

## Rosenson, Valerie

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**From:** John [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** Board of Representatives  
**Subject:** No more cuts to education budget

Dear Board of Representative Member,

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE EDUCATIONAL BUDGET ANY FURTHER! Rather consider a reformulation of the tax rate for large scale rental properties or develop a special tax as these communities are being built. The tax burden should not be carried by the residential tax payor but shifted toward these large scale rental communities or potentially the state of Connecticut. The city has offered tax incentives to developers as well as making adjustments to the amount of housing that can be developed in the Southend. The state has also offered tax incentives to lure and maintain corporations in Stamford. While all this growth is good for Stamford there is a price to paid in the cost of infrastructure and increased services.

"Build it and they will come" and they have. Our school enrollment has increased and will continue to increase as large scale housing goes up in springdale, the "hole in the ground" and potentially the old post office site and Presbyterian church properties. As the city updates the Masterplan careful consideration should be made to the development of housing and its relationship to the cost of infrastructure passed on to the residential taxpayers. Equally important is the expected generation of tax revenue from corporations/developers as Stamford grows. Not surprisingly, corporations and developers have not offered objections during the budgetary process. Development of these large scale properties should not be granted until an appropriate solution to fund schools is found that does not include sacrificing our children's education via inappropriate educational budget cuts.

As the state continues to offer incentives to corporations the same type of consideration should be extended to those municipalities expected to fund the necessary infrastructure and services to support them especially at a 20% tax loss at the municipal level with state incentives and tax abatements. There is an assumption by the state that these corporate tax incentives also bring residential tax payers to the city but as we know many choose to live in neighboring communities and we do not make up the 20% in taxes that the state assumes we do. Undeniably, with expanding preschool enrollment secondary to state initiatives, current overcrowding and the building of large scale rental properties there will be a need for a new school in Stamford.

Furthermore, there is the need to address to ECS funding by the state. While ECS was recently reformulated it has not provided the necessary funding to our school district. The state contributes \$600 per child and tax payors make up the difference of over \$16,000 per student. It is unfortunate that the state would approve a charter school at \$11,000 per student when our city cannot fully fund a proposed budget that includes monies for mental health to address recent teenage suicides and school overcrowding. Stamford seniors cannot afford tax increases either. Boards have had to make difficult decisions. Rather than fund Stamford students at a higher amount and potentially provide relief to city tax payors the state board of education chooses to potentially fund a charter school at \$11,000 per student. Times are lean and difficult decisions are being made everywhere except Hartford. Their spending needs to be addressed.

Questions that should be addressed by board members to the state is whether even more monies can be diverted to alliance districts like Stamford. Press state officials to pursue avenues of funding with senators or

congressmen to reallocate monies from "race to the top" to those districts with the most need where the tax burden on residents is unreasonable and does not allow for the necessary monies to fund educational budgets? Pursue the establishment of a local city sales tax (i.e., alcohol, cigarettes) or request that the state defer a percentage of state taxes directly into a capital fund for purchase of technologies and improvement/creation of new school buildings for local school districts (cost savings can be achieved through large scale purchasing/leasing).

Seek monies elsewhere and cease the current growth in Stamford until a solution to Stamford public schools overcrowding is appropriately addressed via state/federal funding. School funding should not depend on tax increases for struggling taxpayers or educational cuts that sacrifice the future of our children. Ultimately, today's students become tomorrow's taxpayers. It is the best investment that we can make! Please do not make any further cuts to Stamford's education budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Jeanette Bilicznianski

Sent from my iPad