

Having been a part of the SOT at my school for the last two years, it is painfully apparent that the district is unwilling to fulfill its commitment to students and the community. At the beginning of last year, as the SOT was being developed, it was interesting and inspiring to see the impact we could have as educators on the lives of our students. However, the tone has changed drastically and I feel that we are now in a battle that will affect the future. I have been an educator for 20 years and there have always been ebbs and flows of public opinion and the feeling of district support, but never have I ever felt as if my right to live and support myself was in direct conflict of whether or not my students were going to be allowed to have the basics they need for an education. At this time and place in history our students deal with issues in their lives that seem to be insurmountable. Our schools should be a place where they can learn to adapt successfully, where our children feel safe and comfortable to share what they are going through and where they can be inspired and motivated to develop into strong and independent thinkers who are going to take over the world. With the contention that has taken over the media, district communications, and our lives, it makes it more and more difficult to keep teachers who are positive role models and who love and care for our children. It is tragic that in the light of the new budget cuts; my school will have to eliminate several positions that are indispensable in the lives of my students. Those teachers who are in those positions are mentors, care givers, motivators and people who share their lives and knowledge for the betterment of our world. When they are gone, our class sizes will be larger and our attentions will be spread thin. Our students will suffer from the short-sided pettiness of the district and their inability to do their part in creating schools that function efficiently and with the best intentions for our students. I can only hope that our students will learn from the mistakes that are being made now and will be able to rectify these wrongs when they come into their own. Hopefully, those of us who are lucky enough to be left after these, and whatever cuts may come in the future, will be able to help our students to become better decision makers than those who are in power now.

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