

April 17, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

The fourth-grade team would like to express their deep concern with regard to the budget decision that eliminates a part-time social worker at Beecher Road School.

It is our strong belief that this loss will have a significant impact on how we address the needs of our students, especially some of our most vulnerable.

The position of school social worker has traditionally provided social, emotional, and behavioral support for children at Beecher Road School. In recent years this support has become increasingly important as more and more of our students are dealing with serious social, emotional, and behavioral issues. The support of a social worker not only ensures the children with a safe space, a plan for working through issues, but also provides support to teachers who are in direct contact with those students. This is essential if we hope for these children to have a positive school experience.

Over the last several years the number of students who need social emotional support has climbed. Many of these students do not receive services through our school, yet still need support. The school social worker has been the one to care for these students who do not have an Individualized Education Plan, but who may be in need of help. For example, students going through a mental health crisis that needs to be immediately addressed: a divorce, a death in the family, or a traumatic event. These are all cases that would fall to our school social worker.

In light of this, most of us would argue that we were already in serious need of more hours for a social worker, not fewer due to the elimination of a position. We are concerned about who will take care of the emotional needs of these children if a school social worker is not available to them. We believe that keeping the social worker would be integral to Beecher Road School and implore you to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,
The Fourth Grade Team