

June 29, 2010

Hebron Public Schools
Board of Education
580 Gilead Street
Hebron, CT 06248

RE: Hebron's Non-Certified Staff are the
Engine that Keeps Our Schools Running

My name is Gail Gonydyke, and I have worked as a non-certified employee for the Board of Education for 10 years. I am a Hebron Elementary School secretary, and the President of the Chapter in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 that includes Hebron Public Schools' non-certified support staff.

At your June 15 special meeting, school paraprofessionals, custodians, cafeteria workers, and secretarial staff asked the board to make better budget choices than cuts to front-line student education services. Parents and taxpayers joined us and urged you not to layoff non-certified education support staff.

Our residents understand that **Hebron schools' non-certified support staff provide services that directly impact the quality of the education experience for our children.**

In fact, we are often called the "engine that keeps Hebron's schools running."

We provide vital instructional support for teachers in the classroom, particularly with special needs children. We prepare healthy and nutritious meals so the kids can focus on their lessons. We keep the buildings and school grounds where students learn and play clean and safe. We are the direct link between parents and a child's teacher in our main offices, which is a little like navigating "Grand Central Station" at the beginning of the school day and at dismissal.

The bottom line is that **the services that your non-certified support staff provide make it possible for teachers to teach, students to learn, and parents to have peace of mind.**

That's why we appreciate the superintendent's efforts to redirect resources in order to retain most of the jobs of education support personnel cut in the budget package for next year.

During these tough economic times, we believe your priorities should be with direct education

services for the children in our schools. Cutting any of these non-certified positions risks "the engine breaking down."

These cuts will also hurt Hebron's local economy. Any layoffs of non-certified school employees, most of whom are area residents, will have a negative impact on the quality of life for the whole community.

That is why we urge you to **restore all the non-certified support staff positions eliminated in previous budget proposals**. We believe that would be the right choice for Hebron's future.

Gail Gonyke

Secretary, Hebron Elementary School
Chapter 124 President, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001

cc: Members, Executive Council, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001
Members, Hebron Board of Selectmen
Bill Rudis, Chair, Hebron Democratic Town Committee
Donna McCalla, Chair, Hebron Republican Town Committee

GG:dmo