax refund (assuming roughly 1/3 of the additional \$1.5 million in state funding is used for a refund, based on my rough calculation of 2000 households in Chesterfield) while Jersey City, with a median household income of \$60,703 (taken from the US Census website), was forced to raise its taxes because its aid was reallocated to Chesterfield. I suggest that the Board consult with its attorney and the state board of ed, and perhaps someone from Senator Sweeney's office, before making any decisions to use funds for tax relief.

Regards,

Kelley

July 23, 2018

Dear Mr. Heino, Mr. Shah, Dr. Brown, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Jablonski, Mrs. Hoggan,

A couple of notes regarding your proposed revised plan for the additional state aid:

First off, I see no necessity for a tax relief of \$111/household especially if it comes to cutting items from the budget that have proven benefits to the education of Chesterfield students. I do however have a serious issue with just spending the money anywhere just because we now have it. It seems that the Board of Education and the School Administrators have not considered a few items to include 1. this money is not guaranteed past this year 2. we are still not funded at 100% and 3. those districts that are now set to lose funding will be scrutinizing how we are spending what they believe is their money and will be gunning for us. If the residents of Chesterfield are questioning some of your line items in your proposal what do you think these districts will do with that info?

Please answer the following:

A. Are the proposed added staff 1-year contract positions tenured positions and or union positions with benefits? to include the school psychologist, the part time secretary, the library aid and the instructional coaches. Also, will the change from PT to FT G&T and music teacher now be benefit able positions?

B. Also, Mr. Heino stated in his original presentation that the instructional coaches are to be put in place to assist the Administrator of Curriculum not necessarily to coach our teachers, please clarify how they will be used currently and in the future.

C. Mr. Heino also stated that currently we use "consultants" to do the job that the instructional coaches will be doing. Could you elaborate on the cost to use consultants and the cost difference in paying a part time consultant or even fulltime consultant compared to hiring a fulltime instructional coach including benefit costs.

2. According to the March 2018 Budget Proposal power point presentation the following items were cut because of lack of funds: Special Education Teacher, PT World Language Teacher, District Employed Occupational Therapist, Curriculum resources, Social Studies Program, Special Education (Out of District Work Shops & supplies) Extra compensation and buildings & Grounds to include (HVAC, Electrical, Security, Geothermal Vault & Roofing). I'd like clarification on the following based on your new revised plan on the following items:

A. PT world language teacher-this was an item cut but not added back in when the new money came in- why? and is the PT world language teacher not a needed expense while we add a PT music teacher to run a "new" program to the district "Chorus" and changing the PT G&T teacher who serves less than 10% of the student population more in need than the PT World Language teacher? Please explain.

B. District Employed Occupational Therapist - another item that was cut but not added back in. Is the district no longer providing OT to students? Why is this item no longer a need?

C. Under Buildings and Grounds I do not see the following as cut: Bike Racks and bricks out front at \$35,000, Cafeteria table replacement at \$34,000 or Enno board replacement at \$88,000 but are now needed desperately? Did they just start falling apart? Are these items that could wait and use that money to possibly bring back board funded field trips which will directly affect the education of the students?

D. I'm struggling with these instructional coaches that were not in the budget in March but again are desperately needed now, Can the effect on staff be reached by using Professional Development workshops, webinars etc.? Can't we increase the professional development budget and not hire a permanent staff?

E. Those darn bricks and those bike racks: What alternate solutions were sought such as grants for the bike rack area, cost to seal bricks instead of pouring concrete etc.? \$35,000 for something that has no educational benefits? There's got to be a better and less expensive solution.

F. What items on this proposed budget have you looked to get covered by alternative funding sources such as grants or in the case of the building maintenance on a 7-year-old building going back to contractors and warranties or fixing and repairing instead of replacing?

G. On the items that you plan on spreading across multiple years, do you have a plan in place if we do not get funded the same next year or are we "stuck" in spending this money which will result in the tax payer making up for the shortfall of more cuts to educational programs?

H. Why are you proposing to now pay for the cost of Science Olympiad which benefits 20-22 kids but not proposing to cover the cost of field trips which effects all students? The Science Olympiad was a parent/CPEF supported grant in the past, can't it continue to be this way until we are fully funded and there can be some "real tax relief down the road?"

I apologize for the length and quantity of my questions however since the Board of Education does not allow for a back and forth question time during public comments of meeting I feel that this is the only way to get some answers. I am sure that I will need to come back for additional clarification once I receive your answers. I truly look forward to your responses to my above questions at tomorrow evening's meeting.

Additionally, I implore you all to review these items as well as the rest of your plan before giving a backhanded tax relief of \$111 which I question is just a political move. I also request that a school budget committee is created to include members of the school board and administration, community members and township committee members in hopes that some other sources of funding can be found (grants etc.) as well as provide the community with transparency. The Board of Education has stated many times that they are working closely with the Township Committee however that is not how it looks to the community. Your actions will speak louder than words.

I have included all members of the township committee on the email in hopes that they too are interested in assisting you in planning for the school budget.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Thier

July 24, 2018

Dear Board of Education members,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my family to express my utter disappointment in reading the budget proposal posted on the school's website. According to this proposal it would seem the Board of Education members are prioritizing placating the louder voices in town who are clamoring for a tax refund instead of working in the best interest of the school, the teachers, and the children of this community who have all been in a funding crisis for years. And so I ask, why did you run for Board of Education if you were more interested in placating township members than working in the best interest of the school?

Why are you of the opinion that a school that has been in a funding crisis for years, and is still only funded at 58% and is desperate need of catching up on all the updates, repairs, and academic programs that have had to be put on hold and which will cost above and beyond what 58% can cover, should instead spend the money of a partially funded school to placate loud voices with a menial tax refund?

Did you know that the cost of this absurd tax refund, \$214,429.00, is 13.9% of the total amount you are receiving in state funding? In making the outrageous choice to spend 13.9% of the monies received from the state on a frivolous \$111 tax refund, you are in fact dropping the percentage of funding for the school, teachers, and children significantly. A school that was just two months ago in a funding crisis is now facing their own Board of Education's plan to take money away from them. Money that the school desperately needs and that our teachers and children deserve.

Since you seem more interested in township issues than school issues, did you know that according to The National Bureau of Economic Research, "A \$1.00 increase in per pupil state aid increases aggregate per pupil housing values by about \$20.00, indicating that potential residents value education expenditure."* Meaning that if you took that meager \$111 you are planning on sending to my husband and I, and instead invested it back into the school, our home value would increase by approximately \$2200. Do you honestly think we want \$111 cash compared to an increase home value of \$2200? And \$214,429.00 invested in the school would equal an approximate total increase in home values for the entire town of \$4,288,580.00. But instead of an overall boost for our entire town's home values, you've chosen to distribute \$111.00 to each home as a bandaid for our high taxes. Our taxes are high, they are an issue, but to hand out a menial tax refund at the expense of the school and our home values seems outrageously shortsighted.

Why did you send celebratory and congratulatory emails and texts to me after the hard work and dedication of so many community members resulted in the school being funded at 58%, when your plan all along was to turn your back on that hard work and waste the money on a menial tax refund?

In conclusion, I do not expect any answers from you as I have received almost no communication from the Board of Education in the 14 years that I have lived in this town, however I would like my letter to become part of the public record.

Regards,
Meredith A. McCabe
94 Harness Way

* <http://www.nber.org/digest/jan03/w9054.html>

From: Karen Severe [mailto:karensevere@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 10:15 AM

To: Scott Heino; ppisano@chesterfieldschool.com; jignesh_shah1@chesterfieldschool.com; laura_bond1@chesterfieldschool.com; christina_hoggan1@chesterfieldschool.com; terran_brown1@chesterfieldschool.com; amy_jablonski1@chesterfieldschool.com

Subject: Budget 2018-2019 and Tax Relief

Dear Board of Education Members, Mr. Heino, Mr. Pisano:

While you often see me at the Board Meetings, I don't believe I have ever actually ever spoken during public comment. It is actually kind of crazy, I know, since I am very vocal within the community on initiatives that do not always impact the school. I do also want to point out, that I am also very vocal and outgoing on many things that are related to the school and have volunteered for more things that I actually care to admit. Time on all these initiatives is just that - - Time. Time taken away from my own kids for the betterment of all kids. Let me reiterate that, the betterment of ALL kids.

I have been a resident of Chesterfield for almost 11 years and my children have been attending Chesterfield Elementary for what will be our 7th year this fall. I've seen a lot of changes over those 7 years and they have not always been great. As a matter of fact, I feel as if the school makes less and less of an effort in just about everything. I've been witness to years of excuses as to why our school does without or does not do well with things. Those excuses originally started with things like "well we're in a new school" to "we just got too big too fast" to "we went from a school with 200 kids to now over 700" to "we just don't have the staff or space" to "we just don't have the money". It was excuse after excuse without any real change or impact. The school has been doing the bare minimum with more and more parents stepping up to take part in activities or events to make school a fun, hopeful, all inclusive place to learn.

I am a full time working mom, with three children that are very busy little people. Yet, when it came to the fight for fair funding, I, as a concerned community member, did what I could. I attended a meeting at the state house, called our legislators and governors, wrote letters, challenged the NJEA on a pretty regular basis via social media, had my children be part of a fair funding video, attended meetings and gatherings, letter writing campaigns, information sessions, and well you get the point. I did not do it for \$111. As a matter of fact, if you count up all the hours I probably put into the fair funding, let's just say 25 hours to be conservative and calculate that based on my hourly rate on what I would charge to provide my regulatory specialists advice to clients, I should receive back \$14,875.

I did not do what I did for \$111. I did not have my kids do what they did for \$111. It would not have been worth my time. I implore you all as Board Members, educators and as the business administrator to do your research on the impact of keeping that money in the SCHOOL and what it will do for our town and the kids. There is research* that evidences that just a \$1 increase, housing values go up by \$20. So, please keep the \$111 tax credit, as I would much rather have the \$2200 go back into the value of my home.

Now, I want to go back to the fact that I have lived here for 11 years because like many residents, we all have a tax story, that reads pretty much the same. When I first moved here, I think my taxes were around 8k. They went up to 10K. Did not care, as I come from a family of people who worked in professions such as police, fire and teachers and I can clearly see where the money was going. Taxes went up to 12K. Still not an issue. I was somewhat happy with the school, our police department is great, I still thought it was all worth it. When my oldest really started to struggle academically and there were times that I did not think my son was safe at school due to bullying and the school doing pretty much nothing about it, I started to think differently because I thought private school was going to have to be an option for us. Thinking to myself, why continue to pay such high taxes for an education that I thought was sub par at best. We decided to stick it out, bought a house on the other side of the school, and I was okay with my taxes being 17K a year and with that, became involved in the fight for fair funding. The only way to fix the tax issue was to fight for what was ours in the fair funding formula.

When we received word that CES was going to receive 58% of its funding. I was elated!

I thought as a school community, we could turn a corner and really start to think how we can make things better. Just a few things come to mind: a FAIR CONTRACT for our TEACHERS and STAFF, programs that would really allow the administration to develop better curriculum not only in our subjects (e.g. social studies, reading, etc.) but also for specials such as Technology and Art, Professional Development for our teachers and let's face it, you really need to work on team building. From my point of view somewhere along the line, a hostile working environment has been created. I want the school to use the money, use it wisely, because you are out of excuses. You have to make this work and work with what you have and please do not be so ignorant, as to just give it away. Either way, there will be no more excuses. NONE. You should have what you need to make this school a better learning environment, for everyone.

I want to be clear, I DO NOT WANT \$111 back in tax credit. Please allow yourselves as a Board and an Administration to understand where the parents are coming from. To understand that we did not do this for tax credits to be in the plan for year one. We should not be discussing tax credits until we are 100% FUNDED!

From an outsider looking in, I believe Mr. Shah may be influencing the Administration and other Board Members to thinking that the tax credit is the way to go because his long term goals includes a possible run with the township. Do not let his personal goal, or that of other board members, be used to shortchange the kids or the efforts of our community.

I also want to be clear that as a member of this community, I am prepared to take legal action against this board for violating your own bylaws (e.g. 9271 states, "I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of the children..."). Considering we are still underfunded, I do not believe you are within your legal rights to provide tax relief. Also, because what I feel is unjust and not within your rights as Board Members, I am looking into what the rights I, as a community member may have to remove you from being a Board Member, if any Board Members vote in favor of a budget that includes tax relief.

Finally, I would like to point out that I, as concerned member of this school community, do feel that Mr. Shah in particular is what I would refer to as anti-teacher and as a result, he is a main reason why the teachers and staff of CES do not have a current contract. I would make the recommendation that he should no longer be part of the committee that negotiates the contracts. Clearly there is a problem, I implore you as a Board to start thinking of ways in which it can be less hostile, more respectful for the betterment of everyone involved, including the KIDS!

Note: I expect this email to be considered correspondence and as such, a part of the public record and listed as correspondence in the agenda for the meeting set for tonight.

*The National Bureau of Economic Research

7/25/2018

Chesterfield Township Elementary School Mail - FW: Budget 2018-2019 and Tax Relief

Regards,
Karen Severe