

September 24, 2009

RSD #8 Board of Education Members:

In response to the RSD#8 Board of Education's decision to reject the most recent proposal for the RSD #8 Non Certified contract, I would like to express my total disgust and distrust for the people making decisions for our town's dollars.

I have worked for the district for almost 20 years and my total pay increases over this time equals approximately \$12. Our contract pays the bare minimum to some of the hardest working and most dedicated people I know. Our secretaries, custodians, paraprofessionals and most especially our special education paraprofessionals give more than 100% effort every day.

We negotiated, in good faith, a contract that, by the year 2013, probably will give us a slight overall increase when you take the increase in insurance co-pays into consideration. The cost of arbitration, which the taxpayers will ultimately pay for, would certainly have taken care of any salary increase that might have been awarded.

Now the question is where will you find money in the budget to pay for this unanticipated arbitration cost? Will it come from accounts that provide services to students? Will it come from the much needed services that maintain the schools? I hope not!

I would like to thank the members of the board who supported this contract and I sincerely hope that you will rethink the decision that affects about 85 people and save the unnecessary expenses for arbitration.

Sincerely,



Maureen Brancato
Assistant Bookkeeper