

Hello,

My name is Emily Goyette and I am a mother in this town. It's time for me to start thinking about where my son will attend school, so I've been comparing WES to other schools in the area, and it's clear that WES has fallen short.

Academically, Windham is following what the other local schools are doing, but it doesn't offer nearly as much as the other schools do as far as electives to enrich education.

Carolyn talks of finding ways to trim down the budget. I suppose you can streamline an academic skeleton, but to me that's not the well rounded education that I want for my son. And relying on grants to pay for a piece of what these other schools offer as a regular line item makes me uneasy.

I want the very best for my son, as I'm sure all other mothers in this town do: I want an art program, taught by an educated art teacher who can teach composition, dimension & perception. I want a music program where he can learn all kinds of instruments and play in a school band if he wants. I want after school programs, a school nurse and guidance counselor. I think that team sports are very important to learn leadership, bonding and working together. Socially I think it's very important for kids to be surrounded by several kids their own age to develop properly this way and to be comfortable public speaking. Computers and technology are a huge part of today's learning, but Windham is not adopting this yet and I'm fearful that my child will be behind here. A hot lunch program would be wonderful.

I am self employed, as a lot of hard working Vermonters are. If our kids attend Windham school, it forces us parents to get out of work early to transport, taking away from earnings to get the same opportunities as others. It puts a lot of strain and investigating on parents to seek out and research avenues for achieving enrichment.

I understand that during these COVID times that some of these things are not available today, but in a couple of years when everyone has been vaccinated and we get back to a sense of normalcy - they will be. I don't want to miss out on these opportunities. I know that the teachers here are doing the very best they can with what they have to work with - but what they have to work with is not good enough.

I think we need to look at the future clearly. With the addition of some new students next year we will need to hire another teaching professional to the tune of \$95K. Today we are paying \$1.70 per pupil. After the hire we'll be paying \$2.78 per pupil. Stratton, a nearby choice town will be paying a projected \$1.77 per pupil - that's about **40% less!** Parents there are responsible for transportation and everything else is included.

Please vote for Bridget Corby for the school board! She is a fellow Windham mom who has experience on another successful school board. She truly has our children's best interests at heart. We need change.

Kind regards,
Emily Goyette
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