

SAY NO TO A CUT-RATE EDUCATION

These are the kind of comments that your neighbors delivered to the Board of Education at its budget deliberations:

- ◆ Class sizes and individualized attention matter.
- ◆ Students must be prepared to compete in a knowledge-based society.
- ◆ Families pay a premium for their homes in Cheshire because of the great public schools.

But the Board ignored your neighbors.

In a 4-to-3 vote, the Board slashed nearly one million dollars from Cheshire public schools.

Board members cut despite testimony that the current lean budget couldn't withstand a hit. Board members acted despite pleas from students who found it hurtful that elected representatives would cut corners on their future. Board members plowed ahead despite concerns that students on every academic level would see opportunities diminish.

The Town Council now holds your last hope to preserve high-quality education in Cheshire. We all need to stand up and urge the Town Council to not let this massive cut stand. Town residents need to take a closer look at what's in store if the Board of Education has its way. Parents need to examine the consequences that will befall the education system.

What are those consequences exactly? Even if you read the minutes of the Board meeting, the exact consequences still won't be clear. There was talk of the elimination of 16 teaching jobs. There was concern about an adequate special education account. There was speculation that our good schools would no longer be good.

What is the Board really cutting? There are many unknowns and even more uncertainties. Decisions shouldn't be made in the dark. The teachers of Cheshire are ready to shed light on what a nearly one million dollar cut could mean. We hope you'll listen. Let's pursue our shared goal of educational excellence together.

The Board of Education ignored your neighbors. Don't let the Town Council ignore them, too. There is strength in numbers. Join your neighbors alarmed about the massive cut to our schools.

