

**Stafford Public Schools
Board of Education
May 24, 2010**

**STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:
Short-Sighted, Short-Term Cuts Put Stafford
Schools' Safety and Health at Risk**

Chairman Fontanella and Members of the Board of Education:

Good Evening. My name is Lou Harris, and I reside at 68 Furnace Drive in Stafford Springs. I also work as the head custodian at Stafford High School, and I am on the negotiating committee for CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, which represents the secretaries, custodians, paraeducators, cafeteria workers and other non-certified employees in Stafford Public Schools.

I am here tonight because we are concerned about a staff position that is being cut from the upcoming budget. We understand that a part-time staff custodian is going to be laid-off in the next school year.

We are concerned about maintaining safe and healthy schools – cutting a part-time custodial professional will save little money but create great risk.

We're presently at "Level C" according to the grade that Stafford is assigned for school cleanliness. Cutting staff will only drag down our standards.

Stafford deserves better than average. Don't make a short-sighted decision with long-term consequences. Don't cut this dedicated custodial staffer from Stafford.

Thank you for hearing my voice on this critical matter.