

To the Board Members of The Woodbridge Board of Education,

As teachers at Beecher Road School, we are very busy right now supporting our students and their families while planning for distance learning. It was incredibly disheartening to learn the Woodbridge Board of Education is considering cutting the positions of two of our colleagues from full-time to .7 time. This reduction is in addition to the already decided upon reduction of the social worker position. As members of the Beecher Road staff and community, we wanted to convey our concerns if this reduction comes to fruition.

Reducing either position would have a negative impact on our students and our ability to work collaboratively with these colleagues. Specials Teachers not only teach students in their subject area, they also collaborate with classroom teachers to maximize student learning.

Beecher Road School is fortunate to have an amazing school library. Our collection of books and resources in the library can only be fully utilized by students and teachers with the assistance of our librarians. The budget cuts Beecher Road School endured last year have already had a negative impact on student use and enjoyment of the library. Last year's reduction in support staff, within the library, has prevented students from checking out the books they have selected during their library class. This is a direct result of the cuts made last year. There isn't adequate staff to check out the books while the primary library teacher is instructing students. Students are often disheartened by this. It is difficult for us as classroom teachers to see the disappointment on the faces of our students when they realize they cannot take the books with them they were so excited to select moments before. Additional reductions to the library staff will only serve to exacerbate the situation and place further stress on students and staff.

Our librarians teach students, help students find appropriate reading material, and support teachers. In order to effectively teach Reading and Writing Workshop, classroom teachers need mentor texts, read alouds, leveled books, and nonfiction collections. Our librarians assist all of us in finding these materials and coordinating them to maximize student learning.

The art teacher fills a variety of roles at Beecher. She teaches the children, supports individual student needs through open studio time, and acts as a museum curator by displaying creative student artwork throughout Beecher Road School. It is obvious to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors that Beecher Road School is a school that truly values the arts. The artwork displayed helps to further the sense of community, serves as a source of inspiration and pride, and helps to create an aesthetically pleasing environment. Reducing the art teacher position to .7 time will have a direct impact on student learning and the environment at Beecher Road School.

We realize that these are very difficult times for everyone. Please consider the negative impacts that reducing teacher positions would have on all of our students before you make these cuts.

Sincerely,

The First Grade Team

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