

This is very difficult; I did hear the Chair state last week that this budget affects the children in our schools. It also greatly affects the workers in our schools and their children. I'm working hard at what I want to say within the parameters given. (And not just by Board direction)

I want to make a grand political statement because let's face it this is a political decision to underfund education and force boards to balance their budgets while not knowing what their "revenue stream" is. At the same time I am tasked with defending the loss of EA hours at high school. So excuse me if I ramble.

There is no doubt that Education is underfunded, there may be a little cream sticking to the glass but there is no fat, especially "in the trenches with the students"

In researching this issue I saw Meadowridge charges 17800\$ and still receives the per capita funding. This astonishes me. What could we do if public education was funded so well?

High school EAs and CCWs vary greatly in what they do and whom they work with. Some are pinched scratched and bitten, by children they care for some are sworn at and spat at by children whose anger won't let them learn. Some move from science to math and on to English with only a few minutes to make the transition, while listening to the student who is walking with them. Others take students to work experience or shopping for the school store (in their own vehicles). EA in high schools is not one-size fits all but one thing for sure we all need time to do our job. AND everyone knows the jobs not finished till the paper works done. What about Float books and schedule changes if you managed to write one.

The issue for EAs and CCWs in high school is the removal of the banked extra time and minutes before and after school; together this has wiped out any communication outside of instructional time, wiped out our ability to participate in meetings such as IEPs and behavior plans. It leaves no time for those emergency calls to the Library to hear the sad news and be given directions on what to share and not share. No time for OH&S, meetings, filling out forms making reports. No time for breakfast clubs or homework clubs. No prep time. No debrief time. No catch up time. It also ignores the whole concept of unpaid work, which has been acknowledged in the past by the employer and the union.

School is not just bell-to-bell. Education is not just "Pedagogy" it is interacting, it is relating it is communicating. Reducing service is a false economy. Bell to bell leaves no room for the early drop off and the late pick up. It will affect field trips, and swimming programs planning team building and moral. We have a difficult job, as it is this will make it much harder.

My Question with regards to the budget document: why do the figures on the graph on page 2 not agree with the figures on page 27, which reflect staffing ratios? Which graph is right? The graph indicating staffing ratios imply a higher enrollment than page 27.

How much tax is collected by council for "education" then sent to the Ministry of Education? No one talks about this.

What did this board do to lobby for more funds for Education in Maple Ridge?

And, finally, what do you suggest we do as a community to change this continued underfunding, as you are expecting a similar situation next year?