

From: "Robert Bonto" <rbonto@neo.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:42:37 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Comments, Board of Education
Subject: Comment on proposed levy

I am submitting my comments on your proposed 10+ mill levy.

You must be out of your total mind to be even considering placing a 10+ mill levy on the ballot when the country is in a pandemic. Every community is in economic disaster due to this pandemic. Unemployment is now at 14.7% and rising weekly. Over 1.1 million Ohio residents have filed for unemployment as of May 7th. How do you expect anyone to pay for this asinine levy when families are struggling to try and just put food on the table? We are in a recession!

My wife and I are senior citizens that are on a fixed pension and social security, we cannot afford to pay for this levy and we will not vote for any levy!!!! The board is the one that needs to swallow the bitter pill and start making the necessary cuts to live within your budget!

Robert & Loraine Bonto
1885 Krumroy Road
Akron, OH 44312

NATHAN STEM <sp_nathan.stem@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sat 5/16/2020 8:49 PM
Comments, Board of Education

I believe the fine arts are the best ways for kids in Springfield to express their talent and if that was gone it would affect the students of Springfield tremendously and I know this because half of my friends are in band and they love going to band everyday and they enjoy every second they are in the classroom so please don't get rid of the fine arts.

Nathan stem

2522 Connecticut Ct

JACQUELINE LE <sp_jacqueline.le@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sat 5/16/2020 10:21 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Hi I am Jacqueline Le, I am apart of the 2022 Class. First of I would like to say that when I was younger gym, music, and art had always made the school day more fun. I have also wanted to be apart of the marching band for as long as I could remember. I have been in marching band for 3 years now and it has been the best decision I have ever made. I have found amazing friends and family. I have found people who accept me for who I am and have made me feel no so alone during school. Band is like my safe space during school and if you guys cut it I won't have anything to look forward to when I go to school. I would feel so empty. Same goes for the people who love art and gym as much as I love band. It's how people express themselves and how they find their selves. Band has helped me gain confidence and love music much more. In the middle of Freshman year I moved to Green and I could've made the easy choice and just transferred to Green High School but I didn't because of the friends I've made in band and because of the program itself. I didn't want to leave it all behind. I didn't want to just give up like that. So, I fought for what I wanted and I opened enrolled back into Springfield because it was the right thing to

do. So, if you cut those programs people who love these programs will be devastated and we won't look forward to go to school anymore. Please consider this. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Le
3868 Troon Drive
Uniontown, OH 44685

KENDALL HARTMAN <sp_kendall.hartman@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sun 5/17/2020 1:59 AM
Comments, Board of Education

I don't know if anyone has put any thought into this, but choir and band are two things that help kids get through school that feel like they don't fit in anywhere else. I don't know how much the school pays for choir but I know that Mrs. Sabree pays for a lot of stuff and the students do fundraisers to pay for things. I also heard that the school barely pays for band, the band boosters do. The school also helped to pay for new band uniforms that haven't even been used yet, so that would be a waste of money. Also, what does PE cost? We use the same balls and equipment that's in the PE storage room that we've used for years. We won't cut out any of our sports for some reason but we easily get rid of other things that are important to students. Why? I know nothing about art so I can't comment on that. Choir and band are very important to a lot of students including me and my brother. This is going to make a lot of people upset. I'm not trying to be disrespectful either, I'm really not, but this is how I feel and considering these are open community comments that we are allowed to send in, I will be completely honest.

Name: Kendall Hartman
Address: 1414 Ottawa Avenue 44305 Akron Ohio

SAMANTHA NOUSSIAS <sp_samantha.noussias@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sun 5/17/2020 10:57 AM
Comments, Board of Education

Hello, my name is Samantha Noussias. I am a sophomore at Springfield Local schools, I have been open enrolling this year so I could stay at Springfield. I understand that this pandemic has affected our school greatly, I also know that we are going to have to cut down on some costs. If you do take our PE, arts, and music classes away it will ruin my highschool experiences as well as others, I will only be a junior next year but my best friend will be a senior. If you take away these subjects then so many people will be upset, I would be surprised if they didn't transfer to another school because that is honestly what I might do. If I don't have my electives, the classes that I actually get to enjoy, and interact with new people and friend then there is no point in dealing with the stress school causes me. For me, electives are a way to take a break from school while it still being beneficial to me graduating. I also don't understand how I would be able to graduate, I haven't gotten the required amount for graduation. If you do take these away from us I can promise you the happiness in students will go down tremendously while the stress and pressure will go up and that is something that no one wants. I understand that there are many factors going into this decision but it is not fair to your students and if this goes through, it will make your remaining students highschool experience miserable while also you would be getting backlash for that decision all year round. In all aspects, this is not a good decision except for the money aspect. I don't know how many students would stay but if they take that away from me then there is nothing left for me at Springfield, I want to not live in fear and regret. I know if I stayed at a school that didn't have anything to offer me emotionally then I wouldn't stay no matter how much I love the staff or how many friends I have there.

Sincerely,
Samantha Noussias (Sophomore)

3911 Grace Dr. Kent OH.

Mark Whitacre <markwhitacre0@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 11:35 AM
Comments, Board of Education

Mark Whitacre
174 Pocantico Ave
44312

My daughter Isola Whitacre has been a proud Springfield Spartan through open enrollment since kindergarten, as I was before her. She will be a 6th grader in the coming school year. I am asking that you please do not cancel PE, art or music. My girl has benefitted greatly from all of these programs. I will be forced to look elsewhere to continue her education without these enriching, and necessary staples of curriculum. What would be the reason for canceling? Further, as parents, what would be our reason for staying? My daughter has been at Schrop for 2 years already, and not one play, choir concert, art show, nothing! All after school programs, running club, yoga, jump rope...gone. That's bad enough, but to then go further and even discuss cancelling art, PE, and music? Just wrong.

Best,
Mark Whitacre

Ashley Stewart <ashley_stewart22@yahoo.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 11:50 AM
Comments, Board of Education

I feel like it's incredibly important to keep the art, music, and P.E program for the 2020/2021 school year, and future years to come.

Our kids are currently going through a huge change due to covid19.

For the end of the 2019/2020 school year they didn't get to complete that last big art project, put on the music program, or show their gym teacher that their training has paid off.

For many students being at school is a relief, or a distraction. Art, music, and P.E are great ways to show how creative these kids are, and give them the confidence that they might not find elsewhere.

Springfield has so many great teachers that the students look forward to seeing; we need these programs!

Ashley Stewart
2563 Pelton Ave.
Akron, OH
44314

Melissa Wisener <melissawisener32@yahoo.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 11:52 AM
Comments, Board of Education

My address is 3271 Jaber Dr, Akron 44312

Good morning! My name is Melissa Wisener and I have been informed this Tuesday their will be a meeting to discuss cuts within our Springfield schools. As a parent of children that attend the school, I do not agree with cuts being made to our PE, music or art programs. Our kids need these classes to break up their day. These kids need these classes to help them stay active and creative! I understand we are

going through some trying times and the cuts to the education doesn't help. But our children have been through a lot and when they return to school they will need these classes just as much as they need their general classes. The distant learning our kids are currently doing isn't teaching them anything. They are losing so much of what they learned and God for bid they have a learning disability because this way of learning is definitely not helping and these kids benefit from those other classes to give them a break and be creative. Our kids deserve a good education along with PE, music and art. There has be something we can do as a community to keep these cuts or other cuts from happening. We are Spartan strong!

Sincerely,
A concern parent!
Melissa Wisener

Wendi Memmer <mrswendim@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 12:24 PM
Comments, Board of Education

My name is Wendi Memmer & I reside at 544 Celia Ave, Akron, OH 44312. I do not support this decision as a parent & alumni of Springfield Local Schools. My oldest son is finishing 9th grade at Springfield High School. He has been in the arts program & thriving since kindergarten. It is 1 of the only subjects that has kept his interest through high school when so many student lose interest in school. Please reconsider doing away with the fine arts programs during remote learning. There are many student in these programs that use these as a creative outlet.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Wendi Memmer

Katlynn Knox <katlynn.knox1d@icloud.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 1:59 PM
Comments, Board of Education

I would also like to add that my online experience with choir and band have been amazing. I've become a better musician and singer due to the remote learning. My teachers have been able to contact us one on one and help greatly. They've given us pointers on what we need to work on, what we're doing great on, and have answered every single one of our questions. These arts classes have been what kept me motivated to do all my regular class work. If it wasn't for the fine arts I wouldn't be passing. Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 17, 2020, at 12:03 PM, Katlynn Knox <katlynn.knox1d@icloud.com> wrote:

My name is Katlynn Knox, and I am a 2020 graduate of Springfield. I am writing this email because I heard the unfortunate news that Springfield may be cutting all the arts programs. I am now an official graduate of Springfield as of last Friday and I think I would like to address my experiences with the arts programs throughout my time at Springfield. From 5th grade on, I was in band. Band had been one of the only things that I looked forward to when I came to school. When I entered the seventh grade and finally got up to the new school, I was in awe at how amazing the band was. I was so excited to grow and be a part of that. I would brag to all my family that that was going to be me one day. And it was. I was in the marching band from my eighth grade year, up until this last year, my senior year. My experience in band has been one of the ONLY good experiences I've had at Springfield.

In all honesty, band helped me with my mental health. It gave me something to work on and enjoy at the same time, unlike sitting in a class doing my work or listening to a lecture. I remember the first time I ever stepped onto that practice field by GetGo. The feeling was so surreal and I knew that this was going to be my thing. I had made so many new friends throughout the years I was in band, friends that I know will be in my lives forever. If it wasn't for band I probably would've never talked to these people. Band isn't the only arts program that has affected my life. Theater was amazing. As a freshman, I was nervous to start high school. All of my friends wanted to be in theater but I was too scared and my anxiety wouldn't let me. I had Ms. Ibos that year as my English teacher. I got to know her and I even asking about theater. She encouraged me to join and even said it would help with my anxiety. And she wasn't wrong. The following year, my sophomore year, I joined theater. I believe that if I wouldn't have joined theater, I wouldn't be anywhere near the person I am today. Because of theater, I learned how to break through my shell and get myself out there. I learned how to talk in front of people and to just be myself. Ms. Ibos was an amazing teacher and mentor and she encouraged everyone and made she we knew that we were doing great. If it wasn't for Ms. Ibos and her theater class, I wouldn't be the strong person I am today. But I'm not leaving it off with theater. This last year, my senior year, I decided to try out for Spartanaires. I hadn't been in choir for years, but I missed it, and my friends and Mrs. Sabree encouraged me to try out. So I did. And it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I made it in, and I was instantly welcomed by everyone, despite only just joining my senior year. Mrs. Sabree is one of the kindest people I have ever met. She instantly took me under her wing and made sure I knew what I was doing, and I was comfortable doing it. I had made so many friends in there, and we all laughed while also working hard trying to make sure we got the dance routines down for our concert. I'm not a very good dancer. But because of Spartanaires, I was able to step out of my comfort zone and do something big for myself. Spartanaires changed me for the better, along with every other fine arts program. It would be a huge mistake on the boards end to cut the arts programs. So many kids rely on these programs for even just a little bit of happiness in that school. Last year we had almost 130 kids in marching band. 130 kids who love playing an instrument or twirling a flag or baton. 130 kids who I got to know as best as I could as an officer in the band this past year. Each and every one of those kids would be devastated if their favorite program was cut. What other activities are they going to rely on to make them even a little happy in this school if they can't have band? Or choir? Or the musical? These things are so many kids passion. This could ruin many kids lives. If you're going to cut the arts, then be fair and cut the sports too. As a band kid, I sat in the stands at every single game cheering my football team on despite them loosing every single game except one, making it worse than the last season after winning what, only 2?As a band kid, I sat in the bleachers in the gym, cheering for my basketball team, as they only had won a few games this season. Sitting next to the disrespectful student section who would yell horrible things to either the opposing team or to us, the band. For the last 5 years, I marched through the halls of the high school every Friday for the football game to get everyone excited. We've gotten yelled at, nasty things said to or about us, and even food thrown at us. But not just by any random students. The football team whom we are here to support. I've sat silent watching our arts programs continuously get cut, while our sports programs got all the praise, despite not winning very often. Like I stated before, this will be a huge mistake, and if you're going to cut the arts programs, make it fair and cut stuff for the sports programs too. Arts may not be important to you, but they're important to hundreds of students throughout the school, and if they can't speak about this, then this email is me speaking for them as well. Please be smart about this decision and think about the students. They need the arts programs. My address is 2607 North Way, Akron OHIO 44312 if you need it. Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

KENDALL HARTMAN <sp_kendall.hartman@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Sun 5/17/2020 2:02 PM

Comments, Board of Education

I also forgot to mention something else, we need a PE credit to graduate whether it comes from PE class or a sport. Not everybody wants to do a sport or has the time to do it for that matter. Sports take up a lot of time and that doesn't work for everyone. They also cost money and not everyone has money to just spend. If I think of anything else I'll be sure to mention it. Once again, I'm not trying to be disrespectful, but it's the truth.

Name: Kendall Hartman

Address: 1414 Ottawa Avenue 44305

Sarah Duckworth <moobabyksa15@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 3:21 PMComments,

Board of Education

To whom it may concern,

Band always has and always will be a large part of the Springfield community. To me, band is a safe place, a second home, a second family. Band is something that allows people to express their feelings in a safe and healthy way. During my time in high school, I struggled a lot with making and maintaining friendships however through this program I had a few people that I knew I could always count on. During my senior year, I had been struggling with depression among other things, and I was able to use music as an outlet instead of harming myself or others. Band is the only thing that kept me safe.

Mr. Cole was always there if you needed to talk, and he still is years later. Mr. Cole and the band program are why I graduated from high school and the reason i am who i am today.

Before you decide weather or not to get rid of all fine arts, please take into consideration how it will affect the 150+ students involved. Many students may have family problems at home, and this is their only escape. Many students may have mild to severe depression, and music is the only thing left they have to hold on to. For many, music is the only thing that they have.

Best regards,

Sarah Duckworth (Cantor) class of 2015.

1412 Gulling Ave, Louisville, OH 44641

wendy barber <wendyabarber@att.net>

Sun 5/17/2020 3:24 PM

Comments, Board of Education

My name is Wendy Barber. I live at 1970 Canton Rd. I have a daughter (Danielle Barber) that will be a senior this up coming school year. She has played in the band since she was old enough to participate. My son played in the Springfield band (2014 alumni) as well.

It is absolutely heart breaking for me to think that this could be taken away. Springfield Band is something that the school is known for. These kids are not just in a band. They are in a family. These kids have been uprooted from school, forced to take online courses and have an enormous amount of unknowns going forward into the next school year. Is it wise to take more from them?? Is this corona related? Is it money? If I remember correctly there was a levy that just passed and some that passed last year as well in Springfield. These are critical classes for these kids. For some of them it's what gets them up and out the door to school. Also rumor last year of losing the district learning lab... these are critical for these kids. This impacts them and their future.

Please reconsider and realize that they have lost enough. My daughters senior year should not be remembered by everything she lost! These are NOT the memories I want for her. Art is needed! PE is needed! And the music program IS NEEDED!! My last complaint is the fact that this wasn't even brought to our attention. I didn't get a call or an email informing me of any of this. The community should have a say so in this. After all we are the ones paying taxes! I beg you again to reconsider and realize how badly this will hurt the kids! (And adults)

Thank you for reading

Wendy Barber

(330)208-5003

Sent from my iPhone

Sandra P <bluecoatsrib2014@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 3:59 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Cole, Ernest

My name is Sandra Peters I am really concerned about the possibility of the fine Arts programs being cancelled for this fall. There has to be other alternatives, why are the fine arts programs the first to be cut they are so important to kids for some it is what motivates them to get up for school and strive to better themselves. So many schools are doing virtual learning in music, art why can't springfield be one if those schools too? I understand the concern with covid19 but the students need this education and emotional support they get from the arts programs. As a former art and band major myself these programs were vital for me as a kid they helped me learn and grow so much , so many good experiences and I don't know what I would have done without them. I'm currently teaching in the marching band, and it is so rewarding helping and mentoring the kids, I worry about them not having these outlets to develop and grow and have that support. There are so many solutions that could be implemented for social distancing etc. I would be happy to volunteer my time to help organize and implement my ideas and that of others if that meant these programs could be active even virtually for the upcoming school year. Please consider the impact this would have on the kids especially since the top 25 in your class were fine arts students, I would hate for springfield to loose quality students to other area schools who are keeping these programs. I am sure \$ is a concern as well but other cuts could be made in other departments since school is not in session to help the financial burdens for the school. To quote Bill Clinton " If I hadn't been exposed to music as a child, I don't think I would have been president". Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further. Thank you for your time. Sandra (234-237-1183). 3466 prange drive, cuyahoga falls, Ohio 44223.

Pete Reimer <reimerpete@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 4:31 PM

Comments, Board of Education

To the members of the Springfield Board of Education,

My name is Pete Reimer. I am a parent of two students that could be going through your school district this coming year. This depends on a number of things. I would like to address one such thing right now.

My ex-wife and I deeply value a full educational experience that builds every facet of our childrens' being. Academics are only one part of my children's education. We are very concerned that music, especially Band, is on the chopping block for your consideration. Coming from Green Local School, our kids have grown up in the band program since 5th grade. It is their home. It is the group of kids they have come to feel connected to. They are not athletes. They are not the cheerleader type.

One will be a freshman and the other an eighth grader. You know that this is a very difficult time for kids their age anyway but the one thing getting them through is the friendships they have made through Band. Also to be honest, I have never seen them practice so much as they have during this COVID mess. I think it brings back the feelings of school and stability to their lives. Their mother seems to think it is a kind of therapy for them. What I know is, it makes them happy. As a "Band Guy" myself, I feel that this wholesale cut from your district to the Arts is greatly damaging to the very students who will be the most effected by this COVID situation.

If this doesn't get solved right we will have to look back to Green or Lake to send our kids to.

Thank you for your time.

Pete Reimer
7449 Seymour St NW
Massillon, OH, 44646

P.S. My ex lives in Green now but very probably will have to move and that's why we are dealing with this issue.

Corey Conant <coreyconant@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 5:01 PM Comments, Board of Education
Springfield School Board,

My name is Corey Conant, currently living at 2611 Pine Lake Trail, and it has come to my attention that there will be a vote Tuesday evening to discontinue the fine arts program in the Springfield School District and being an alumni of the school this is incredibly concerning to me. While in school I went through the music program and I can proudly say that the music program installed in me a work ethic that has carried me throughout my collegiate career and into my professional career. The leadership values that I have received from this program have helped me in both my extracurricular activities while in college leading me to being president of several organizations, as well as my professional career accepting a position in a leadership development program in a polymer engineering company. I am confident that I would not have been able to achieve any of this without the support and confidence I have gained from the band program.

The music program meant the world to me while I was in school, and has helped me throughout my life. Music gives the chance for one to come together and be part of a larger group, to understand how, no matter how small the part, each comes together to achieve something great.

For some, the music program is more than that. For some the music program is a chance to step away from what may be going on in life. It is an opportunity to drop your baggage at the door and enjoy the feeling of playing and working away at something to achieve something great and was incredibly therapeutic for me and I know many others. This is the one break that students get during the day to relax and have fun; positively helping their mental health which is so important in today's age.

I can still remember the countless hours I spend down in the band room practicing my senior year of high-school. It seems like I spent most of my day in there. Please try to remember what it is like to be 18. I was about to finish high-school, still looking at several different colleges, trying to figure out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and most importantly how I was going to even get there. But while I was in that room I could relax. While in that room I was able to just sit down, play, and think. While I was down there I was able to talk to my band teachers: while some students get close with certain teachers while they are in high-school I feel that band teachers are different. Students see music teachers for so long and students become so comfortable with them, band teachers wear many hats: they are our coaches, our instructors, and even sometimes our counselors.

In 5th grade, joining the band seemed like such a trivial decision. I thought I'll try it and if I don't like it I'll drop it. No harm no foul. But in hindsight it is obviously one of the most important decisions I have made in my life.

As an alumni of the school, I am asking you to please vote to keep the fine arts programs in the hope that some student coming into 5th grade could potentially make that same trivial decision I did and push them forward in their life.

Sorry for the long email, but thank you very much for your consideration,

Corey Conant
Springfield Alumnus
Business Leadership Development Program - Development Specialist
Americhem Inc.

Joe McAbee <drakeito9876@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 5:21 PM
Comments, Board of Education
amcoope2@yahoo.com;ksufan4life@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to my attention that the Springfield Local Schools administration had plans to bring a vote before the Board of Education this coming Tuesday regarding a suspension of the fine arts programs across the district. It is my understanding that these cuts are being proposed in response to the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19, and that the administration board feels that fine arts cannot be taught remotely. Allow me to nip that one in the bud before it has a chance to bloom.

Fine arts, including not only instrumental and vocal music classes, but also those involving creation through varied forms of other media, are in fact able to be taught remotely, and here are several reasons why:

According to the book, *Sounds and the City: Volume 2* by Spracklen, M. Selim Yavuz, "A quiet day by themselves, or in small groups, at home...is more productive (and preferable) (273). It has been confirmed through studies and research that students actually tend to retain what's accomplished in solitary practice more than in an ensemble environment. Not to discredit the importance of an ensemble whatsoever, because piecing individual parts together to form a song is very important for the development of a dynamic musical ability. Simply put, from a remote standpoint and allowing the students more time to practice and create by themselves will benefit the fine arts programs immensely, but they need their teachers and instructors to be there for help.

According to high school band director Ernie Cole, the students have actually gotten more one-on-one conference with their instructors during this time than they would have in an ensemble setting, which allows every student the opportunity to best themselves in terms of taking their skills to the next level. Removing their support net at a critical time like this could pose serious risks to their development as young musicians and artists, in that they could fall into some less-than-ideal habits that are strongly discouraged as a part of their craft, and would have no idea that they were following the wrong path until it was too late.

I have worked personally with these students in recent years as a supplementary low brass instructor for the SHS Band, funded by the band boosters. I've closely interacted with them and their families, and these programs serve as long-standing tradition to some, and an only means of expression for others. Many students of mine are actually only motivated to come to school and/or complete their schoolwork because of their involvement with the band program. For most students who take part in these extracurriculars, music is a way of life. And to take that away from them would not only be doing them a disservice, but a disservice to your alumni community as well.

On the matter of the alumni, I myself am an alumnus of Springfield High School, graduating from the Class of 2015. I grew up in Springfield from the time I was a year old, all the way up until my Junior year of high school, when my family faced foreclosure and had to move to a neighboring district. I loved the music community at Springfield so much that I personally made a case for open enrollment for the last

two years of my high school career so that I could proudly call myself of graduate of Springfield High School. Since then, my involvement in the Springfield community has "never faltered," to quote to SHS Fight Song.

As a music education student at Kent State University, I made sure to take up observation hours at SHS to maintain a relationship with my band, as well as volunteering as a staff member for the 2015/2016 OMEA Solo & Ensemble event hosted by the school. Upon leaving that career field, I gained my Commercial Driver License and began driving "Big Red," the famous SHS Band Bus, as soon as I was old enough to be added to the insurance policy. And since the 2016 marching season, I've retained a seasonal employment within the SHS Band as a low brass instructor, and have personally hosted private lessons for a number of tubists and other low brass instrumentalists since that time. Had the fine arts program not existed at Springfield, I may have never found this passion of mine.

The passion has since grown into a semi-professional singing career. I have become an accomplished musician due to the overwhelmingly positive experience I had during my time at Springfield, with potential deals from Hopeless Records and Fueled By Entertainment/Atlantic Recordings in the next coming months. Again, having chosen this as my path in life would not have been possible without the care, patience, and incredible aptitude posed to me by the music department's staff at SHS.

The music department staff does not deserve to fall victim to such an abrupt and rash decision on the administration's part. **We are all in this together, especially now.** The fine arts programs at Springfield are currently almost entirely crowdfunded by the students, their parents, the community, the boosters, and the teachers themselves. There is no reason to cut these programs at this time, especially when the students are in such dire need of creative inspiration. Please, do not allow this vote to pass. For the sake of your students, both musically involved and not, these programs are extremely important.

According to the State of Ohio legislature, instrumental music, vocal music, trade preparation, and varied media art are all essential to a student's success. This is a message repeated constantly throughout our nation's history, despite constant attempts to defund and cancel fine arts programs across all districts when times get tough. Let this email serve as a reminder, from someone who both played tuba and football conjunctively, the music program in your district has made one of the biggest, if not the biggest, impacts on my life thus far, and I will never stop considering myself a part of the SHS Band Family. I am not the only one, and cutting the programs now will rob hundreds of your current students of the ability to say the same. It is my belief that instead of cutting funding for these students' way of life, that we should instead be focusing more resources back into the music department as a way to help continued successful execution of the remote learning systems mandated by the governor.

"The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of the nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose -- and is a test to the quality of a nation's civilization.

-- John F. Kennedy

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I can be contacted for additional discussion at the phone number and email address listed below.

Regards,
Joseph McAbee
534 Stanley Road 509 Fritsch Avenue
Akron, OH 44312 Akron, OH 44312
(330) 696-6521
jmcabee@kent.edu

DANIELLE BARBER <sp_danielle.barber@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Sun 5/17/2020 5:25 PM

Comments, Board of Education

To whom it concerns,

You can't do this! Fine arts is what makes Springfield great. Most of the students are in the fine arts programs! We need them to help express ourselves. Fine arts is who we are!

For me personally band is the best thing at the school. It has brought me closer to many people and has made lasting friendships and memories. We bring such joy to the community and to people around. You can't just cut it. I understand that the core curriculum is important but so is the arts. Many of the people in the fine arts are the smartest people in the building. This is an outrage to everyone.

Without the arts Springfield will probably lose students and funding. Without them, Springfield will be nothing.

The band was awarded best band in the land. And now it's just going to be gone? All the friendships that are yet to be made will never be. We won't have a safe space to be ourselves. We can't express ourselves and find our true selves. A lot of people want to go to college for the fine arts and now we won't be able to do what we truly want.

So please please please rethink this decision. Don't ruin my senior year more than it already will be due to circumstances with Covid-19

Thank you.

-Danielle Barber (class of 2021)
1970 canton rd

Mellon, Shelby <mellon.22@buckeyemail.osu.edu>

Sun 5/17/2020 5:52 PM

Comments, Board of Education

My name is Shelby Mellon (2618 Adams Street in Lakemore).

I graduated in 2017. The arts programs, Choir, Band, and Theatre were the highlight of my time at Springfield schools. It gave me a place to express myself, grow, and learn to be the best possible version of myself. I learned who I was through those programs, especially Band. The leadership experience in band is unparalleled through any other program, at least I know I never would've learned it anywhere else.

I graduated within the top 25 of my class, but my grades and my scores are not what got me to college. If you cut programs, the extracurriculars that matter the most, so many of the best students will get looked over in the process based on the simple fact that they will have a less rounded education. Is that what you want to happen? You will be denying the best opportunities to those kids with your own hands, kids that might very well want to come back here to our district and our area to better the community that could've gotten them to succeed in the first place. The newly elected Mayor of Lakemore is a success story that includes the arts program. He went to Harvard, worked in New York but he chose to come back here to the place that he loved as a choice. If he didn't have the arts programs, things likely would've turned out differently for him and the many great things he's done for this community will have been lost.

But not everyone goes to college, and that is important to consider as well. The point of an education is not to teach children facts and numbers and trivial pieces of information that they will forget in a blink of an eye, but to guide and mold students into being the best they can possibly be, to teach them the kids of lessons and ideas that we want them to carry on into their next phase, and that is what arts programs do. They don't just teach a person scales or notes or how to act, they provide them with the opportunity to create and present something to be proud of, which provides them with the skill of work ethic, and that you get out of something what you put into it. I did great in school, graduated with over a 4.0 but my best moments, my fondest moments, didn't happen in any classroom but inside that auditorium.

Don't you want to teach something to last a lifetime?

Get Outlook for iOS

Jayna Treen <jaynatreen@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 6:05 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Springfield Board of Education,

My name is Jayna Treen. I live at 1363 Beach Drive Ext, Akron, OH 44312.

I am highly concerned with the plan to cut all art, all music, and all physical education in the event of online return to school for 2020-2021, even temporarily. It puts our student population at a distinct disadvantage, stripping them of the courses that best help them process the information they learn in other classes, especially emotionally during these stressful times. Removing the opportunity to take art, music and physical education from our students is particularly damaging to students. Will delivery be different online? Of course, but the skills gained and relationships maintained are as just as important, if not more important than ever.

The arts and physical education can be taught online just as well as in person, even though delivery has to be done differently. The content is the same. Of course teachers are used to teaching in a group and in person. Students are also used to learning this way. It is what we have grown to expect and it is comfortable. However, the teachers of Springfield Local Schools are highly dedicated to switching gears and meeting the educational and emotional needs of students. Every teacher in the state was thrown into this, and did hard work to try to maintain during this crisis, with no warning and likely little direct training. Now they have time to reflect and re-tool for the fall. They deserve and desire to be in the online-classroom just as much as any other teacher in the district. They are here and they are passionate about teaching our children.

Due to temporary safety restrictions you can't have the final productions that make these programs visible. These curricula are NOT diminished in their importance, however, and must be maintained to the fullest online extent for all students. Online instruction provides flexibility for presenting content through a teacher-sourced videos, live stream conferences for large groups, small groups, and individuals. Demonstrate confidence in your highly competent arts teaching professionals by continuing their uninterrupted online courses.

To an outsider, the performance, project, and sporting event is what one has come to expect as an expression of the learning in the arts. There is so much more than the culmination event. The term "life long learner" should be kept in mind. A student can play a trumpet in their living room, paint in their back yard, work out for personal health benefits, all guided and taught proper technique by their teachers online. Valuable feedback, goal setting, pacing, technique and critique can and should still come from our teachers, not be left to chance. These skills have best practices, best taught by teachers. To cut these programs, cuts literally half of the educational opportunities for the students in our community, especially in elementary. Cutting or even pausing the programs puts all of the learning that much further behind and leaves our students with less or no engagement in these disciplines.

Understanding the funding cuts from the state, it is imperative we do all we can to guarantee our local tax dollars are APPLIED TO QUALITY EDUCATION FIRST. Supplemental contracts for "after school" activities, even those in the arts, are not essential in this crisis. Music, art and and physical education as part of the online school day are essential for our students. No cuts to supplementals have been projected to be made. Is this implying that even though the supplemental positions that are not part of the regular school day will be maintained while entire curricular departments k-12 will be cut? No child in Springfield schools would have art, music, or physical education at all? But money (@ \$500,000) will

be maintained as available for supplemental contracts for events that may or may not take place, and are only used to pay coaches who only work with a percentage of the older kids, mostly grades 7-12 who make it onto a team? As a tax payer I will not be in support of an education devoid of the arts for everyone if supplemental contract funds are not first applied to keeping a well rounded education for every student while online due to Covid-19. Supplemental contracts in a crisis are wants, not needs.

Online instruction is markedly different in the arts (including PE, when I say arts) but that does not mean they should be cut, even as a stop-gap. Teachers are finding new ways to address individual needs and get a different and better level of understanding in many cases because they aren't addressing many kids at once in the same room. Teachers are able to present lessons, give individual feedback privately while other students can keep working. Technology allows an unexpected bonus of communication not available in regular class, particularly with introverted or distracted students. When the teacher addresses one student it can mean embarrassment (even during praise) and downtime for everyone else which can distract others. Not online. Individuals can be heard/seen differently than in a group setting without "everyone else" in the class knowing their work or vulnerability. This brings a new level of understanding and willingness to participate without fear of peer judgement. While students and teachers are all missing the routine and positive social aspects of regular classroom, teachers are finding new-found benefits to online teaching in the arts and will reach students just as well as any other teacher.

Gutting these programs is a disservice to the Springfield Local School students who are eager to learn music and art and how to care for their bodies while stuck at home. Think of that. Springfield Local Schools will require all students to sit at their computers for up to 5 hours a day without any time spent being taught the physical skills of how to make art, make music, or move their bodies. Here is what that says to me, a property owner and voter:

Springfield Local Schools elementary students attend online school to do math and reading but no art, no music and no physical education. Springfield Local Schools does not teach students how to read music, sing songs, or play musical games that reinforce coordination, whole brain thinking, and lead to stronger reading and mathematical skills. Springfield Local Schools no longer has a band program or choir program for secondary students, eliminating deeper understanding of melodic and rhythmic relationships, independent part performance, emotional expression through music, and development of advanced musical literacy. Springfield Local Schools does not teach physical education to elementary students. We have eliminated courses that develop our students' gross motor skills, eye-hand coordination, flexibility, endurance, and no longer teaches the value of exercise on brain development and emotional well being of students. Springfield Local Schools does not teach physical education/health courses to developing adolescents including roles of hygiene, puberty, and healthy exercise that all lead to understanding the changes in their bodies and gaining the benefits of exercise for healthy stress reduction and longevity. Springfield Local Schools does not teach art to elementary students, which develops fine motor skills, emotional expression, communication skills and brings meaning to their lives. Springfield Local Schools does not educate secondary students in art, leaving them behind in advanced applications of mixed media, balance, perspective, and connecting art to real life applications such as design, fashion, print making, advertising, film, and ceramics.

What do you really want it to say after the words "Springfield Local Schools" when addressing this crisis?

Who teaches our students and what they teach will have a lasting impact on our children. Make it be the right statement and make it happen.

Respectfully,

—Jayna Treen

Homeowner, Springfield Local School District

Boni Akers <vma18@icloud.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 7:09 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Hi, my name is Boni Akers. My husband and I are both Springfield graduates and were very happy to have our 3 daughters be Spartans also. They are currently in 6th, 4th and 1st. I strongly believe that everything should be done that can be done before letting amazing teachers go and letting go of gym, music and art!!!! My kids love doing these things. It's their break in between learning. Every kid has something they love and for it to be taken away from them is horrible!!! Would hate for kids to become depressed or hate going to school because of it. Also the teachers have worked their butts off for all their students!! This whole remote learning has been something. From good days to bad. Computer glitches to can't type an answer. Kids worried that they are gonna get in trouble for it. But the teachers have been great about answering emails and doing zoom. But this is why I hope and pray that not only can we go back to school in the fall, because my kids are begging for that normalcy, routine. But that they can still benefit from gym, music and art. Thank you.

Boni Akers
2706 Pressler Rd
Akron, Ohio 44312

Sent from my iPhone

Sarah Atkinson <gracealy999@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 7:57 PM
Comments, Board of Education

I am a parent of a fifth grader and a tenth grader who both participate in the band and also a teacher . They are both keeping up with their band assignments remotely during this time . I beg of you to not cut the arts during this time ! My oldest has gained lifelong friends and a second family while in the marching band. She has gained leadership skills while also having a creative outlet ! My youngest is looking forward to all of the experiences that she sees her older sister have while in band . As a fellow teacher I realize the incredible hardships this virus has placed on educating our children . For many children the arts are an outlet that gets them to school or in this case up and participating online . Their lives and routines have been uprooted due to this virus. Please do not take yet another thing from their lives that they look forward and hold so dear . Thank you , Sarah Atkinson 1566 Sunnyside Ave Lakemore, Oh. 44250

Sent from my iPhone

Matt Thiel <mthiel@us-cargo.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 9:16 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;Comments, Board of Education

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Springfield School Board Members:

I recognize most of your names and have volunteered with many of you. Whether it was a Monday or Thursday at Spartan Bingo, a weekend of cleaning up a community park, or by generating maps to build a sensible, logistical approach to communicating to our fellow residents the need to either support an

upcoming levy or to petition their support for the construction of our new buildings. Some of you have a history here because you were either on the school board when our daughter was in school (2010 graduate) or were familiar names in the district. In short, most of you have been affiliated with the school district for many, many years.

As a district and community we have always seemed to work together to provide the best, well rounded education not only for the Springfield and Lakemore students but also for students who picked our district to "open enroll" in. What was it that was attractive to the transfer students? I would imagine a lot of it had to do with the arts. It is my understanding that many of the draws of our school district are being challenged and I am very concerned with that. We all know that it is our responsibility as a community to provide a learning environment where our children have the best opportunity to take advantage of an education that prepares them for either post high school education or for heading into the competitive job market. How do we do that? It's a mixture of discipline and choice. The "discipline" provided by us, the parents and district staff, to make sure our children go to school and participate. To take advantage of a "free" education that will prepare them for life after high school. The "choice" is provided by the school board to make sure that students of all interests are afforded the right to choose what interests them in school. Sure we have to be able to provide each student with the state mandated curriculum, but what is going to motivate many of our children to stay on course during their 12 years in our buildings? I know first hand that for many it is the arts. Many students are exposed to the structure of the arts and many are able to strive on those platforms where they may otherwise have struggled with academics.

I have volunteered many times at band camp and I was completely shocked at how hard each of those students worked to hit certain goals so that they could move on to the next stage. I have seen the support and mentoring from the juniors and seniors to make sure any new student was welcomed into the band. There were many late nights where the seniors would work tirelessly with younger students to help them achieve goals. This was a mutually beneficial experience. The seniors learned tolerance and inclusion while the younger students experienced mentorship and guidance from older students. Most of the students were on the band field before they took their first step in high school. Think back to when you took your first step into your high school. Were you afraid and worried of the unexpected? Fortunately for band students they had the opportunity to be in a supportive atmosphere (band camp) before they heard the first bell of high school. The idea that this aspect of our great school system may be eliminated angers me.

Our daughter strived in the district and ultimately graduated from medical school. Next year she will be the chief resident at Summa. No doubt that Springfield schools provided her the base needed not only to be accepted to West Virginia for Med School but also to graduate and be awarded her first choice during the match ceremony. Our district certainly provided the academic base for her to be accepted to a competitive medical college but it also provided her the understanding of what a community can provide for all. The most competitive graduate schools look for much more than GPAs. They look for community involvement and community support. We at Springfield have done this and hopefully will continue to. This is our obligation, duty, and wish.

I can't imagine the time and effort that each of you put into the district. I just know that we cannot afford to turn our backs on children who strive in the arts. They don't fit into the classroom, they don't fit into the gym room, but give them a band room or an art room and they fit in.

As school board members I hope each of you use your vast experience to challenge the recommendation to eliminate the arts, even if it is only during the remote learning situation that we are in. I have seen some of the videos of the band performing on a virtual platform and was very impressed with the participation and the end product. No doubt the virtual learning that the students are currently doing has it's challenges, but it sure seems like the band program has been able to adapt to the changes and the students are fully engaged. Can we as a school district do the same? Can we adapt? I know tough

decisions have to be made, but have all considerations been fully vetted out to? Have all departments been considered for cuts?

My wife and I have always supported our district. We voted for levies before our daughter was in school and we continue to do so 10 years after she graduated. I can tell you that if the arts' programs are eliminated I will not continue to support the board or any levies. I can also tell you that I am willing to pay more in taxes to save the arts and any other department that keeps our kids coming to school 180 days a year. Yes, I am but just one vote, but then I am one vote.

Please feel free to contact me at the below:

Matthew Thiel

2238 Saranac Court

Uniontown, Ohio

330-353-6299

Thank you for your time.

Tracy Frankowski <tracyfrankowski@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 9:35 PMComments,

Board of Education;Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

Members of Springfield Local School District Board of Education

David Hofer, Neal Hess, Mary Lou Dodson, Chad Lance, and Larry Petry

2410 Massillon Road

Akron, Ohio 44312

May 17, 2020

Dear Board Members,

I am saddened to hear of the recent proposal by Springfield's administration designed to address Governor DeWine's recent budget cuts that affect our school district. I completely understand the need for financial responsibility and finding a way to achieve the expected \$458,000 budget cuts. I've been involved with something similar at my employer, Akron Children's Hospital, which had to reduce its budget by \$40 million. Creativity has been what has allowed all of the hospital's employees to remain employed while still achieving the budget cuts. I am hopeful that the immense creativity I have seen in our school district as my 3 children have grown up and attended our schools their entire lives can be tapped to formulate alternate plans.

The proposed information that was shared with me included Springfield's administration recommending temporarily cutting ALL FINE ARTS PROGRAMS, primarily due to the thought that they cannot be taught remotely. I'm not sure who made the attempt at due diligence to verify that these classes cannot be taught remotely, but I can share that my son has been heavily involved in his remote band classes and is excited each day that he gets to participate. I'd like to illustrate for you the importance of fine arts education by sharing with you how the fine arts programs, specifically the band program, has positively

impacted 2 of my children's lives, and also share some quotes from graduating seniors that are included in memory books that the Band Boosters created.

My son, Andrew Frankowski, was the salutatorian for the class of 2019. He was also Vice President of the band. He started band in 5th grade, dropped it for a few years, then was convinced by his friends to join again as a sophomore. He is so glad that he did because he improved his socialization skills, learned to support other band members who are struggling, how to be an excellent role model, and how to lead students/musicians as they learn to synchronize movements and harmonize sounds, all for the good of the team, in this case referred to as "the band". This fine arts program rounded out his high school experience, and he would not be the outgoing person he is today without that experience. I can tell you he is now an engineering major at the University of Akron, and as a freshman there, he joined the University of Akron Marching Band, and loved the experience. Without that connection to such a supportive student community, the transition to college life would have been much more difficult for him.

The youngest of my three sons, Anthony Frankowski, will be a graduating senior next year, in 2021. He is on track to be valedictorian. His passion is music: listening, playing, composing, analyzing. He has told me many times on the days that he unfortunately does not have band (such as when his distance learning classes at the University of Akron interfere with the band schedule) that his day was ruined and incomplete because band was not part of it. He and I have talked about possible changes to his education during his senior year because of Covid-19. He understands that things need to change, and he is heartbroken that his beloved music will not be as much a part of his senior year as he was anticipating. He has been section leader of the trombones and is running for Vice President of the band now. He loves the jazz band, which is entirely volunteer students, and encourages his friends to be part of the experience because he enjoys it so much.

Anthony's passion for music is leading him to pursue music as a major in college, either for composition or education. If fine arts are cut for his senior year, it will make it very difficult for him to gain admission to the college of his choice due to the lack of musical education in his class schedule. I hope our school district is able to continue supporting Anthony, and other students wishing to grow a career in a fine art, by keeping the fine arts programs intact during this pandemic.

I truly believe had Anthony not been part of band, he would have lacked the motivation to achieve the academic success he's had in his traditional classes. I fear for other students who are now being put in a situation that their emotional and social support will be ripped from them. I suspect you will find an increased need for interventions with "troubled students" if the fine arts programs are withdrawn.

I again want to thank the Board of Education for purchasing the new marching band uniforms this year. I was at the Board Meeting when the vote was made and heard the wonderful words of support from several of you as you recounted your own experiences in the band and how important it was to your high school careers. I would like you all to remember that now as you consider any recommendations from the district's administrative leaders. Rather than cutting entire programs, there might be a way to reduce things equitably across all programs and curricula. Please also keep in mind what the Ohio Board of Education believes is important as we reopen our schools (taken from a draft document from the Ohio Board of Education): "Principles for what we need to do: ...Support literacy, content literacy and numeracy by providing intervention opportunities, and support students in their continuing pursuit of their passions and/or career potential (music, art, other electives, industry credentials, etc.)" The fine arts programs are social and emotional support for many students in our school system, and it would be a shame to lose the programs when the pandemic demands that we support our students in any way we can to help them through this frightening situation.

Below are quotes from Springfield High School students as seniors in our band program, sharing what band means to them, and offering words of support for any student in the lower grades wondering if they should continue band or not. Each year, memory books are created for band seniors; these quotes

are taken from those books. You will see in those words the immense pride, joy, and love these students hold for the band program. It is vital that it continues, even during this difficult time.

Thank you for your time addressing my concerns. I know you have our students' best interest in mind as you make your decisions.

Respectfully,

Tracy Frankowski, concerned parent and fine arts supporter
728 Gougler Road, Akron, Ohio 44319
tracyfrankowski@gmail.com
330-714-2814

Dr Diggins <drdiggins@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 10:03 PMComments,

Board of Education;Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

Dear members of the Springfield Board of Education,

My name is Anthony Frankowski, and my address is 728 Gougler Rd., Akron, OH 44319. I am a current student at Springfield High School and am a junior, soon to be senior, trombone player in the SHS band. Having recently been told about the potential cuts regarding our fine arts programs, I believe it is in all of our best interests that I comment on the situation.

To me, the arts are an important section of our school and the parts of greatest influence in the lives of my fellow students and me. Whether they realize it or not, students are exposed to the arts on an almost daily basis by listening to music and browsing social media. These parts of our lives are ones that cannot be understated as they are just as important as our math and literacy skills, perhaps even more so. The arts are what make students feel excited about going to school and are what offer new and interesting things for those students to learn about. The fact that the arts are at risk of being cut has greatly upset me due to the impact that they have had on my life, specifically the band program.

My experience with the arts programs has done great things for my well-being and intellectual ability. At this current point in time, to my own knowledge, I am on track to be the valedictorian for the class of 2021. I am certain that this is because of the role that the arts have had on my school experience and life as a whole. I work hard in every single one of my classes because I know that the period I spend in the band room is my reward. I actively strive for achievement because of that reward and what those in that class have taught me. I have learned self-discipline, organizational and time management skills, as well as how to interact in a group and be a proper leader because of this group. Taking a good look at the situation one would realize that many of our school's top students are a part of at least one of the fine arts programs at our school. The reasons for it are because of the major, positive impacts that these programs have on my fellow students and me, ranging from having something fun to do during the day to being able to work at something they truly love and express their emotions in a healthy way. Some of us may also take our artistic abilities into a professional field, such as myself. My plans after high school are to go to college to pursue a degree in either music education or music composition. During the 2020-2021 school year, I am planning to have marching band, symphonic band, wind ensemble, jazz band, pep band, music history, and music theory (an extremely important class for music majors) as a

part of my schedule. Cutting the arts programs can harm the efforts of those of us who plan to use those programs to help us get jobs and live our lives in the future.

During my time participating in remote learning, I have been able to stay interested in my school work because of the arts. Everyday, I wake up and do my morning routine before hopping on my computer and doing my schoolwork. I structure my workload in a way to where my arts classes are last to act as that reward at the end of the rest of my hard work. Doing my work in this manner helps motivate me to finish my assignments for other classes before taking in my last one of the day. I do learn quite a bit from having this class as a part of my schedule. I have learned new scales for myself to practice and warm-up with. I have learned how to use software that can help me with future, full-time jobs. I have learned how to push myself to do what I normally am not comfortable with. I have learned to harness my creativity to create and arrange music. All of this I learned during my time at home with remote learning.

This process of remote learning has not hindered our ability to partake in the arts and the removal of them would be a disservice to my fellow students and me. From my own personal experience, students of the arts have continued to excel in both their arts classes as well as their other classes. Whenever those students talk about their arts classes, I can see the pure excitement and joy that those classes bring them. Even for myself, I have noticed my lips curl into a smile simply from talking about band or being in the band room. **As the Ohio Board of Education has said, schools need to support the students' passions in combination with their literacy and numeracy.** Cutting the fine arts programs is detrimental to the school experience for my peers and me, and it can damage our performance in other classes. As stated previously, most of our district's top performing students are those which are directly involved with the fine arts programs. I would like to implore the Board of Education to think hard about the consequences of cutting these programs and how it could damage those students in the district both in the present as well as in the future.

"The man who disparages music as a luxury and non-essential is doing the nation an injury. Music now, more than ever before, is a national need."

~Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States

Andrew Frankowski <apf19@zips.uakron.edu>

Sun 5/17/2020 11:07 PMComments,

Board of EducationHofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

Andrew Frankowski

728 Gougler Road

Akron, OH 44319

Members of Springfield Local School District Board of Education

David Hofer

Neal Hess

Mary Lou Dodson

Chad Lance

Larry Petry

2410 Massillon Road

Akron, Ohio 44312

May 17, 2020

Dear Board Members,

In light of the recent news that the Springfield Administrators are looking towards the fine arts programs to achieve the necessary budget cuts, I would like to express how impactful the fine arts have been on my success. I was the class of 2019's salutatorian, you may remember my speech involved a Rubik's Cube. I felt it was vital in my speech to mention the amazing band program that I had become a part of throughout high school. I had started my band career in 5th grade at Schrop Intermediate School, though I didn't yet feel as passionate about it as I would in the coming years so I decided to leave the program to explore other passions. Over the next few years, I hadn't been able to find anything else that interested me. I wanted to find something to do that felt fulfilling. Towards the end of my freshman year, I decided to rejoin the band program. That moment was when I realized how important the fine arts are. I had always recognized the importance of all of the core subjects, and now my eyes had been opened to just how necessary it is to balance studying and creativity.

Once I joined the Spartan Marching Band it felt like I had a deep connection with everyone else in the band. I felt like I had an amazing group of people to work and grow with. After feeling the impact of everything the band has done for people and continues to do to this day, I wanted to give back and served as the band's Vice President in my senior year. Being in that position allowed me to cultivate my interpersonal skills more than any other opportunity in my life. I learned how to lead fairly, and provide support to anyone who needed it. I and many others worked hard to welcome younger members into the band family. Being able to interact with the younger classes is not something that gets to happen in any of the core subject classrooms. It is an important social dynamic that helps to ease the transition into high school, while also promoting pride from being a part of something greater than oneself.

Creating a warm, welcoming space is a necessary function that the band has provided for many people. The reality is that for many students high school is a miserable place. They may not be the best at schooling. They may not be popular or have many friends. Though they are required to show up every single day to a place where they don't feel comfortable, nor do they find it enjoyable. The band is a safe haven for these students. I know many students, past and present, who have said in one way or another, "Band is the only good part of my day,". Some of these students have troubled home lives, where the only place they can find solace is in the band room. The support that is given by the people involved in this program has made positive life-long impacts on students' lives.

Since graduating I have decided to continue my education at The University of Akron studying Mechanical Engineering. These next few years will be packed full of intense engineering classes but I am still making sure to fit marching band into my schedule. I wanted to continue the pride I felt in my high school band into a college band. So I joined the University of Akron's Marching Band, "Ohio's Pride". It is everything high school band was, and more. I doubt I would've joined had I not been able to participate in marching band in high school.

I and many others would be devastated to see the cutting of all fine arts programs in the Springfield community. The band has one of the largest groups of active Springfield Alumni (over 100 participants annually). All of which have personally felt the positive impacts of being in such an amazing group. I sincerely hope the students of the 2020-2021 school year won't be deprived of experiencing all of the amazing aspects of being in the Springfield Spartans Marching Band.

Respectfully,

Andrew Frankowski

apf19@zips.uakron.edu

Michelle Morrison <morrisonfamily6@att.net>

Mon 5/18/2020 10:07 AM Comments,

Board of Education

I beg you with tears streaming down my face! PLEASE DO NOT cut Music, Band, and PE! Kids need these activities, I have seen my own children only want to go to school because of band. Mr.Cole and Mrs.Fraley has made band a family atmosphere for these kids. If we can not have contact sports due to covid19 then why not cut those activities and coaches until things get back to normal? I will tell you why, sports and especially football has always come first and believe me these kids feel that. How heartbreaking for our kids! Our kids have had to deal with so much loss due to Covid19 please don't take more from them. Springfield district will surely see a huge decrease in students if this happens, many will open enroll into a school that offers the arts.

Please please please rethink these cuts!

Very concerned parent,

Michelle Morrison

1878 Toepfer Road

Akron Ohio 44312

Sent from my iPhone

Michelle

Anna Slaght <annatslaght@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 11:53 AM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;Comments, Board of Education

To the Springfield Board of Education,

It is with the utmost passion and enthusiasm that I write to join the efforts of countless others to save the fine art programs in the Springfield school district. It has been fifteen years since I graduated from SHS, but the impact that being a band member had on me will last a lifetime.

Music has always played a major role in my life, and in the lives of many others like me. I began playing piano in grade school and joined band in 7th grade. In high school, being a member of the SHS Marching Band provided me with countless experiences and friendships made that would have otherwise been impossible.

Not unlike myself, my family is incredibly motivated by the arts. Our lives would be drastically different without it. My husband owned a dinner theater for many years. Our daughter has been singing and participating in theater all of her life. Our youngest son loves all genres of music and learned how to play guitar and piano.

It is impossible to imagine school without fine arts given that there is endless research and data on the benefits of art education. Creativity promotes problem-solving and critical thinking. Group activities foster teamwork and teach children how to communicate effectively. Art leads to more well-rounded children and higher IQs in adulthood.

Music, art, dance, and theater are not a privilege but a part of humanity. Times are tough and budgets are tight, but eliminating access to the arts is not the answer. It is obvious by watching this [video](#) that the SHS Marching Band can overcome adversity and thrive, even in a virtual environment.

Sincerely,
Anna Slaght
2005 SHS Alumni
5788 Memory Drive
Akron, OH 44319
annatslaght@invent.org

MERRICK GLASS <sp_merrick.glass@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 12:59 PMComments, Board of Education

Hello, I am Merrick Glass, a junior this year at Springfield High School. I live at 1509 Pawnee Blvd, Akron, Ohio. I have heard a lot, and seen a lot about the rumors of a new cut to our fine arts, music, and physical education programs. Next year I will be a senior, and I feel that cutting any of these programs would do more damage than good. Our school won't be much of a school left with any of these programs gone. My class of 2021 has more than half of fine art students in the top 25. I am ranked 2nd as of now, and my sister was valedictorian of class 2015, both of us were inspired by the arts and took art classes, and now my little brother has been thrilled to be accepted into the marching band next year for the first time in his life.

The arts mean a great deal to me. When I was in Schrop, Jr. High, and the High School, art class was the one place I could go to for stress relief and inspiration to continue doing my best in all my other classes. I would walk into the classroom, and all my worries could be gone for that time period, and I could walk out of the classroom ready to tackle the rest of the day inside of feeling like I should give up. In this new remote learning, art has once again been the one class where I need not to worry because we were assigned art journals to think outside of the box and use whatever materials we had at the house to create a personal artwork. I'm not a band student, but I don't have a single friend who's not in the band,

and I've never seen them more passionate about anything else in their lives. That band is another family for them. I urge you to please not take away the arts or music because that's taking away a home for students like me.

In regards to P.E., I found my love for running by those classes, and the health classes that go along with them have helped me significantly become healthier. P.E. and health are essential motivators for students like me, and I have a very high concern for one teacher in particular because he is our High School health teacher, and I would directly be affected since he is also my cross country and track coach. During remote learning, Mr. Gorby has sent out running schedules to keep us on schedule for what we should be running to prepare for any possible season. Without a coach, we no longer have a team, and we are no longer able to receive scholarships from colleges for running. This will be my senior year, and I need him to help guide me on my training because he is the best we have ever had in Springfield. We wouldn't have had the progress we have had in running without him, such as breaking our school's 4x800 record time which I was a part of.

I hope you understand without any of these programs I do not believe I would be ranked 2nd in my class, and going for valedictorian because these programs have been my motivators to keep striving for the absolute best, even during quarantine. Sincerely, Merrick Glass.

Adrienne Snyder <adriannenichol@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 1:27 PM Comments, Board of Education

To help protect your privacy, some content in this message has been blocked. To re-enable the blocked features, click here.

To always show content from this sender, click here.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Adrienne Snyder. I am a Board Certified Art Therapist and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. I am also a parent of four children who attend Springfield Schools. I have been very pleased with the Springfield School District and appreciate the dedication shown by the teachers, principals and staff, the individualized curriculum that has met my children's learning levels, and the extracurricular offerings that have provided further enrichment.

I am concerned to hear that the fine arts instruction and physical education classes may not be offered next year due to the possibility that the students may need to engage in remote learning. Core education requirements, such as Language Arts, Math, History and Science are essential. However, the Ohio Board of Education states that they want to "remain committed to the vision laid out in Ohio's strategic plan, *Each Child, Our Future*, supportive of the Whole Child..."

While the core classes increase knowledge, the fine arts classes offer opportunities for emotional and cognitive development. The fine arts access areas of the brain that language cannot reach. Both aspects of learning are essential for holistic growth and the development of the Whole Child.

I am also concerned for the at-risk students in our district. The fine arts provide an emotional outlet, as well as a supportive community for those that have experienced trauma. The arts also offer catharsis for

all individuals. I am concerned that the mental health of many students may suffer if the arts are taken out of the curriculum.

I have witnessed my son develop confidence this past year through his involvement in the Springfield Band and the art classes he has taken. Prior to this, he lacked a sense of belonging with his fellow classmates. The connections he made in the Band and the development of his instrumental and fine art skills helped him "come out of his shell" and know more about who he is as a person.

Three of my children participate in the Band and take art classes. One of my children is currently enrolled in theater classes. Their fine arts classes have provided enjoyment and a break from not only their core required homework, but also from the stressors related to the COVID pandemic. Their fine arts teachers have offered enriching assignments that not only fine-tune my children's skills, but also give them the opportunity to visually and creatively connect with others.

I do not know all of the reasons why the fine arts and physical education may be removed from Springfield School's curriculum. I realize there is a bigger picture and that you, as a School Board member, have to make a hard decision at this time. This is new territory for everyone.

I encourage you to consider the importance of continuing to offer the fine arts in the Springfield School's curriculum. Knowledge is wonderful, but the creative application of knowledge is most beneficial. Our future needs creative thinkers who can solve problems. Look at where we are in life right now - we have the knowledge about this virus, but creative application is necessary to understand how to best apply that knowledge.

The fine arts fosters creative thinking and overall emotional wellness.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thanks for being a great school district!

Adrienne Snyder

3181 Angleterre Blvd.

Akron, OH 44312

Adrienne N. Snyder, MA, ATR-BC, LPCC

Board Certified Art Therapist & Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor

Independent Consultant

AdrienneNichol@gmail.com

Adrienne@LeavesOfTheTreeLLC.com

David Honeck <d.n.honeck@gmail.com>

on behalf of

David Honeck <dnhoneck@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 1:36 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;Comments, Board of Education

David, Neal, Mary Lou, Chad, Larry,

We have found ourselves in an extraordinary time over the last few months with many Americans losing their lives to SARS-CoV-2. This new disease which many frontline workers including myself as a nurse and my colleagues are trying our best to fight. Now, I find myself again at another turning point, defending something that as an adult I hold close to my heart. The fine arts are still to this day more applicable to my life than the other activities I participated in while attending Springfield High School.

As a Springfield High School graduate class of 2011, a multi-fine arts and multi-sport participant who went on to play collegiate baseball, I see daily what music and art therapy do on the front lines of this battle. Not only from a relaxation standpoint but from how patients, staff, and family perceive an event. Art can soothe an injured soul and is a vital resource I use often as an intensive care nurse.

The benefits of the fine arts extend well beyond therapeutic effects. The leadership opportunities and communication skills that I was provided with while participating in band and choir are still employed as I work at the bedside of some of the sickest patients in Columbus Ohio. To think that the opportunity to gain these vital communication and leadership skills would only be possible through athletics is deplorable.

The successes that I have experienced since graduating cannot solely be attributed to one aspect of my Springfield High School education however, the challenges I faced due to the well-rounded education I received turned me into an excellent bedside nurse. I would hate to think that another Springfield High School student would not have the same opportunity.

Sincerely,

David Honeck BSN, RN, CCRN

5316 Darlington Rd.

Apt. E

Columbus, Ohio

43220

Sent from my iPhone

Megan Halterman <megbee4@yahoo.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 2:40 PMComments, Board of Education

I am writing this email in the hope that you take the time to read every email that you receive and understand how important The Arts are to everyone. I graduated Springfield High School in 2004. I entered the music program for band when I was in fifth grade. I made 90% of my friends through band

and I am still friends with them to this day. I was a very shy child and band brought out in me so many great things, Mr Cole especially made his love of band an exciting and fun place to be for all of us. I learned and grew so much by being in band. I was taught responsibility for myself and for others by becoming a section leader. Going to band camp and being a part of a big group and understanding that a band is not a individual type sport, we all have to work together to make something great happen. I understand that the kids will not physically be in the classroom and be able to physically touch other children and or their teachers, but just from the last two months of my children doing virtual learning, taking away the online experience of being able to see their teachers and their friends/other students would leave them heartbroken. Everyone needs that interaction. Even if it is a temporary measure, the kids have to practice in order to still be able to play their instruments appropriately, they need their teachers to help them with that. There are a lot of parents of band and choir students that were never in choir or band themselves. They can't help them with this. I do not agree with Springfield Local Schools taking away the Arts. I have been a Springfield Township resident my entire life, 34 years. I hope you took the time to read this and understand how important The Arts are to myself and my family. Thank you!

Megan Halterman (Warnick)

2102 Lake Rd

Akron OH 44312

330-289-2747

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Helena Glass <helena_glass@yahoo.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 3:32 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;Comments, Board of Education

Dear Board Members of Springfield Local Schools,

It saddens us yet again to find out that Superintendent Chuck Sincere wants to try to push cutting curriculum classes/programs. The last time we heard of such behavior was when he wanted to dissolve the DL classes. It is also unfortunate that students, parents, and community members cannot rally together to face the superintendent and the board of education at this board meeting on 5-19-2020.

Cutting these programs will hinder the students attending your district.

Physical Education Classes:

Physical activity and cardio-respiratory fitness helps the brain develop. Exercise is linked to helping improve academic performance. Truly, structured physical productivity should be more than once a week in the school buildings. PE is part of No Child Left Behind with the curriculum having Ohio State Standards. Students spend at least eight hours of their day in the school setting for five days a week (give or take days off with a school calendar of 182 school days in Ohio). There should be a responsibility

of the school system to provide quality, structured physical activity. PE is about keeping kids active and teaching them the importance of being and staying active.

According to the CDC, the childhood rate of obesity has tripled in the past 30 years. PE gives students the opportunity to be physically active. Many students only get that chance to be physically active when it is time for PE class. Kids being physically active has been linked to better bone health, muscular fitness, and mental health. Physical activity promotes a healthy mind and healthy body. The Journal of Pediatrics has found that students with ADHD/ADD are able to focus on school tasks better after a single session of exercise.

Activities in PE instill values that students can carry with them outside of the classroom: maintaining a healthy mind/body, social skills, team building, developing/maintaining positive self-esteem/self-worth, and pride. Quality PE gives students the chance to work as a team, question actions by peers, assume leadership, and accept responsibility for one's own actions. Out of PE, students can develop a hobby/interest in sports. That then leads to another venue of opportunities and values.

Art/Music(Band) Classes:

Art and music are also part of No Child Left Behind with Ohio State Standards for each. These classes allow for a creative outlet for students. They build imagination, novelty, and nonlinear thinking. The Arts help with problem solving skills, memory, concentration, cultural connections, focus, discipline, social skills, and the development of positive self-esteem.

Research has connected learning music to improve verbal memory, second language pronunciation accuracy, reading ability, and executive functions. Art instruction has been linked to the development of motor skills, decision making, risk taking, and inventiveness. It is believed that by immersing students in arts education there is the ability for them to be drawn into complex and compound ventures that combine many subject matters. According to the Arts Education Partnership, students involved in the arts show increased achievement and proficiency in math, reading, and cognitive development (higher order thinking skills and problem solving).

The Arts are very important to the comprehensive educational program. They promote positive development in academic, social, and emotional realms. They are a positive influence on student behavior and school climate.

Our first daughter, Ashley Glass, graduated from Springfield in 2015 as valedictorian of her class. We did not have to face this situation with her. Now, our junior (soon to be a senior) Merrick Glass, who is striving to be valedictorian of her 2021 graduating class, and our 7th grader (soon to be an 8th grader) Xander Glass, who got accepted to be in marching band as an incoming 8th grader, are facing the loss of programs they love.

We know that Merrick will respond on her own.

Xander developed a love for the snare drum in 5th grade band. He kept with band knowing that all of his hard work will get him the chance to possibly join the Springfield Marching Band. Xander got the chance to join the 7th/8th grade jazz band. His goal for 8th grade jazz band was to learn the drum set. So, in order to allow for him to meet that goal, we bought him an electric drum set to practice. He was ecstatic

when he got his band letter in the mail just last week inviting him as an incoming 8th grader to join the marching band.

Xander was introduced to his desire for running cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track by his 5th grade PE teacher. The opportunities and training given to him built him up to become a junior high runner. With continued training, he strives to be a varsity runner when he enters into 9th grade.

Our son has had the experiences of PE and the Arts to help mold him into a student who is an academic achiever with athletic and percussion ability. He enjoys the group settings that each class creates for him so he can meet new people, make new friends, cooperatively work with others for a common goal, and continue to be physically and mentally healthy.

Ultimately, the bottom line is that the decision to get rid of PE and the Arts is going to hurt the students in this district.

We hope that such behavior is not the board's intent.

Respectfully,

Josh and Helena (Gardiner 1991 graduate) Glass

1509 Pawnee Blvd.

Judi Casher <judi23@yahoo.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 3:41 PMComments,

Board of Education

I've been a Springfield Township resident for over 30 years. I chose not to have children, so I've never had children attend Springfield Township schools, but I have supported and voted for every school levy that has been proposed in those 30 years. I feel very much like Michelle Obama in this quote:

"As I've said many times before, **arts education is not a luxury**, its a necessity. Its really the air many of these kids breathe. Its how we get kids excited about getting up and going to school in the morning. Its how we get them to take ownership of their future. And, most importantly, its how we get [them] to go to college."

I can tell you now, if you remove these programs from the school calendar, I'll find it very difficult to support any school levy that comes along in the future.

Please consider the good of the students, and do not pass this proposal.

Thank you

Judith Kimbrell

556 Fenn Rd.

Tallmadge OH 44278

Melissa Filing <mel.filing@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 4:09 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;

Comments, Board of Education

To whom it may concern:

I am a class of '97 alumni as well as a very concerned parent of 2 students at the Springfield JH/HS. This transition to home learning has been one of the most difficult schooling experiences we have had to navigate, as a school system, as parents, as students and as teachers. But together, as a community, we have succeeded. My kids are online every single day working from home alongside me.

The news of possibly losing the arts is devastating. As a parent, tax-payer and alumni, I do NOT support this option.

My daughter struggled in middle school to find a place where she fit in. Where she could be herself while also figuring out where this education path would lead her. Band became a place where she found a lot of different people with some common ground. Band is fun as well as structured. Band is a great place to put in effort and see results in a relatively short period of time. It's teamwork. It's family. Watching her become involved and get so excited about something made me want to do my part to help. I have been an active band booster member for 2 years and held an office for one. Band is sometimes the reason she wants to go to school. Music and all the arts work a different part of the brain than math, English and science that these kids need to be well-rounded upstanding students. I urge you to look at our top 25 2020 graduates. How many are involved in one or more of the arts?

They can and are still learning from these classes in a remote setting. The instructors are dedicated to their students. We have had multiple issues as we've adjusted and reached out. We've received one-on-one instruction when necessary. Questions/concerns have been addressed and answered quickly. The teachers have helped us not feel alone in this. Losing the social aspect of school has also had a negative impact on my children and band has found a way to bring them together through the virtual fight song (that was amazing to watch and brought tears to my eyes) as well as the senior band student tribute for graduation.

Springfield Band was voted #1 in Summit County by the Akron Beacon Journal. Springfield's band is the spirit of the community, it's not only important to these students, it is a staple to the district and it's been a foundational part of our community for more years than many of us have been around.

Please, think outside the box. Find another solution to the funding issue. For our student's sake.

Also, please consider what our country has turned to in this time of crisis. Artists from every genre are thinking outside the box. They are performing to raise money, to entertain, to support and to lift spirits. Our kids are our future, please don't rob them of the joy of the arts.

"The man who disparages music as a luxury and non-essential is doing the nation an injury. Music now, more than ever before, is a national need." – Woodrow Wilson

Thank you for taking the time to read this, we are all counting on you to do the right thing.

Melissa Filing
2870 Linwood Rd
Akron, OH 44312
330-571-2670

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Tasha Wood <twood0826@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 6:39 PM

Comments, Board of Education

My name is Tasha Wood formally Tasha Murdock 923 Mohawk Trail. I graduated Springfield HS in 2010. I now have 2 small children one who should be attending kindergarten this year. In my opinion if you cut out all the arts and gym classes ect. There is no point for me to send my child to a building for school, I would homeschool. These classes/activities teach students so much. Maybe not academically but i consider them very important. Please look into other options.

Thank you,

Tasha Wood

al_holmes <al_holmes@sbcglobal.net>

Mon 5/18/2020 6:55 PMComments, Board of Education

Dear Members of the Board and Administration:

Albert Einstein wrote, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

Everyone has their own genius. For many students they don't discover their genius by writing an essay, solving a complex math problem, memorizing the periodic table, or mastering a foreign language. Their brilliance shows in art class or music class, in pottery class or in band.

Forty-six years ago my husband and I moved to Springfield. We chose to raise our four children here. All four went to Springfield schools from

K - HS. All four took classes in art, music, or both. Three of the four were members of the marching band. We now have two grandsons who are also attending Springfield schools. Both of whom have taken art and music classes. One is currently in the marching band. I feel that these six people, throughout their lives, will benefit from the art and music programs they've participated in. They've gained skills and life lessons. They've learned the best way to prioritize and organize to complete projects. They realize that sometimes you have to think outside the box to be successful. They've acquired the ability to leave their

comfort zones and try something new and possibly frightening. They're all able to comfortably work with others on group projects. And they're all able to use art and music to de-stress and regroup when life gets a little too hectic.

Prior to my retirement I was fortunate to work, for over 20 years, in Springfield's special education classrooms. My students ranged in grade level from Pre-K through HS. I accompanied numerous students to art classes and music classes. I watched a student glue small colored scraps onto a piece of paper to make a mosaic work of art that was hung in the school hallway. No matter how many times a day we walked past her masterpiece we had to stop and look at it. She clapped and squealed with excitement each and every time! I went to music class with a student who is nonverbal and has hearing deficits. A drum was his favorite instrument. Unfortunately, drums weren't always available, but a xylophone was. Holding it up to his ear he was able to feel and hear the vibration. He was thrilled and so was I! One amazing outcome of those many weeks of xylophone sessions was that he was able to play a solo piece at the end of the year concert for the students' families. He smiled with accomplishment and his grandma cried with pride. These students and many more like them will probably never be top of their class in math or science or language arts. The majority of them will never speak a foreign language. Some of them will never speak at all. But, they were able to find their genius in art class and in music class.

The simple fact is that all of our kids deserve the opportunity to find their genius. We owe it to each and every one of them to let them shine and be successful in any way that we possibly can.

Please think long and hard about the decision you are about to make.

Thank you.

Alice Holmes

3114 Hayne Rd.

Akron, Ohio

Bobbie Hefner <rbcbhefner@yahoo.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 8:02 PM

Comments, Board of Education

sp-hofer@springfieldspartans.org;sp-dodson@springfieldspartans.org;sp-petry@springfieldspartans.org;
sp-hess@springfieldspartans.org;sp-lance@springfieldspartans.org

Springfield School Board:

I am writing to you as a Springfield alumni, as a parent of children who are alumni and as a resident of Springfield Township. I understand the decisions you are currently facing are extremely difficult but I ask the you seriously reconsider eliminating the fine arts programs if school resumes as remote learning in the fall. I know I do not need to write to you about how great the band and choir programs are at Springfield, you already know that.

I was in the band and was a majorette in high school. Some of my best memories and my best friendships, that I still have to this day, were made in the band. My son was in the band and he also has great memories and friendships that he would not have had otherwise. The beginning of my freshman year was made so much easier because I started high school having already met so many new people. As a parent, my mind was a little more at ease that my son was starting school with a group of people that he had already established a relationship with over the summer.

While my son was in school, I had the privilege to chaperone many band events, visit band camp and work with the students at various times. I honestly cannot explain to you the changes I saw in so many of the students. They found a home, a safe place, a place they could feel comfortable being themselves. For the first time, they belonged, they fit in! You could just see them relax, have fun and not feel judged for being who they were. A lot of the kids in the band would not have found the friendships and relationships they did if it weren't for the band. These friendships (with fellow students, parents and staff) carried them through high school and for some, life. Had it not been for the band, their high school years would have been so different.

I worry so much about the mental health of these students if these programs are eliminated. There are so many that without these programs, their worlds would be far different and that is what is bothering me the most about this situation.

While I understand these programs are not going to look the same this fall as they have in the past, I am worried about what eliminating the programs, even temporarily, will do to the success of the programs in the future. These programs are too important to so many of the students that you would be doing them a horrible injustice by eliminating them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bobbie Hefner

2184 Nolt Drive

Akron, OH 44312

(330) 780-5669

Kari Miller <klmmay98@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 8:26 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

Hello, this email is in reference to saving the Fine Arts programs at Springfield. My family feels very strongly in keeping these programs available for our children, for many reasons!

I am a Springfield graduate of 1993. I was actively involved in the band. For me being in the band was the most memorable and the highlight of my entire high school career. The level of excitement and camaraderie with my peers I experienced was second to none!

My daughter Ashlyn will be in 7th grade in the fall and has plans to take theater, band and art. And possibly be an art major in college. Art is an wonderful creative outlet for her. Children often have

difficulty in voicing their troubles and concerns and to be active and creative is mandatory in their lives as they develop.

In the fall my son will be a junior. He will be attending PLCC's ECHS program. Although he will not be at the high school he still planned to be an active member in the band as a percussionist. Being in the band these last 2 years has allowed him to step outside of his comfort zone. Dylan is introverted and can be shy. For him, the band has brought new friends in his life which was wonderful for him socially. Being a member of a group, he does not play sports, has also brought him confidence. This in my opinion is crucial in his adolescence. Being a band member and having phenomenal instructors that the students admire and trust can be a huge outlet and sense of security for them, especially during these current times. The band is so highly known in the area and the kids have such a wonderful time being part of this tight-knit group and it's very evident that the teachers honestly care for them and the children absolutely sense that also. In a world right now where children have very little outlets and/or fun activities to look forward to, they need these creative avenues!

And lastly, if these programs are cut, even in the district goes to remote learning, what would stop families from finding and enrolling their children in other districts that do offer these programs? Which could result in lower enrollment and/or funding for Springfield.

Springfield is a great district to be a part of and I have always taken pride that my children are receiving a great education because of all the opportunities and wide variety of classes they have to offer. It would be detrimental to the district to discontinue these programs even if we are only temporarily remote learning.

Please continue to give these students the opportunity to thrive and consider how this will affect them .

Thank you,

Kari Miller

2090 Bridger Rd.

Akron, OH 44312

Renee Garner <rk771@aol.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 8:31 PM

Comments, Board of Education

If Springfield takes away music, gym art and band the kids need those to move on to high school. Also they need sports , zones kids do get scholarships to help pay for college. The made it to state in track , indoor track and cross country. Springfield will lose kids to other schools and who would want to come as open enrollment if they take things away, they will be losing more money. Please don't let them take sports and leases away for the kids. If you have to make some cuts look at the ones making the big bucks and have pay to play. If parents and kids want to pay they will get the money . We had pay to play years ago and had teams. Renee Garner 2408 Greenland Ave uniontown oh 44685

Sent from my iPhone

rkg771@aol.com

Mon 5/18/2020 8:43 PMComments, Board of Education

-----Original Message-----

From: rkg771 <rkg771@aol.com>

To: comments <comments@springfield-spartans.org>

Sent: Mon, May 18, 2020 8:41 pm

Subject: Re: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mail Delivery System <noreply@cisco.com>

To: rkg771 <rkg771@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, May 18, 2020 8:34 pm

Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

The following message to <commets@springfieldspartans.org> was undeliverable.

The reason for the problem:

5.1.0 - Unknown address error 550-'No such user (commets@springfieldspartans.org)'

If springfield looses the classes and sports they will loose kids to other schools. Please do not let this happen .

Joe Baker

2408 Greenland Ave

Uniontown Ohio 44685

Jessee Hankins 590 Brewer Ave. Akron, OH 44305

May 18th, 2020

Mr. Chuck Sincere & Board of Education Springfield Local School District

2410 Massillon Road

Akron, OH 44312

Dear Mr. Sincere & the Board of Education,

As a 2010 graduate of Springfield Local Schools and current social studies educator, I find it disheartening that my alma mater is considering the elimination of fine arts programs throughout the entire district. The vision of the school district states, "Springfield Local Schools will recognize and promote the uniqueness of each individual as we increase his/her capacity to become an innovative, life-long learner." This vision cannot be achieved if fine arts programming is not included. Students cannot develop their unique abilities and passions if there are no opportunities given. The district **must** work to find a solution to maintain quality programs in the district, as such a move, even a temporary one, would have **permanent** impacts on the achievement of its students and the future revenue and enrollment of the district.

On the district's website, it is stated by your Director of Curriculum and Instruction, a former classroom teacher, "Our primary business is teaching and learning. We are committed to providing a climate and culture that promotes a successful learning experience for every student, every day." Eliminating all fine arts programming would not provide a successful learning experience for every student, every day. Research has shown that the enrichment of learning through fine arts, sports, and vocation increases school attendance, student mental health, and overall student achievement. Simply stated, students succeed more as "critical thinkers and ethical leaders", as included in the district's mission statement, if they are given the opportunity to grow their passions and unique abilities. As the district's state data reports that over 53% of the students are economically disadvantaged, it can also be assumed that these students will not be able to afford the ability to pay for private instruction in the fine arts since they may very well be making decisions about affording basic necessities. Why would the district actively penalize students even more?

These considerations by the district also bring into question of whether they are collaborative and supportive. The mission statement of the district specifically states that the district will work in collaboration with the families and community. Is this decision being considered in collaboration with the families and community of Springfield? The fine arts program has impacts that far surpass the school buildings. Springfield students can display their talents through parades, concerts, and showcases. This creates positive publicity for the district as well. Why would the district not want to continue supporting these endeavors? If the district moves forward with the elimination of fine arts programming, Mr. Sincere then should consider changing the welcome message on his webpage: "We offer comprehensive academic and career training programs, including opportunities for students to participate in the arts, athletics and co-curricular activities while offering a "family environment". I am not sure how the family environment would still be the same when so many student and staff connections are severed when the fine arts programs are eliminated.

In closing, I urge the district to reconsider its motion and to bring all school partners in to seek a solution that maintains all opportunities available to students. If the district is truly in the business of teaching and learning, I am confident that decisions can be made to ensure students are able to explore their passions

and abilities in all areas of fine arts, athletics, vocational education, and extracurricular activities. If the district was able to maintain these opportunities under fiscal emergency and the Great Recession, it can continue now.

Sincerely,

Jessee Hankins 2010 SHS Graduate

Ryan Wallis <ryan.wallis@yahoo.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 9:46 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;

Comments, Board of Education;

amcoope2@yahoo.com;ksufan4life@gmail.com

Hello,

My name is Ryan Wallis and I wanted to comment on the proposed reduction in force to the fine arts programs. As a 2006 Graduate of Springfield High School and still residing in the community I feel this impacts me personally as Fine Arts is why I am where I am today.

I was involved with music since grade school and developed a passion for instrumental music thanks to the programs offered by Springfield Schools. In high school the Band director became more than a teacher, a life coach as you will. He has cared more about the future of his students; just as a director wants to produce perfect musical pieces. Without being involved in the music program my path after high school wouldn't have allowed me to pursue college marching band and having that amazing college experience thanks to fine arts.

In college I majored in Physical Education to become a fine arts educator. I have had many influential educators to help lead me in this direction to become an awesome educator right here from Springfield Local Schools. They believed in me to become anything I set my mind to and even were there for me when I went to college to assist in things for me to obtain my degree.

Not to mention your district has an Ohio PE Elementary Teacher Of The Year (2017-18) which is a big deal. Look at all she has done for child development in a physical manner. She even started a running club to motivate passionate children to run, which can lead to them pursuing a track, cross country sport in the future.

Also let us not forget the creativity one can let go in during an art class. Pottery, abstract art, etc. are things I was never good at, but my art teachers never stifled my ability to create and explore these things. Those teachers are more than "specials" as people call them. They create a new mindset into the way you apply your learning into other subjects.

I still keep in touch with my fine arts families. I reach out to them if I need ideas for my lessons, or I ask to help out with band camp, as I want those students to have a wonderful experience with the arts I had. They may continue that path, or they may need it to help become more social. Band in particular, I witnessed non social kids come out of their anti social lives and change simply because of the arts. As a teacher of Physical Education, I see children learn new activities and try to replicate them outside of school.

Don't stifle these programs because of "budgets", but find other ways to cut that deficit like years before. Pay to play, cut sports like the universities are doing. The arts teach more than music, creativity, or physical movements. They teach discipline, motivation, integrity as well. We can find other ways to combat the deficit, but cutting one of the best possible programs for children is not the **right** way to do so.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wallis
Ryan & Autumn Wallis
3332 Sanitarium Rd.
Akron, Ohio, 44312

HALEY BEAVER <sp_haley.beaver@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sat 5/16/2020 8:21 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

if all of these things are cut, I believe sports should be cut too. Sports are an extra curricular that we "don't need" to have. I feel that looking on everything as a student, sports get all the special attention. band is one of the most loved things in our community (from my point of view.) I have heard from multiple adults that the marching band is the only thing they go to see at the football games. but more importantly, band makes people happy. art makes people happy too. many people are miserable at school and they don't enjoy it. after school activities, also known as extra curricular activities keep the students happy. some students won't do sports because of many different reasons; the student members, the environment, even the coaches. the students who don't do sports, participate in the other activities; such as marching band, spartanaires, art club, prism, theatre/the musical, all of it. all of these activities is what keeps the students going. I am in band and I have experienced this feeling too, band was the only thing I looked forward to and it was the only thing that kept me going through the day. if band gets taken away, along with these other activities, it will only have a negative effect on us. think about the positive financial effect about these, how much money do we profit from the musical, the football games (keep in mind half of the spectators come to see band, if not more than half) and the art shows and the solo and ensemble our school hosts. if we get rid of these extra curriculans, it would make many students mental health go downhill. and what else would we be making money off of ? if these extras do get cut, I believe sports should be cut too. we shouldn't favourite catagories, I believe it should be all of nothing, not one or all of the others.

AMANDA MCMULLEN <sp_amanda.mcmullen@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sat 5/16/2020 9:29 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

I am a graduating senior (2020). I have been apart of band since I was in 5th grade, apart of choir since 9th grade, and theater since 7th grade. I have always wnjoyed my time and I have made so many great friends through all of them. I joined art this year because of a college credit I needed. I have always wnjoyed making art on my own and the art class has helped my a lot even for just one year. I want to see the program grow for many years after I leave.

Sincerely,
Amanda McMullen

GABRIELLA FRANCO-RIDENOUR <sp_gabriella.franco-ridenour@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sat 5/16/2020 9:38 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Hey, my name is Gabriella Franco-Ridenour. I'm a freshman and have been a part of the band for 5 years and marching band for 2 years. Recently we had a band assignment to write a letter to the future fifth graders on why they should join band. While doing this assignment I was almost in tears thinking about all that band has given me. Band is what my life has revolved around for 5 years. Band is what I look forward to every Friday night and what gets me through every school week. I honestly can't imagine what my life would be like if I never had joined. All the band directors I have had throughout the years are the nicest, kindest, most caring people I have ever met. No one cares for their students more than them. They have been so helpful and kind to me and everyone in band. Unlike some of the coaches and teachers I have had, they focus on each individual player instead of just the best ones. They take the time to talk with everyone and make sure everyone is doing okay. They focus on each and every person and give them whatever they need. They are the people that brighten my day and check up on me all the time and I have never had a teacher or coach that has been that involved with each student. There hasn't been a single person that I have talked to that didn't like these band directors or didn't feel immediately welcomed by them.

Band means so much to me and it's what made me the person I am today. I have Alopecia which is a disease that causes your hair to fall out. I have always been so insecure about it and was bullied constantly about it, but band is the place that makes me feel safe. It's the place that made me forget about it and made me feel so confident in how I looked. When I joined, they never asked me why I didn't have hair or made jokes or anything. They welcomed me with open arms and made me feel loved. Band is my family and they are the realest friends I have ever had.

EMMA PETRONE <sp_emma.petrone@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Sat 5/16/2020 9:45 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

please don't cancel our music and art programs, choir class is my favorite part of my day!! i took two classes of it next year and my friends and i really looked forward to it!! :(

MARISA RILEY <sp_marisa.riley@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Sat 5/16/2020 10:17 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Hi, I'm a student from the high school. My name is Marisa Riley and I'll be in 12th grade next year. Although I may be a senior next year, I truly don't think these curriculums should be taken away from students. These classes are a way for students to express themselves and be capable of doing the things they enjoy. And taking it away is just cruel. You want students to feel comfortable and have fun during the school days. Not just come to school and do work that bores them. With these classes it's a way for students to explore their creativity and relax their mind for a class period. No reason should these classes be taken away from students!

Caden Arends <wolfchik40@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 12:07 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Hi, I am Caden Arends and I feel the arts need to stay in our school. Band has brought me together with so many amazing and supportive people I would have never tried talking to on my own, it taught me responsibility of my own work and doing it to the best I can. In choir I'm able to express myself truly around the teacher and with singing. I have had a rough time mentally and band and choir are always thr

classes i would go to and feel totally okay, i knew no one would judge me and i would learn amazing things. If the arts were cut i would honestly try to move schools, the arts is what makes the school day bearable from the rest of the day. I need choir and band in my life.

sarah shaffer <farmdays124@yahoo.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 12:40 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Keep the sports and band stuff!

Sent from my iPhone

Cindy Mellon <c68opal@hotmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 1:33 PM

Comments,
Board of Education

Cutting fine arts will be definitely be devastating to kids in our district I am not so familiar with the art side of things but with band music and theater if those are cut it will hurt many of our students, for a lot of them it is the only thing getting them thru school. It is the only hope they have, the only bright spot for their entire school life. And when this whole thing is over, we are going to need these kids ready to go. Just leave them all be

GABRIELLA FRANCO-RIDENOUR <sp_gabriella.franco-ridenour@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Sun 5/17/2020 1:38 PM

Comments, Board of Education

I know that you guys think we can't learn these things remotely, but I thought the same thing about math. I thought that I needed to be able to be in class to learn math, but once I started I realized I can learn a lot this way. And the same goes for band. Throughout this remote learning, I have gotten more constructive criticism than I have in the classroom and this might be the most some students have even practiced. During this time, I have learned how to control my breathing and I have learned a lot more about counting rhythms. I have a friend who before all this started couldn't count rhythms to save her life, but Mrs. Fraley has taught us it online and now she can do it perfectly. If you cut the band during this time, then no one is going to have the motivation to practice so when we do start back up again, we are going to sound bad because no one will have practiced. This would not be beneficial at all especially for our recent accomplishment of being named the best band in Summit County by the Akron Beacon Journal. I understand we need to find ways to save money, but this is not the way to do it.

On Sat, May 16, 2020 at 10:08 PM GABRIELLA FRANCO-RIDENOUR

<sp_gabriella.franco-ridenour@shs.springfieldspartans.org> wrote:

Hey, my name is Gabriella Franco-Ridenour and my address is 2639 Mayfair road. I'm a freshman and have been a part of the band for 5 years and marching band for 2 years. Recently we had a band assignment to write a letter to the future fifth graders on why they should join band. While doing this assignment I was almost in tears thinking about all that band has given me. Band is what my life has revolved around for 5 years. Band is what I look forward to every Friday night and what gets me through every school week. I honestly can't imagine what my life would be like if I never had joined. All the band directors I have had throughout the years are the nicest, kindest, most caring people I have ever met. No one cares for their students more than them. They have been so helpful and kind to me and everyone in band. Unlike some of the coaches and teachers I have had, they focus on each individual player instead of just the best ones. They take the time to talk with everyone and make sure everyone is doing okay. They focus on each and every person and give them whatever they need. They are the

people that brighten my day and check up on me all the time and I have never had a teacher or coach that has been that involved with each student. There hasn't been a single person that I have talked to that didn't like these band directors or didn't feel immediately welcomed by them.

Band means so much to me and it's what made me the person I am today. I have Alopecia which is a disease that causes your hair to fall out. I have always been so insecure about it and was bullied constantly about it, but band is the place that makes me feel safe. It's the place that made me forget about it and made me feel so confident in how I looked. When I joined, they never asked me why I didn't have hair or made jokes or anything. They welcomed me with open arms and made me feel loved. Band is my family and they are the realest friends I have ever had.

moobabyksa15 <moobabyksa15@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 1:45 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

To whom it may concern,

Band always has and always will be a large part of the Springfield community. To me, band is a safe place, a second home, a second family. Band is something that allows people to express their feelings in a safe and healthy way. During my time in high school, I struggled a lot with making and maintaining friendships however through this program I had a few people that I knew I could always count on. During my senior year, I had been struggling with depression among other things, and I was able to use music as an outlet instead of harming myself or others. Band is the only thing that kept me safe.

Mr. Cole was always there if you needed to talk, and he still is years later. Mr. Cole and the band program are why I graduated from high school and the reason i am who i am today.

Before you decide weather or not to get rid of all fine arts, please take into consideration how it will affect the 150+ students involved. Many students may have family problems at home, and this is their only escape. Many students may have mild to severe depression, and music is the only thing left they have to hold on to. For many, music is the only thing that they have.

Best regards,

Sarah Duckworth (Cantor) class of 2015.

Jessica Grable <jessgrable@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 1:49 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

Hello,

As a parent I am appalled that as an educational system you are even considering on what you are doing to these children. Taking away art, music, and gym. Children can use art to express themselves when they are happy and sad. Counselors use art therapy all the time. What would you possibly offer to these children instead? Don't you think you should try other forms of cuts to your budgets? Maybe a fundraiser for the school? You would be surprised how many people would come together to help our schools. If you do what you're planning on doing I will do everything in my power to find my child the proper education she deserves. If that means enrolling her into another school we will. I hope you consider to think of the children and not your bottom line.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqNn9qWoO1M&feature=emb_rel_end

Thank you for your time.
Kind regards,
Jessica Grable
Abigail Grable 3rd grade

Sarah Atkinson <gracealy999@gmail.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 1:55 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

I am a parent of a fifth grader and a tenth grader who both participate in the band and also a teacher . They are both keeping up with their band assignments remotely during this time . I beg of you to not cut the arts during this time ! My oldest has gained lifelong friends and a second family while in the marching band. She has gained leadership skills while also having a creative outlet ! My youngest is looking forward to all of the experiences that she sees her older sister have while in band . As a fellow teacher I realize the incredible hardships this virus has placed on educating our children . For many children the arts are an outlet that gets them to school or in this case up and participating online . Their lives and routines have been uprooted due to this virus. Please do not take yet another thing from their lives that they look forward and hold so dear . Thank you , Sarah Atkinson

Sent from my iPhone

Elizabeth Recob <erecob@kent.edu>
Sun 5/17/2020 2:24 PM
Comments,
Board of Education
Good afternoon,

My name is Elizabeth Recob and I am a 2007 graduate from Springfield High School and a current music professor at Kent State University.

I am emailing you to express my concern for the possibility of removal of the art programs, including music.

My interest in music started very early, but I cannot express enough how much it enhanced because of my music education at Springfield schools. I vividly remember all of my music teachers who had an impeccable influence on my music studies. Mr. Green from Roosevelt elementary gave me my first solo at school. Mrs. Biviano and Mr. Tittl introduced me to my love for the band. Miss Jenrette scouted me for choir after singing at a teacher's funeral. Mrs. Demarco casted me in my first and only high school musical. Last but not least, Mr. Cole introduced me to music history, and had a huge influence on me teaching music. In fact, I received my B.M. and M.A. at Kent State because of Mr. Cole speaking so highly of Kent. I still participate in the alumni band every year.

Forward to today, I am hearing that there may not be music and arts next year. I cannot tell you enough how huge of a mistake this will be. Sometimes music and arts is all that students have. There are scientific studies that show how music teaches discipline, improves math skills, and teaches students how to handle things under pressure. I understand that COVID-19 has a role in this decision. There are many better options than closing down the program. I can go into further options and ideas if you'd like.

Please think wisely about the upcoming decisions you will make, and how it's going to affect the future of the students and the arts.

Elizabeth R. Recob

--

Elizabeth R. Recob, M.A.
Kent State University
Department of Ethnomusicology
erecob@kent.edu

Patti Tanner <mamawl29@yahoo.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 2:25 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

To the Springfield school administrators and Springfield Board of Education:

Please do EVERYTHING in your power to avoid cutting band and the fine arts from our schools. Our children have already lost so much in the midst of this pandemic. This would be the last straw. My granddaughter, Emma and her friends have already lost this track season and there have been college coaches watching Emma with the possibility of scholarship offers. As if that wasn't enough, now looms the threat of no marching band season in the fall.

These kids pour their heart into learning the songs and the formations, working long hours in the hot sun to give us a band to be proud of as they represent our district. We go to every game to support the football team and the band. The atmosphere of immense pride that permeates the stadium during the halftime show is amazing! We are always one of the first to buy reserved tickets to Turkey Festival to cap off the marching season. Please do not take this away from our schools. Our community sorely needs this pride!

These are amazing kids but they are young and impressionable and we would hate to see them have further opportunities to get into trouble if these activities are taken from them.

The value of our homes is, in part, dependent on the quality of our schools. As homeowners, parents and grandparents of Springfield graduates and current Springfield students, we implore you to retain the music, other fine arts programs and all sports programs as they are.

Sincerely,

Norman and Patti Tanner

Sent from my iPhone

cheryl anderson <c_anderson1969@yahoo.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 3:49 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

May 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I have just learned of the potential cuts of all arts, musical, theatrical, and physical education curricula from the Springfield Local Schools. Frankly I am appalled that this would even be considered.

As a student at the Springfield Schools who sang in the choirs, I have joy in my life as a result. I sing in the church choir and remember many of the songs I learned while in high school and college. I also appreciate all the orchestral pieces and bands I hear at Blossom Music Center every year because of participating in music.

As a parent, both of my boys played in the band at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. Music gave them a reason to go to school and do all the required work just so they could participate in

band. I had strict requirements for participation which have put them in good stead for their lives. Music continues to be an integral part of their lives. They have learned how to play video games because they learned the rhythm of the game, the logic of flow, and the importance of seeing something through to fruition. Granted, they did not do this virtually, but their individual lessons were given in person. It was the personal contact that inspired them to continue. This also contributed to their good mental health. Students can, by virtual lessons, learn the basics of all arts from the teachers, AND from the other students in the virtual classroom, which is probably the greatest learning tool available.

As a teacher, I have supported the Springfield Schools by attending concerts, art shows, craft shows, and canvassed the community at times for new tax levies. Since I also live in the Springfield community, people were more likely to listen to what I had to say since they knew I had the best interests of the students in mind. I have supported EVERY school levy, never voting them down, and did my best to show my support through logical arguments with Springfield citizens.

So many students go on to study the Arts in college. We have been told how important it is for students to participate in sports so they can get scholarships. The same can be said for music. With the odds of becoming a professional sports participant being so low, I would venture to say that music, the theatrical arts, the fine arts, and physical education have more impact on the future lives of people than sports. If one were to be fair, equal cuts across the board would be more practical, although I would hate to see any teacher lose a job.

Virtual learning is a viable concern. Otherwise there would not be so many virtual schools or online programs for post-secondary degrees out there. One must have a more creative presentation, and design "assignments" which will develop the desired skills and increase student creativity and learning. Teachers can get back to teaching the "Basics" since they are related to all conceptual content. We as teachers have been charged with teaching all skills across the curriculum. The fine arts are part of that. While I was tutoring some students this Spring, teachers required visualization of student responses. That meant that they had to create their own artistic renderings or find pictorial representations online. I had to do this in nearly every college class I took online, especially for my Masters Degree in Education. Visualization is key to all thought processes and learning.

As a special education teacher, I had to find multiple ways to present information to my students based upon where they were in their learning and skill development. Pictures were critical, especially in mathematics. I learned how to draw these through all the arts classes I had over the years. I also learned to conceptualize through art and music. Also, let us remember that there is a bit of the theatrical in all teachers, which we learned from other teachers.

As a district, it would be in your best interest to explore other online schools to see how they have done the arts. It is a requirement for graduation, and no manufactured class to take the place of art should be acceptable. See how they do interventions for students as well. Teachers have class meetings and break-out sessions daily. Let's look at more updated models of education that are being used in the world.

Instead of looking at scaling back programs, let us look forward to the creative process virtually. Other districts are doing it. Springfield needs to become a leader in this endeavor, not a naysayer. I implore you to find another way to save your budget than to cut out a whole segment of developmentally appropriate and applicable skills for life. Students and their livelihood need to be our focus.

Change is inevitable. We must work to be sure that what is offered in the United States makes us competitive in the world economy. We are a technological society now. Let's explore other technology to ensure that we are the best at what is needed in the world.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Anderson

c_anderson1969@yahoo.com
330-256-5703 (cell)
330-794-9791 (home) messages only

Anamarie Brinkley <anamariebrinkley@yahoo.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 4:06 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

I am a Springfield alumni, resident, and employee. I am the very definition of a Springfield Spartan. This is an absolutely ridiculous idea. I was in band all 8 years when I was in school and it was an essential aspect of my school years. The fact that the administration did not ask a single employee what they could do to help or what our options were to make up these budget cuts before choosing the arts to cut is simply irresponsible.

It is ridiculous to believe that we will be able to pass a levy in this district when so many families will be upset by their students losing these opportunities. All this will do is make the community mad at the schools and then they will refuse to pass the levy for us.

THE TEACHERS GET THE LEVIES PASSED, NOT THE ADMINISTRATORS.

Thank you for your time and I sincerely hope you will think about this before you vote.

Anamarie (Brinkley) Porter

Kevin Gorby <kgorby2@icloud.com>
Sun 5/17/2020 4:56 PM
Comments,
Board of Education

Kevin Gorby
Akron Springfield
Kindergarten PE
Health
Cross Country/Indoor Track/Outdoor Track

Below is a video of one my Kindergarten students during the Corona Virus. My classes have been going great. Parent are taking their kids out and having a blast doing these activities. These are being taught online successfully. I have positive comments daily from the parents about the workouts. I truly hope that you look closely and realize that what I teach does affect out students greatly and is being taught to them though online learning.

<https://classroom.google.com/g/tg/NTczMjY1NzE2NjZa/OTY2MjYyMDU5NzRa?authuser=0#u=NDM1MjU3ODgxMzVa>

Sent from my iPad

BARBARA HOOVER <barbara.hoover@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Sun 5/17/2020 4:59 PM
Comments, Board of Education

My name is Barbara Hoover. Class of 2017. You can not get the fine Arts in Springfield schools. I was a member of the Springfield Spartan marching band for four years. They were my second family and if one of us fell we helped pick them back up. Being in the fine arts allows us to make friends and explore passions that we may have never new had existed. Its a great stress relief for us. It is somewhere that kids from different parts of lives and cliques can come and have something in common. So I ask that you just think about every possibility before you get rid of a big portion of a lot of kids lives and futures. If you have any questions, please call/text me at 330-812-0001.

Brenda Woitas <weldedrose@yahoo.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 5:18 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my discontent at the proposed cuts for art, music, and physical education classes that is to be discussed at the board meeting Tuesday.

My son is going into 8th grade. He has seen his 2 best friends already leave this school because of better sports and education opportunities at neighboring schools.

My daughter just graduated this year, she thrived in the offered arts and this was her "break" to be creative throughout the day.

Removing these programs will remove more children who bring good things to the district. We are one of them. We pay to go to every sports game our students join, so do our family members, we pay to attend the plays, we come to the art shows. What is left at this district for the thriving kids if you remove the electives?

Thank You, Brenda Woitas

Sent from my iPhone

kaseywassam1 <kaseywassam1@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 6:07 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

May 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to let you know what Springfield Band meant to me. I had a tough time making friends because of my disability. Springfield band gave me a chance to make new friends, and better friends of those I already had. Band was challenging as a freshman, but the band directors and students made it easier for me, and I WANTED to be good at it. Band was like home for me. I wanted to be part of something special in a unique way. I enjoyed school only because of band and the friends I made. I felt safe in band and could talk about things with my band directors. Music made me think about all kinds of things and what I wanted from life after I graduated. I joined the Stan Hywet community band and love it so much. It made me move on to inspire other people who are or were in band. This gives me a reason to go on, and to help other people. I would like to see all of the arts continue at Springfield so we can all be better people.

Kasey Wassam

Class of 2016

Kaseywassam1@gmail.com

P.S. I had some help from my mother editing this letter.

Tiffany Slaughter <tslaughter0201@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 7:08 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Announcing the proposed cuts was neglectful in all honesty. The parents are left with the unknown of the next school year. Everyone knows about the cut backs and it is an essential part of continuing the school districts. It would have been better to not include the parents opinions and voices In my opinion. The end result is the district head people making the final decision regardless of what the parents agree with.

Rather than saying we're looking into cutting these non essential classes you should have a concrete plan of action and be honest with parents now on what to expect with changes going to take place.

Cutting gym class makes complete sense on the grounds that kids will be in contact with each other.

Cutting recess is going to be the same issue. Kids touching and sneezing and coughing on equipment.

Kids playing tag or sports in general.

Children walking in the hallway in an orderly line, how is this going to maintain social distancing?

Might as well not have library time either. Multiple hands touching books and then being exchanged for new books. Everything will be contaminated.

All music/choir/ band classes need to be cancelled due to overcrowding and the contact with spit on and in instruments. Children singing puts other children at risk of potential spit flying from their mouths.

Art is fun to have but only if the children are spaced out and not sharing crayons/markers/scissors or what would be needed for that class.

Let's not forget about computer class or use of iPads or chrome books. Every time a child uses one it will need sanitized.

Nothing about the following school year to come is anything to be excited about. The kids will be overwhelmed and some will not be able to adjust to the drastic changes. School time will be more demanding to learn the materials without any breaks and not be a fun enjoyable part of the kids

Lives anymore. Making friendships are going to be strained and social development will take a dramatic hit.

Tiffany Crawford

330-283-6315

Karl Tittl <kftittl@hotmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 7:51 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Sunday, May 17th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

For those who do not know me, my name is Karl Tittl. I taught band (and a few other music subjects) for the Springfield Local Schools from the opening of school in 1975 until my retirement at the conclusion of the 2006-2007 school year. Shortly after, I subbed and still sub for Springfield Band, exclusively.

As I was listening to Governor DeWine earlier this month, it came as a shock when he stated that the state budget will have a \$775 million deficit when it was my understanding the state was 10 billion dollars in the black. It was not a surprise that education, including Springfield Schools, will be part of these cuts.

I thought that the schools would make these cuts across the board, so it was even bigger shock when I received a group text from Ernie Cole this morning stating that "this week, the administration is proposing to the Board of Education to completely eliminate all fine arts in the district if we remain on a remote learning model". He invited myself and others to a virtual meeting at 1:00 PM this afternoon.

At 12:45, I went on the Zoom website for the meeting. In attendance were current and past band students, parents and directors. Other faculty involved with the arts were also present. Mr. Cole thanked everyone for attending and summarized the situation at Springfield. Mrs. Fraley discussed how the band department was instituting virtual learning for instrumental music. As I listened to them, it became clear that there was a big upside with this format which cannot be achieved in a large group setting. Ashley and Ernie can fix incorrect rhythms, notes, tone, dynamics etc that will straighten an instrumentalists understanding of their instrument. The goal of any subject was to strengthen a students knowledge of their subject, whether together in a classroom or individually.

To dissolve a program that has been a very positive experience for so many and something that has been a source of pride at Springfield for all these years would be a crime. Even if the plan is to reinstate the program after things get back to "normal", I feel that the band and those involved will suffer greatly.

I hope that the administration and board will not do anything to "pull the rug out" from under **OUR** band.

I end with a quote (with a small interjection from me) from Woodrow Wilson: "The man who disparages music as a luxury and non-essential is doing the nation (and our school) an injury. Music now, more than ever before is a national need". Our students have lost so much these last 2 months. **PLEASE DON'T TAKE THEIR BAND AWAY FROM THEM AS WELL.**

Karl Tittl
Retired Springfield Band Director
203 White Pond Dr.
Akron, OH 44313

kftittl@hotmail.com
(330) 592-1703

Jade Critchfield <jdcritchfield5798@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 8:02 PM

Comments,

Board of Education;

Dodson, Mary Lou;Hess, Neal;Hofer, Dave;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

Hello,

My name is Jade Critchfield (Johnson). I was the salutatorian of the class of 2017 from Springfield High School, and I don't think I would where I am without having access to band, choir and theater throughout my high school education. Arts programs allow students to express themselves creatively and this incredibly important, especially since [72 percent of business leaders say that they look for creativity in employees.](#)

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this email and I hope you can find a solution to keep arts education at Springfield.

Sincerely,

--

Jade Critchfield

Communications Intern, FedEx Custom Critical

Public Relations Graduate from Kent State University

Mike Honeck <mikehoneck@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 8:02 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry Comments, Board of Education

David, Neal, Mary Lou, Chad, Larry,

Hello from Los Angeles! I hope you and your families are safe and healthy in this strange time. I'm taking a few minutes to write you in support of Springfield arts education, and I hope you'll take a bit of time to read my thoughts.

For those of you whom I haven't met, and for those whom I owe an update, let me provide some background. I'm a graduate of Springfield High School, where I was valedictorian for the class of 2004. In 2009, I graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Akron Honors College with a degree in Accounting. From there, I founded Akron Film, which you know today as The Nightlight Cinema on North High Street in downtown Akron. I then followed my combined passions for art, science, and business to my 2011 Master's Degree from Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment Technology Center.

Today, I am a senior project lead, creative director, and designer for Walt Disney Imagineering Research and Development. There, I lead teams to create the future of entertainment for Disney parks, cruise ships, and resorts around the world. I hold multiple patents and have published papers in fields ranging from artificial intelligence and robotics to visual effects and embedded systems. My work can be experienced in Disney parks around the world, delivering joy by bringing people face-to-face with the stories and characters they love.

I hope and believe my work, from Akron Film through to Disney, has left a positive impact on people's lives around the world. And all of that work traces its roots back to the halls of Springfield High School.

My journey began in the band room and on the football field as a trombone player, where I learned how to contribute to a team and act as a professional, as well as how to march and play music. Behind the scenes and on the auditorium stage as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, I learned how to lead the execution of a complex project and how to command a room, as well as how to act. And in the art studio, I learned how to communicate a vision, as well as how to draw and paint.

Importantly, these lessons were not taught as part of my core educational curriculum. Indeed, for a success-minded valedictorian, these classes could have been easily dismissed as an expensive distraction from my core academic work. Instead, these early lessons in leadership and self-confidence taught me the skills that would ultimately allow me to thrive at the world's most storied media company. The friends and educators with whom I built relationships continue to support and inspire me to this day. And my education in the arts has instilled in me the compassion and empathy needed to navigate an often-cold world.

I share these thoughts so that you understand that I can personally attest to the tremendous value of including the arts in education. Today, Springfield's arts education funding is coming under fire when it is more important than ever. I want you to stand up against the proposed cuts to arts education that will come your way as the financial impacts of SARS-CoV-2 and Covid-19 continue to be felt. It is imperative that the students of Springfield High School and the larger Springfield school system retain access to these vital opportunities to grow as thinkers, leaders, and humans. Springfield's arts educators are innovating-- to continue to provide world-class arts education and mentorship to their students even through remote learning, and in this time of crisis, so must you.

Through alumni like myself, passion and gratitude for Springfield's arts education programs literally span the country. Our successes are a reflection of the Springfield School System's insightful and forward-thinking support for arts education. I would quite literally not be the person I am today if not for these programs and the people who teach them.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Warmly,

Michael Honeck, Class of '04
636 1/2 Myrtle St.
Glendale, CA 91203

Cheyenne McWilliams <cheyanne.mcwilliams2019@gmail.com>

Sun 5/17/2020 9:20 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

As a former alumni to Springfield Highschool. Considering the fact that I took choir from 7th grade on and was involved in three different choir classes, I can tell you the arts are very important step in development. Whole yes a lot of kids pick sports and physical stuff. There is also a lot of kids that choose to let their voices be heard through things like band, choir, and and theatre. If you take these things away you're taking away the kids chance to express themselves the was they need to express. For some kids choir and band are their only let go, the only place they feel like they can be themselves. You walk into a choir room and you see a family. You walk into a band room and you see a bond. You walk into a theatre performance and you see a team. Taking away the arts are not right

-Cheyanne McWilliams Class of 2019

Alivia Senevoravong <asenevor@pratt.edu>

Sun 5/17/2020 9:32 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hello, my name is Alivia Senevoravong. I graduated from Springfield High School in 2017. This time next year I'll be graduating from Pratt Institute located in New York City. Pratt Institute is one of the most prestigious art schools in the nation, its right up next to RISD, Parson's, CalArts, and SCAD. When I was in school, I thought Springfield didn't offer enough art classes. Now it's told that it's possible it won't offer any. Somehow I still managed to pull through with a good enough portfolio to get me to this incredible school. I did all I could to still be a part of the fine arts community when I was at Springfield. I was in band for seven years, did theater production for three years, both 3D and 2D art classes, and creative writing. To make myself even more credible, I was a four year letter in basketball, four year letter in track, and three year letter in volleyball (where I took my volleyball skills to play on my college team) and was in NHS, student council, and class council.

Out of everything I was a part of, nothing impacted me more than the arts. Nothing stuck with me and taught me more than the arts, nothing has challenged my brain more than art. Still, I feel like Springfield didn't prepare me enough for my career path, I've met so many of my college peers that were given extensive options for fine art classes in high school and I've had to play catch up. Now I'm hearing it's being proposed to cut these programs? Absolutely heartbreaking.

I'm sure you're all aware that a common learning issue among students is that they learn to just memorize information, they don't learn critical thinking or imagination. They learn to pass tests they don't

learn to apply the information daily. The arts does that in a way that the students don't realize it's happening and in a way that they have fun while doing it.

The only teachers I'm still in contact with and the only friends that I still catch up with have been band and art teachers and my peers I've met through those programs. I've always dreamt of the day I make money in my career, I'm happy doing something I love, and I go back to Springfield to tell my story and inspire more people into careers in the arts and I donate a bunch of money to strengthen those programs but that will never happen if there's no programs to inspire and come back to.

In my experience, people more educated in the arts are more tolerant people with less bias and with greater intent to continue learning about cultures, other countries cultures, and to embrace and celebrate them looking past prejudice they've had in the past.

I don't believe there is any good reason at all for cutting the arts, I am living breathing proof that we need the arts. Everything we see, everything we touch and enjoy, all forms of entertainment, our houses and furniture, it's all been designed by an artist. Art is everywhere and it will wait for no one. I just hope Springfield continues to move with art rather than sitting in the dust.

Thank you

Stubbs, Paul (stubbspm) <stubbspm@mail.uc.edu>

Sun 5/17/2020 10:11 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out today in a protest to the proposal of cutting the music and art programs at Springfield. Making cuts in these departments is a terrible decision for the students and the community who will be affected by this decision. A creative environment and break from reality are exactly what kids in our community need and should be provided with. Also, the amazing staff we have at the high school in both these disciplines are essential for the students because they create an amazing environment of creativity and joy that some kids might not be able to experience otherwise.

Thank you,

Paul M Stubbs Jr.
University of Cincinnati
Civil Engineering
Class of 2023

Julie Smith <jusmith1265@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 6:38 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

I am writing to as a parent of spartan band alumni band parent. Proud Trumpet, and majorette mom. Myself an active booster, and officer while my kids were involved. Mr Cole provided these kids with a love and respect for education not only for music, but also each other. Many kids in band finally find a

sense of belonging, and value. If you take this away many kids will be lost, and fall into a depression that may be too much for some. I for one will no longer vote for any school levy's if the art programs are cut. Band is not a class it is who these kids are.

Ulrich, Jeffrey

Mon 5/18/2020 6:44 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

SLACT believes that the proposed cuts to our Art, Physical Education, and Music teachers are excessive and they do a disservice to our students and our community.

Thank you,

Jeff Ulrich

Ulrich, Jeffrey

Mon 5/18/2020 6:49 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

The Administration has stated the following subjects cannot be taught remotely: Art, Physical Education, and Music. This is some of the justification for the proposed RIF "COVID -19 Cuts." These teachers have been teaching remotely and are doing an exemplary job.

Thank you,

Jeff Ulrich

Ulrich, Jeffrey

Mon 5/18/2020 6:51 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Petry, Larry

One of the greatest beacons of light in our school district is our Music program, specifically the Springfield Band. I have seen a few band performances done virtually at Governor DeWine's press conferences. Our band is very capable of the same.

Thank you,

Jeff Ulrich

Ulrich, Jeffrey

Mon 5/18/2020 6:57 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Lance, Chad;Dodson, Mary Lou;Petry, Larry

SLACT is unable to determine from Administration money that has been saved from substitute teachers, water, electricity, gasoline for buses, and copy machine use. The Administration stated we have saved "tens of thousands of dollars" from having no substitute teachers. This amounts to savings for ALL of the school buildings.

Thank you,

Jeff Ulrich

Ulrich, Jeffrey

Mon 5/18/2020 7:04 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Petry, Larry;Lance, Chad

What cuts are being made at the central administration and building administration levels? One building administration position is being cut, resulting in that administrator returning to teaching and bumping an existing teacher. The Administration said other cuts would be made to classified positions. Nothing has been said about cuts at the central office. So massive teacher cuts are proposed, with one administrative cut proposed?

Thank you,

Jeff Ulrich

Donnie Furlong <furlong4life@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 7:57 AMComments

Board of Educationapril@logisticalrg.com

Each day our children are offered up education through our public school system. As our children leave for their first day of kindergarten we entrust bus drivers, staff members, teachers, police officers, student aides, principals, coaches and many others to help guide, teach and motivate them through their next 13 years.

It is hard for me to fathom a system that takes away subjects like art. Art promotes creativity and abstract ideas that are assembled to build beautiful objects to be shared with others. Art is the core of engineering that leads to better bridges, stronger buildings and the next builders in our community. Art is also an outlet for those struggling with ways to express themselves. They are able to their fears and anxieties through art.

Could anyone imagine a world without music? I understand music is not going away completely, but what are we replacing it with when it could be potentially removed from the classroom. I feel music in the classroom has helped many students learn to read. It teaches beat, rythm, pause, patience and harmony. Once again tool sets that we need in life to better interact with one another.

For some children gym class is the only physical activity they get. We have all spent rainy days doing online school while are children wiggle in their chairs and totally lose interest. Physical activity promotes brain activity and clarity on many levels. I even find myself walking, moving and stretching at work to keep the brain sharp. Gym class sets the foundation for rules, discipline, hard work, motivation, coming up short but then continuing on.

Children need all of these subjects to continue their growth in adulthood. The few examples listed above are just small look into what these subjects offer our students. I really hope we are able to find a solution that promotes the best environment and upward trajectory for our entire community.

Please let me know if I could be of any assistance through this decision making process.

Best regards,

Donnie Furlong

Springfield father of two students

Hannah, Springfield Jr High

Kendall, Young Elementary

330.701.7990

Furling4life@gmail.com

James Turney (SpartanJRT3) <spartanjrt3@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 8:34 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

This is not something that needs to be done, if this happens that means my coach is also out of a job and he's given me so many opportunities and changed my life. What good would this do? Taking all those classes away for kids would only impact them negatively.

Dawn G. Jones <dawnjones93@hotmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 9:32 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

Good morning! First, I want to thank you for guiding our district through difficult times. I can't imagine the pressure you are under to make good choices that will be good for years to come. I pray that you will be able to make those decisions in peace, wisdom, and truth. You are in a difficult situation!

As a mama, I would hate to see the elimination of the Arts and PE programs. Those programs are led by excellent teachers, some of Springfield's best! If possible, can we make these programs "pay to play". I would definitely invest in that! For years, I have been investing in sports by selling concessions and helping at Bingo. I know these funding options will be gone, and I expect to pay more for sports in the upcoming years. In the same way, can we make the programs optional, parent-funded programs?

Thank you for considering this matter!

Dawn Jones

Dale Davidson <ddavid4154@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 10:17 AM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hello,

My name is Dale Davidson and I was the head band director at Springfield High School between 1981-1994. Throughout my 34 years in education I saw how important music was to our children and our school system. In this time of uncertainty, there is one thing we can give children at home, and that is music and art. In many ways the arts and the therapy it provides all children and adults is needed now, more than ever. I would hope the staff would be able to continue distance learning and provide our children the opportunity to learn from home and maybe it will help our children cope with this terrible situation we find ourselves in.

Respectfully,

Dale Davidson

Retired Band Director

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

WILLIAM JONES <sp_william.jones@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 10:41 AM

Comments

Board of Education

As a student at Springfield, some of my favorite teachers have been the ones involved in the arts or PE. They have made the most impact on my life and I believe they should be able to impact kids in the future. I understand keeping these programs around will cost money but an alternative to cutting these programs would make it so that if their child chooses to do any of these electives that it would cost money. I also believe cutting these programs will Springfield even less desirable than neighboring schools. Thank you for your consideration.

-William Jones

Tarle, Alexis <tarlea@summacare.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 12:58 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

This message was sent with high importance.

Hello,

My name is Alexis Tarle. I am a 1996 graduate of Springfield High School. I grew up in this community and it has always been home, regardless of where life has led me as an adult. When my husband and I started our family, there was no question as to where we wanted to raise our boys. As a former member of the SHS Marching Band, I was thrilled when our oldest son, Xander, decided he wanted to join band in 5th grade. I was even more excited when, as an 8th grader, he was one of the few chosen to join the SHS Marching Band. I have such fond memories of my time with the SHS Marching Band; I was excited for Xander to have his own experiences and make his own memories. Band has never been just another class for these kids. It's a family. It's an outlet. It's a safe place. Mr. Ernie Cole and Mrs. Ashley Fraley have done a tremendous job reinforcing this culture. Our lives have been upended with the pandemic, and no one is feeling it more than the kids. In times of uncertainty, to take away something that brings pride and enjoyment to the kids, as well as the community, is reckless and irresponsible. I urge you to reconsider your position to do away with the fine arts programs in Springfield Local Schools; do not take this away from the kids and the community.

1. Musical training helps develop language and reasoning: Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.
2. A mastery of memorization: Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.
3. Students learn to improve their work: Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.
4. Increased coordination: Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.
5. A sense of achievement: Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.
6. Kids stay engaged in school: An enjoyable subject like music can keep kids interested and engaged in school. Student musicians are likely to stay in school to achieve in other subjects.
7. Success in society: Music is the fabric of our society, and music can shape abilities and character. Students in band or orchestra are less likely to abuse substances over their lifetime. Musical education can greatly contribute to children's intellectual development as well.
8. Emotional development: Students of music can be more emotionally developed, with empathy towards other cultures. They also tend to have higher self-esteem and are better at coping with anxiety.
9. Students learn pattern recognition: Children can develop their math and pattern-recognition skills with the help of musical education. Playing music offers repetition in a fun format.
10. Better SAT scores: Students who have experience with music performance or appreciation score higher on the SAT. One report indicates 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math for students in music appreciation courses.
11. Fine-tuned auditory skills: Musicians can better detect meaningful, information-bearing elements in sounds, like the emotional meaning in a baby's cry. Students who practice music can have better auditory attention, and pick out predictable patterns from surrounding noise.
12. Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity: Introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and curiosity. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child's imagination.
13. Music can be relaxing: Students can fight stress by learning to play music. Soothing music is especially helpful in helping kids relax.
14. Musical instruments can teach discipline: Kids who learn to play an instrument can learn a valuable lesson in discipline. They will have to set time aside to practice and rise to the challenge of learning with discipline to master playing their instrument.
15. Preparation for the creative economy: Investing in creative education can prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The new economy has created more artistic careers, and these jobs may grow faster than others in the future.

16. Development in creative thinking: Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer.

17. Music can develop spatial intelligence: Students who study music can improve the development of spatial intelligence, which allows them to perceive the world accurately and form mental pictures. Spatial intelligence is helpful for advanced mathematics and more.

18. Kids can learn teamwork: Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.

19. Responsible risk-taking: Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential.

20. Better self-confidence: With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students.

Thank you for your consideration. I have faith you will do the right thing.

Alexis Tarle

P: 330-957-7541

E: tarlea@summacare.com

Kimberly Kale <KimJusJen@hotmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 2:08 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;

Comments,

Board of Education

To Whom it May Concern:

All of our lives as we all have known have been turned upside down with this invisible enemy that we are told to fear. Fear has a way of rearing its ugliness in a time when we as a community need to stand up and support one another and the future of our children. So much is at stake for these proposed cuts. First off the fine arts in the school; so many children need a place where they can express themselves. Art opens up the soul of creativity and thinkers. So many use art to express how they are feeling and may be the only thing they look forward to. Next band and Choir(concert/marching) My daughter was a cheerleader and a graduate of SHS. To go to the football games and listen to the band was the highlight of my night. My neighbors kids took pride in practicing every night as I sat on my porch and listened to them practice the songs. Think of the future kids waiting to fulfill those empty spots that look up to these kids. Psalms 98:4 Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord..

The cuts that you as a school have to decide on should not include the unemployment of essential teachers in these subjects. With the help of the community we can look outside the box. To come up with a solution

You did it for graduation and made it work.

I am positive that the Lord will open doors for these programs and other matters that are looking to be cut.

Please reach out to the community for ideas and suggestions, its possible you may find your answer there.

In the mean time may I ask that each and everyone of you pray for Gods guidance in this issue and let him be your leader. Wonderful things can happen.

In nothing be anxious

But in everything, by

Prayer and petition with

Thanksgiving, let your requests

Be made known to GOD

Philippian 4:6

God Bless you,

Kimberly Kale

Renee Cole <reneemichellecole@gmail.com>

Mon 5/18/2020 3:17 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hi,

My name is Renee Cole and I have 3 children. Two of them go to Springfield Local Schools. My oldest is in the 7th grade - going into the 8th grade. My other child is in the 3rd grade - going into the 4th grade. (I also have a 2 year old who will eventually be going to Springfield Local Schools).

My oldest is in the band. She just got accepted into the Marching Band. Which made our year! Then we heard you are planning on cutting the arts program. So amazing programs like the band, choir, art, gym, and the theater, it will all be gone. And I am heartbroken about that. And so is my daughter. She struggles with adhd and seizures. She is a great kid. Honor roll, plays soccer, and basketball. But the two things that she loves more than anything is art and band. And if you take that away, she won't be able to

continue to express herself. She is a preteen and they need to be able to express themselves in a healthy way.

She has learned so much through band. Especially with the online learning. I was surprised because online learning is not a favorite of ours but she is still excelling in band. And what's great is she is getting more one on one time with Mrs. Fraley and Mr. Cole. Once she learns a song she can play it for them and they can show her what she did right or wrong and how to work on it. They even have these amazing programs that help her keep her tempo and if she plays the wrong note it will show up and then she can try it again. It's amazing what they have done to continue educating our children. And Art! My daughter expresses herself in her drawings. She learns new techniques and it's a perfect way to experiment with things in a safe and healthy way. And to take that away from our children would be doing a disservice to them. Most kids don't enjoy going to school. The art programs help keep kids excited to learn and go to school.

I also have a special needs daughter who goes to Springhill Elementary School. She has autism, ADHD, primrose syndrome, anxiety, seizures, and has a receptive and expressive language disorder. She struggles in school. But what gets her through her day is art class and music class and gym class. With the primrose syndrome she has low muscle tone. Eventually it can lead to muscle wasting. So we do a lot of therapies. And when you make class fun for a kid - like gym class - it makes working out so much more enjoyable. My daughter struggles with the every day things. She gets tired so quickly. But she enjoys Mr. Hansley's exercise videos. And it gets her moving. Which is really important for her. With the COVID-19 - all of my daughter's therapies had been postponed. She has been doing a lot to help strengthen her muscles by these videos he sends. And he makes it fun! And Art class. She uses a lot of her occupational therapy ideas through art class. What she would have to work on. And she enjoys it so much. And to take that away. It would put a huge burden on her. She is already facing a lot and struggles with her day to day life.

I myself graduated from Springfield Local Schools in 2007. I was in the choir and a Spartanairer. I loved singing and dancing and performing. It helped shape who I am today. I became more confident. I sing in our church choir. I have lead worship groups. And it was all because of the art program. I used to be a shy kid but it helped open me up and make me a better person.

Please don't take away the arts program. The kids need it. Don't take away what they use to express themselves. Right now the world is changing and there is a lot of unknowns. The arts program is a stability that the kids need. They need to be able to express their fears and confusions through music and art. To work on making them a stronger healthier person through gym class. There has to be a different way you can cut costs. But to take away an amazing program - it's outrageous.

The arts makes a school a better place to be at. And if you take that away...what's stopping parents in putting their children in a different school district? Springfield already has the best band! They were voted number one in The Akron Beacon Journal. And the band is not just a program. It's a family. It was the same thing when I was in choir. Children talk - and I mean really talk - to their teachers. And the teachers care. Things are tough right now. But the kids need their families. And that is the band. And art. And theater. And choir. And gym. Please don't take it away. Please.

Thank you for your time,

Renee Cole

JAYLEE GREENWELL <sp_jaylee.greenwell@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 6:58 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hello, my name is Jaylee Greenwell. I am a Freshman at Springfield art school who dreams of a career in art. I apologize for any misinformation or improper use of grammar. I have been passionate about art since I was very young, I began drawing in preschool. To me, art means freedom, emotion, and expression. Art has changed who I am, without art, I would not have the friends I have, the grades I have, and I would not have a solid plan for my life. Art is important for students because it allows them to express their emotions, thoughts, and opinions in an abstract manner while we are vulnerable and afraid to express our feelings out loud and clear. This goes for both music and art. From what I've heard, cuts must be made, and the reason Music, art, and PE were chosen is because they "cannot be taught from home." I disagree. Music is something many people can learn online, and even teach themselves. I am not educated on music, however, I've never struggled to follow someone's directions, or record a video to send showing my technique. Art can be taught at home as well. Many people are self-taught, using tutorials and photos they find online. If people can do this themselves, why would teachers not be able to provide their students with tutorials and resources necessary? However, 3D art may be difficult to teach - 3D art supplies are expensive, and it requires more hand-on teaching, but even with these challenges, there are still simple exercises you can do with at home,

or even outdoor objects that help push the fundamentals one would need in order to learn the basics of 3d art. Finally, PE; To me, physical education is the hardest to teach at home, it would require heavily trusting the students, or requiring proof that may cause insecurity (Ex. videos of students exercising.) Of course, you can still teach health-based subjects at home, and types of workouts. PE does not have the same impact on the minds and comfort of students, as the students who enjoy it already do sports, but it is of course still important for students to get their exercise. To summarize: Art and music are both important to many students at Springfield, allowing them a place to meet friends, and express everything important to them in a vulnerable time in their life, and many students would be devastated to no longer have the class keeping them happy and calm during these strange times. Attached is an example of a drawing I turned in for Ms. Crites 2D art 2 class, the assignment was visual journals showing experimentation and improvement, any form of media. I apologize if I am unclear, and I hope my message is taken into consideration in this important decision.

KARLEE HOLMES <sp_karlee.holmes@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 7:14 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

I supposed I am not the first person to send an email on arts cuts. You probably have heard time and time again, but the arts are important. Maybe the issue is that money is scarce, but the arts are important. There has got to be something else that can be fixed. Like maybe, getting rid of Edmentum since the students hate it and the teachers do as well, and that isn't a lie. You are paying for something that isn't needed anymore. There has got to be a way to keep these things that students hold so dear to their hearts. Since you all didn't have an issue getting rid of good lunches and things in that same manner,

keeping a few things is not so bad right? If you do get rid of things anyway, it's not like you aren't going to get better reviews on the school, you only have one star!! Depending on your choice, the students will revolt, trust me, i've heard all of it. With that said, have fun losing the trust of your students and peers that care about art and music.

CARTER MCCOLLUM <sp_CARTER.MCCOLLUM@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 8:24 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hello, my name is Carter McCollum, I'm a graduating senior of Springfield High School. I'm a 4 year letterman in cross country, and track, I've also competed for our bowling team for 1 year and was a varsity letterman that year. I would do anything for my coaches, sense I have competed on the track team and cross country team I was able to get a spot on the Youngstown State University, Track, Indoor Track, and Cross Country Team. Starting In the fall I am able to earn scholarship money by competing that can help me pay for college tremendously. My freshman year I was a clueless kid running around for fun, and now because of Coach Gorby, Coach Burgess, and Coach Geiss, I was able to have this life changing opportunity. Many kids have the opportunity to be successful through all of the programs about to be eliminated. Through the programs of P.E and the sports I did, I have met so many people that have inspired me to be the person I am today, Coach Gorby has made me the successful person I am, and has Tought me to strive to be the best person I can be, he has done so many great things for the kids of Springfield High school, and now he might be eliminated. For 27 years of coaching he has helped so many students become student athletes, showed them how to be successful and how important schoolwork is. The programs that are in jeopardy are the most important for the kids of Akron Springfield. If it wasn't for all of my coaches and the sports I was able to compete in, I wouldn't be the successful student I am today. So I please ask you to rethink the proposal to cut Art,PE, and music at K-12.

Meghan Bucksar <sp_meghan.bucksar@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 9:11 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

I'm sure you've gotten plenty of emails regarding this, but you're most likely never going to stop hearing this until it's resolved. As a springfield highschool student who is deeply involved in the fine arts programs, I'm horrified to hear that it's even an option to get rid of P.E. and all fine arts programs. Art and music is motivation for so many students to come to school each day, and if the programs get cut, I know for a fact that there will be a major decrease of attendance within the school, not to mention the jobs that will be lost resulting in the end of these programs. Taking away Art and Music will make school a miserable, terrible, and mind-numbing place that students are forced to go to. Why not let us enjoy

something for once? These programs allow students to be free willed in what they create and to have a space to be creative and enjoy being at school. As for P.E., the physical education program allows for students to learn about physical activity, while doing it at the same time. Physical education is the only time for some students to exercise and be healthy. It's important that you understand that. It's a huge mistake of you go through with removing P.E., art, and music. Absolutely nobody is happy about this discussion, and I don't even want to know why it was brought up. I am absolutely against this and as are many of my peers. Thank you for your time.

I hope you make the right decision

Meghan Bucksar

CARMEN CONTRERAS <sp_carmen.contreras@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 8:53 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Personally, I think this is a great idea. Take away the one thing kids like about going to school. That'll show us kids, show us that we don't have a say about what we want to do. This is perfect, if you take these away, it will give the school even more time to shove meaningless information that we will most likely never use after highschool and college down our throat. Why do you think this is a good idea? Isn't one of a part about expression and showing who you really are? How are we supposed to express ourselves in geometry or in an literally analysis or even in a science class? Those are about results and certain answers that are right and wrong. In the art and music programs there isn't a right or wrong, you can't mess up, you can do whatever you want because you have the control. If you take these away, you take our power away and we won't take that lightly, take it from a kids perspective who might not be able to take another art class or act in the school musical, you will see that this is a horrible mistake and if you go through with this, us kids will show how we feel. Thank you for reading this i just want to express how I feel with this decision.

P.S. Think about the amount of jobs that will be lost if you go through with it.

LAYNA MILLER <sp_layna.miller@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 9:18 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

Hi, my name is Layna Miller. I'm going to get straight to my point, you shouldn't cut our arts programs and P.E. Most of my schedule and life are filled to the brim with arts. I feel like I've made family in things like choir, theater, and the musical, and I'm sure many other students have felt the same way even with other subjects. It makes me concerned that if my teachers for those subjects have to find another job at another school or have to find another job in general, they may not be able to come back next year once we've gotten back to school. They're all essentially the only parts of school I particularly enjoy or look forward to. I don't want school to become something I dread going to or dread doing, but if all of those

classes are gone I will dread it. School will become something I hate, and I don't want that to happen. Other students enjoy P.E. and I'm sure it's the highlight of their day every time they go. Maybe it helps them keep a consistent workout schedule, maybe it makes them feel better about their physical abilities or maybe they just simply like doing something they enjoy and getting a grade for it because they work hard. I believe there are some students that simply attend or do work just for the sake of being able to do P.E. classes or arts classes, and your absences and low grades are going to increase. Kids will grow restless and acting out will increase, because they have no classes they like to keep them from caring about missing.

Thank you for your consideration.

ADALINE SMITH <sp_adaline.smith@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Mon 5/18/2020 10:24 PM

Comments,

Board of Education

I simply can't see why you would ever get rid of the fine arts before ridding of the sports as an artist myself that's how I express myself when I can't see how you express yourself in sports. I see a future in art and I would like to have an art place to do that with nota ll kids want to do all these sports but I've seen most kids be very into the arts

ELLEN HUNTON <sp_ellen.hunton@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Tue 5/19/2020 9:37 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Hello, my name is Ellen Hunton and I'm here to tell you why we need art. Art is what give us character and make us who we are. Some people wanna do that with their lives. In my time at Springfield I have taken art, choir, band, and theater. I have taken almost every music related class. They are:

Marching band

Concert band

Pep band

Jazz band

Guitar lab

Music history

Choir

This has been the best time of my life. I've twirled baton for the past two years in marching band. I've learned three different instruments. I've enjoyed every minute of it. I've made a lot of friends and met people I want in my life forever. But this isn't the only thing. I've also participated in choir, which has taught me many things. I have good friends in there as well. These are the things that teach me individuality. Teach me to think for my own. Theatre has helped teach me about interacting with people.

Art has helped simply because I love art. If you take this away, you are taking away a part of me. Who I am. Art is my life and always will be. The marching band is the reason some people go to football games. If you take away music, you'll lose many people who go to games. You'll lose a lot of interest in school and education.

Below is a slideshow I made for this past band season. It truly shows how much fun we have in band and the arts in general. Please watch before you make a decision.

Thank you for your time.

Ellen Hunton

711 silvercrest ave. Akron Ohio 44314

Sp_ellen.hunton@shs.springfieldspartans.org

May 19, 2020

3083 Krebs Drive

Akron, Ohio 44319

Springfield Local Schools Board of Education

2410 Massillon Road

Akron, Ohio 44312

Dear Springfield Board of Education Members,

My name is Kathleen Duncan. I am a 2002 graduate of Springfield High School. It has come to my attention that cuts are being made to the fine arts department at Springfield Local Schools. While I am sure the decision is not made lightly, it is a mistake to cut programs that support the whole child, whether it be during a pandemic or for budget cuts. Students have already lost so much at this time. The decision to cut Fine Arts and Physical Education will be a detriment to the students at Springfield Schools.

The arts have provided a solace for students to express themselves creatively. Self-expression is critical to maintain positive mental health. Stuckey and Nobel (2010) assert that people who participate in music have decreased levels of anxiety. Participation in the arts has a profound impact on psychological well-being by enhancing positive emotions. Art therapy is commonly used for people dealing with difficult emotions. Physical education is necessary for building endorphins, which create happiness in children. P.E. is also essential for strengthening muscle development and educating children how to care for their bodies for a lifetime of health.

Participation in music is known to boost test scores and achievement in other subjects."Students in high-quality school music programs score higher on standardized tests compared to students in schools with deficient music education programs, regardless of the socioeconomic level of the school or school district" (Johnson and Memmott, 2007). Given the current state of pandemic, students will need extra interventions to catch up to grade level achievement in all subjects. The removal of the arts would be detrimental to the academic growth of students.

As a former music student at Springfield schools, I know firsthand how music has had a positive effect in my life. Music was my solace as a child. It was often a safe place for me to go when I needed to escape my home life. I immersed myself in learning an instrument because it made me feel valued as an individual. Music helped me gain self-discipline, confidence, and self-esteem. The music teachers at Springfield helped mold me into the person I am today by instilling a sense of hard work and persistence. My invaluable experiences as a member of band and choir propelled me to further pursue music as a career.

As a result of my music education at Springfield Local Schools, I pursued a degree at Kent State University in Music Education, where I continued to participate in marching band, gospel choir, pep band, and wind ensemble. I was further supported by my school music teachers whenever I needed support, an observation opportunity, or advice. Through the recommendations of Mr. Cole, I have now taught private lessons for 16 years at Taylor Band and Orchestra. I have had the opportunity to instruct several Springfield band students through private lessons. I have continually trained students from multiple districts to participate in OMEA Solo and Ensemble events, which are annually hosted by Mr. Cole and Mrs. Fraley at SHS. I also currently perform with a community jazz ensemble because music is still my creative outlet. Most of my friends that I still communicate with were also members of the Springfield band.

I am now a music educator for Akron Public Schools. I teach band to grades 6-12 at Innes CLC and Kenmore-Garfield High School. My high school band had the pleasure of performing at the Springfield vs. Kenmore-Garfield football games for the last two years. My band members were enamored by the level of alumni band participation at Springfield. The students were impressed by the hospitality of the band, as well as the talent possessed by the hard-working students. This year, although the game was canceled at halftime due to weather, our band was invited to perform in the auditorium for Springfield's band. They also performed for us. My students described the event as an unforgettable experience and one of the best performance opportunities in their high school career.

I sincerely believe that the arts are an essential piece to the education of the whole child. In the current state of our country, the arts are what gives us hope in these dire times. I have a niece and nephew that attend Springfield Schools. It is my hope for them that they are able to receive the same level of arts education that was offered to me as a child and helped shape the person I am today. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of continuing to support the arts.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Duncan
(330)564-7692
1 kathleenduncan@gmail.com

References:

Johnson, C. M. & Memmott, J. E. (2007). Examination of relationships between participation in school music programs of differing quality and standardized test results. *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 54(4), 293-307.

Stuckey, H. L., & Nobel, J. (2010). The connection between art, healing, and public health: a review of current literature. *American journal of public health*, 100(2), 254-263.

<https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2008.156497>

turbach <turbach@neo.rr.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 9:53 AM
Comments, Board of Education

> Good morning,
>

> I learned Sunday that the administration is going to present a cost reduction proposal to the school board this week. This proposal includes eliminating all fine arts programs in the district if the schools continue on a remote learning model.

>

> Aside from the enriching one's life experience, the arts provide a motivational vehicle for advancing the education of both high-achieving students and marginal ones. As a very introverted Freshman at Springfield High School, my creative outlet was lighting and set construction in school plays. This experience helped me gain confidence that allowed me to move on to designing sets and lighting schemes and working as a student director, instructing my peers under the supervision of a faculty director. More importantly, I realized that I had within me the capability to learn, perform, and lead others. My social anxieties were largely overcome, allowing more and greater learning to take place.

>

> My early experiences with the arts were reflected later in life, as I became a Firefighter/EMT with Lakemore Fire Department, then a Lieutenant, and finally, a Captain and training officer. I truly believe that much of my success I have enjoyed in life began behind that stage curtain back in the 70's.

>

> I have seen this scenario play out time after time with students in our marching band, as I chaperoned band camp for 6 years and accompanied our band to many performances and events, from Friday night games to playing to our veterans at the WWII Memorial in D.C., to Main Street USA at Disney World, to The Statue of Liberty. I found that no matter how quiet and awkward some of these kids may have been individually, their coming together to be a part of something larger than any one of them instilled a confidence and sense of pride that will live with them always. Their ability to interact socially was greatly improved, and their overall prospects were brighter.

>

> I respectfully request that you take into account the real human value of the fine arts programs in our schools, as it does so much for so many. I understand that the district finds itself in an unprecedented financial situation that requires difficult decisions, but remote learning in the arts is both valuable and viable,

>

> I thank you for your consideration,

>

> Tim Urbach

> PO Box 116

> Lakemore, OH 44250

> PH: 330-414-3450

SAMUEL LININGER <sp_samuel.lininger@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Tue 5/19/2020 10:08 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Dear Mr. Sincere and board members, I strongly suggest that you should not cut sports, gym, band, and art here are some reasons why. First of all, I am active in cross country, band, and basketball so if you cut them I would have nothing to do. My brother Zach is also active in cross country so he would have nothing either. Secondly, Band is such a good thing to do because it teaches you life skills such as teamwork and that is important further in life. I pictured that when I got into basketball in high school that I could be good and get recruited so that is another reason why I believe you should not cut this stuff. Lastly, think about not just me but all the kids who are in band, sports, art club, and the kids who like gym. I hope you make the right decision and not cut this stuff. It would make me happy.

Sincerely,
Sam Lininger
2339 Mingo Trail
330-388-0346

Ada Honeck <sewbuzy@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 10:37 AM

Hofer, Dave;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;Hess, Neal;
Comments, Board of Education

Dear Board Members: David, Neal, Mary Lou, Chad, and Larry,

Thank you for your service to our Springfield Spartans school community. Decision making on behalf of the community is not always easy but greatly appreciated.

At this point in time, you are presented with some very difficult decision making in moving the district forward. In the past, Springfield Schools fiscal takeover by the state of Ohio did have long lasting ramifications for the district. I was one of the community representatives on the Fiscal Emergency Commission. I realize the state has very specific regulations and the opportunity for creative ideas is tightly tied down by the guidelines, laws, and regulations governing education. It is imperative that Springfield does not experience this type of oversight again. To achieve the goal of independence from a takeover, I do realize that cutting programs is the easiest and quickest way. It is imperative for the well being of the districts children, the communities of Springfield and Lakemore, Ohio and the United States that the arts are not taken away from our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

In my early years as a 4th grade classroom teacher, the Catholic school where I taught poorly lacked in the fine arts. I took it upon myself to teach more robustly in my art class and brought music education to my students teaching them the basics of rhythm and the C scale with the use of recorders. My students enjoyed this change of brain use so much that it helped with discipline and motivation in getting their core work accomplished. Seeing this, I knew that when I had children, art exposure for them would be critical.

My own children were "required" to take 3 years of piano as elementary students and, as a family, we attended concerts, operas and plays. They also attended an elementary Catholic school. One of the biggest reasons I chose to send them to Springfield High School was because of the opportunity to participate in the fine arts programming available to the students. Springfield was open to letting three of my children

join the after school jazz band in junior high so they would be exposed to great music content before entering high school and joining the high school band. My oldest and a classmate of his put together a DVD that was distributed to the community in support of passing funding for the new junior/high school building. My youngest son struggled with a learning disability and entered Springfield at the end of his sixth grade year. His involvement in the different fine arts programs helped him succeed in his core academics. I owe the junior and senior high school faculty so much praise for his success. I am proud to have 4 SHS graduates! I also have nieces and nephews who's fine arts were the bond that helped them succeed in high school.

My four sons have flourished in college and beyond due to their creativity which was fine tuned participating in the fine arts at Springfield High School. The other interesting effect is that three of them have gone beyond their chosen band instrument. One learned how to play an accordion and joined a small work band, one learned how to play a mandolin and one has begun taking more piano lessons. This is something they can enjoy their entire life and continues to be essential for exercising the brain.

As you consider options for cutting expenses in the district, please be sensitive to the entire child. This will require out of the box thinking as you move forward. Again, thank you for your service and if I can be of service to you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Ada Honeck, DRE
Nativity of the Lord Jesus
Home: 2490 Lake Spur Circle
Uniontown, OH 44685
330-595-4774
330-699-2681

wlininger@neo.rr.com
Tue 5/19/2020 10:42 AM
Comments, Board of Education

Dear Mr.Sincere, and Board Members,

Hello. My name is Andrew Lininger. I am going to be in 6th grade at Schrop. I hope you keep Music and Band. I like music and playing the drum. I like to run, and I hope you keep Track and gym class. Thank you, Andrew Andrew Lininger 2339 Mingo Trail. Akron, Ohio 44312. (330) 784-7228.

Mary Calcei <calceimary55@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 10:50 AM
Comments, Board of Education

I have heard the rumors about pending cuts, once again, to the fine art programs. I remember the cuts of not too long ago and I hate to see this happen again. Too many students NEED these programs to feel successful and also to develop their creative energy. I am also a supporter of the athletic programs of Springfield, but please look at the number of students impact by the cuts in the arts and make sure that all EXTRAS are looked at when making cuts!!

Thanks for your time,

Mary Calcei
1523 Elm Grove Ave.
Akron, OH 44312

Michelle Smith <mmsmithrnbsn@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 10:59 AM
Comments, Board of Education

Hello my name is Michelle Smith and am a former graduate of Springfield high school class of 2011. I am writing this email due to the distress I received from hearing about potential cuts of the fine arts programs within the Springfield school district. As a Springfield Spartan marching band and concert band alumni, I cannot imagine Springfield to continue to operate without band as well as the rest of the fine arts programs.

Throughout my time in high school, band was the only extra curricular I partook in. I found a family in band members, chaperones, board members and instructors who didn't judge me for my appearances or where I came from. This group accepted me for who I was and I wasn't afraid to be myself. I fear that discontinuing this program will not only be detrimental to the current SHS students but will also leave a lasting impact on the community and alumni who are so thoroughly involved. I would not be who I am today without the friendship and education I received from this program.

I beg of you to please review News articles and programs carefully as much fake news is running rampant regarding covid19. As a current registered nurse working on the front lines of this pandemic I urge you to consider the comparison to influenza. Many people contract influenza every year and the world does not shut down. Think about the progress we've made since March and imagine where we will be come July and August. Taking precautions is understandable but we must learn to live with this new virus and we must not show fear and shutting down the programs we hold so close to our hearts. If I can in any way assist in the promotion of the fine arts programs you may contact me via this email or provided phone number and I would be more than happy to discuss my opinions on the matter.

Thank you for your time,

Hopeful,

Michelle Smith
Mmsmithrnbsn@gmail.com
330-634-6464

Sophia Pallotta <sp260@zips.uakron.edu>
Tue 5/19/2020 11:20 AM

Comments, Board of Education

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sophia Pallotta. I attended Springfield High School from 2015-2019, while I was still a part of Springfields community during my junior and senior years of high school, I moved to Portage Lakes Career Center full time where I pursued Visual Design and Imaging, which Leads me into what I would like to address.

I have wanted to make art my career since I was about 8 years old. The fine arts at Springfield helped me immensely in the crucial years of my schooling before college. I took an art class every semester in order to pursue and improve my skills leading into a Graphic Design degree.

The arts are so vital to development and expression. They helped shape who I am as a person and my career path. Not only do I think the program and the content is important, the teachers and relationships are important. I was a part of the top 25 my senior year and of course I had to take Mrs. Crites with me. Mrs. Crites, I know, has touched more kids than just me because I know some of my peers feel the same.

I keep in touch with Mrs. Crites and I'm sure if I had classes with the other art teachers I would still contact them. Being in the arts builds a family and creates a safe environment where experimentation and expression can take place. When I learned about art club I was there every night it was held. It gave me a place to feel like I belong. I moved around for much of my childhood and I was always "the new kid." In the art room of Libby Crites I felt like I belonged. I made friends, I learned, I created, I shared stories, most days of my sophomore year I ate lunch in that art room.

The arts at Springfield high school shaped me, and many of my peers, to be who I am today. I now attend the university of Akron for Graphic design and I am on track to graduate in about 2 1/2 years. After my first year in this degree, I am SO grateful to have the experience of art classes at Springfield. At the University you take a drawing class and a 3D class, which the arts help prepare for.

Without the implementation of fine arts students may never discover a potential career path of the fine arts, being an art teacher, graphic design, amongst others. It has the potential to hinder development and passion for something that can be so helpful with expression. Being able to put your feelings towards something you create is such an important part of art. For some people, the academic part of schooling is hard and the arts is what gets them through the day.

My brother, who is on the spectrum, has given me personal insight on this experience. Vinny has a hard time with school, although he is very smart, it's just "not his thing." Music is his thing though. He attends Lake, and is part of the orchestra and at home all you can hear is music coming from his bedroom. The part of his day where he is doing something he loves is what gets him through. While he isn't at Springfield, it is a prime example of how the arts help kids. My brother has a passion and can express that during his time at school. It helps him focus, build relationships, and express himself. Vinny has come a LONG way since he was younger. He used to throw tantrums and not be able to control his emotions. Finding his passion in music has helped him learn to express and control his emotions in a healthy way. It helped him develop his emotional skills in a way that nothing else could.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sophia Pallotta, an SHS Alumni.

Crystal Rardon <crardon818@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 11:23 AM

Comments, Board of Education

To whom it may concern:

I graduated from Springfield in 2009 as Valedictorian. I have encountered those throughout my time as an adult that have told me that graduating as Valedictorian from Springfield didn't mean as much as graduating from some of the other schools in the area. I have always defended myself and the school, stating I got as good of an education as anyone else at any other school district. A large part of that for me was my involvement in the band. When I think about my time at school, even though I was strong academically, it is not the memories of sitting in a classroom or studying that comes immediately to mind - it is my time in the band. Without that outlet, I would not have been as successful. I also learned much about working as a team and being a leader in my time in the band, much more than I would have in my regular classes.

I also have a step-sister that is currently at Springfield High School. Band is everything to her. Without it, she would be making no effort and be completely miserable at school. In my own children, I focus on not just the academics at home, but in music, art, dance, etc. Without the arts, students lose interest. Without the arts, students lose the spark and motivation. The arts are just as important as the STEM subjects, and increase our success in those areas. Please consider this as you make decisions about our schools moving forward.

Thank you,
Crystal Rardon (Levering)

Hannah Croft <singingirl316@aol.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 11:25 AM

Comments, Board of Education

To Whom It May Concern,

As a graduate of SHS in 2011, with a major involvement in choir and Spartanaires for all 4 years, I would hope and encourage the removal of the fine arts program to be completely ixnayed. My involvement in the fine art programs, along with I'm sure everyone that was involved in them, was life-changing and life-shaping. Please do not remove the programs. The children of the future need these programs to survive in this ever-changing world. I hope this message is received and considered.

Best regards,
Hannah Croft

Sent from my iPhone

Richardson, Erica

Tue 5/19/2020 11:33 AM
Comments, Board of Education

Dear Mrs. Dodson, Mr. Hess, Mr. Hofer, Mr. Lance and Mr. Petry,

My name is Erica Richardson. Before I became a public school teacher, I was a professional musician. I also taught private lessons and found that so rewarding that I decided to go back to school to get a Music Education degree. I have never regretted that decision. I have been an elementary/intermediate music/band teacher for 29 years, 26 of them in Springfield. I have taught at Roosevelt, Lakemore, Schrop, Young and Spring Hill Elementary. On past levy campaigns, I have gone door to door. I contribute every year to the levy fund.

I have a passion for music education. For some students, music is the reason they come to school. For others, it is the one place they experience success. Music class is a place to hit the reset button when students are feeling frustrated or out of sorts in the regular classroom. Music has been shown to ignite all areas of child development and skills for school readiness including intellectual, social/emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together. Exposing children to music during early development helps them learn the sounds and meanings of words. Dancing to music helps children build motor skills while allowing them to practice self-expression. For children and adults, music helps strengthen memory skills. In addition to the social/emotional benefits, many studies have shown that music makes a difference for students academically. A 2016 study found that musical experiences in childhood can actually accelerate brain development, particularly in the areas of language acquisition and reading skills. Learning to play an instrument can improve mathematical learning and even increase SAT scores.

Studies have shown that teens involved in music-related activities — instrumental music, especially — score higher on English, math and science exams than their nonmusical peers. "Students who learned to play a musical instrument in elementary and continued playing in high school not only score significantly higher but were about one academic year ahead of their non-music peers with regard to their English, mathematics and science skills. The more the students engage with music, the better they do in those subjects."

Researchers found the correlation between music participation and academic success to be strongest among students who practice instrumental music. "Learning to play a musical instrument and playing in an ensemble is very demanding," co-author Martin Guhn says. "A student has to learn to read music notation, develop eye-hand-mind coordination, develop keen listening skills, develop team skills for playing in an ensemble, and develop discipline to practice. All those learning experiences, and more, play a role in enhancing the learner's cognitive capacities, executive functions, motivation to learn in school, and self-efficacy."

It's not just older students that benefit from music. Another article states, "Want to give your child an edge in math and English? Enroll them in music lessons. That's the takeaway of a recent study finding that elementary schoolers who studied an instrument for at least 18 months not only did better on tests of memory, planning, reasoning, focus, and self-control, they also vastly outperformed nonmusical peers on arithmetic, language, and IQ tests. 'Learning an instrument provides a full-brain workout, stimulating growth and building connections in various regions throughout the brain. Our study provides some of the strongest evidence yet that the cognitive skills developed during music lessons can influence

children's abilities in completely unrelated subjects, too.'" And of course if we want to have strong music programs in high school, it all starts with that elementary foundation.

Most of our Springfield students will not be able to take music lessons. But Springfield music teachers at every level are providing those lessons for them. Elementary students sing and play boomwhackers, bells and percussion instruments. In my second and third grade instrumental music class, which is one of the permanent cuts, students spend two years learning to read music notation by singing and playing xylophones. When I began teaching in Springfield, we started teaching recorder to all 4th grade students. Beginning in 5th grade students can enroll in band, and receive musical instruction on a band instrument.

During this remote learning time, my students have done pencil and paper work on pitch and rhythm. They have done listening activities and movement activities. **But in my opinion, the most important thing they have done during this time is to share with me they have learned by making performance videos.** They make recordings of themselves singing and playing instruments, which I can then respond to either in writing or with video feedback. I have attached a few of these work samples for you to view.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erica Richardson
(3217 Fulton Dr NW, Canton, OH. 44718)

2nd grade instrumental music:

<https://flipgrid.com/s/de891cab9cdb>
<https://flipgrid.com/s/5f93452238e7>
<https://flipgrid.com/s/257e7bcdd9f9>
<https://flipgrid.com/s/e80277963b74>

3rd grade instrumental music:

<https://flipgrid.com/s/61eb3093f12f>
<https://flipgrid.com/s/f8ef4075d15d>
<https://flipgrid.com/s/31ba039af4aa>

5th grade band:

<https://flipgrid.com/s/4e29233eb140>
<https://flipgrid.com/s/a188e04390a8>

6th grade band:

<https://flipgrid.com/s/78936ad6291e>
<https://flipgrid.com/s/1b4768bb63d6>

Kimmi <kimberlydpyle@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 11:34 AM
Comments, Board of Education

Good morning,

I recently read about the Board meeting today, and I would like to submit a question with hopes it can be addressed.

My question is, should the state require students to wear masks and potentially only be in the building a few days a week next year, will parents be allowed to keep them home and do distance learning through the district like we have been this year? I have two children, one who will be in the high school and one who will be beginning at Schrop and I don't feel safe sending them back into the buildings yet but have been very happy and grateful with how distance learning has been handled.

Thank you for your time and all that you do.

Kimberly Pyle
1237 Russell Ave.
Akron, OH 44312

Sent from my iPhone

Marty Biviano <mbiviano@sssnet.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 12:06 PM

Dear Springfield Local School Supporter,

I am writing to express my opinion concerning possible cuts to the Fine Arts programs at Springfield Schools IF school remains in a remote learning situation to start the 2020-2021 school year. I am speaking from the viewpoint of someone who taught instrumental music at Springfield Local for 30+ years, primarily teaching band in grades 5-8. I am also a grandparent of a band student and my three children, now adults, were involved in band.

I personally have been involved in music for over 50 years, starting with playing trumpet at age 10. Yes, I have college music degrees which prepared me to teach in public schools, but the basics about playing the trumpet was taught to me while in grades 5-12 by my very competent school band directors. When I was a 5-12 student, something about music really went from my ears to my brain and to my heart. In my 30+ years of teaching I would often see students who were the same way, to a greater or lesser degree maybe, but students are in band because something about learning music is important to them. It means something.

In my 30+ years at Springfield I taught and mentored thousands of students. Some of the students I taught were excellent in the academic areas but still felt drawn to learn and be involved in music. It meant something to them. Some of the students I had were below average in the classroom but were interested in music and worked hard to learn how to play the instrument and feel the success of mastering the various levels of playing skills. It was important. It's also wonderful to feel the success. The vast majority of my students had fairly average ability. I have always felt that I have pretty average ability, I just practiced and worked at it because I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I know how much the Springfield community has valued and supported the band program over the years. A thriving band program needs to be a consistent program with a consistent number of beginning students in its 5th grade program and consistent teaching throughout the school years. MY MAIN POINT is that eliminating fine arts would really shake the foundation of a future successful band program.

The High School Band is the most visible part of the band program, but it all starts in the elementary. If there isn't a Beginning 5th grade band program in the fall, the base of the future band is gone for that year. Thankfully we are living in a time where technology has allowed us to teach lessons and communicate learning to students with online programs. This would not have been possible a few years ago.

If there isn't instrument instruction at the beginning of the 6th grade year, it's quite likely that parents may be inclined to return their child's rental instrument to the music store to save the rental money. Why make payments on an instrument if they don't have lessons? I would expect that a large percentage of the future SHS band will also be lost. Our Springfield band directors can still teach them - online. Online lessons are a good option, a good "temporary" option, until our schools can return to normal function. If Fine Arts programs are totally eliminated it will be very difficult to put it back together again. The way I understand it, the possible need for remote learning is supposed to be temporary.

There has been a lot of publicity about how much this year's senior class has lost. At this point, that can't be helped. I'd really hate to see our Springfield students of the future miss out on an important lifetime opportunity. Learning this musical skill as a child is not just for the future band directors of the world, it is something that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

Since I retired in 2006 I have participated in the band at the Kent Stark Campus. This quality group is comprised of musicians from many walks of life who started playing an instrument as a child. About 1/3 of the band members are university or high school students, 1/3 retired or presently teaching band directors, and 1/3 lifelong instrumentalists. The last group of people have careers in many different areas: United High School principal, oral surgeon, Stark County court judge, chemical engineer, civil engineer, computer programmer, software developer, physical therapist, insurance agent, Xray/CT tech, cake decorator, stay-at-home parent, plus others. I doubt that when they started playing in band as a child they expected to be playing beyond high school.

I realize that due to money reductions coming in from Columbus that cuts have to be made. My hope is that after careful consideration, cuts will be made equally across the district, not just from one particular area of the curriculum.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our school district.

Donna Biviano
5715 Ridgecourt St., NW
North Canton, OH 44720

Miranda Terry <mdterry818@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 12:17 PM
Comments, Board of Education

From Miranda Terry
2246 Cornell Dr, Uniontown, OH 44685

With the cuts and deficits the district is facing, before making permanent cuts to our teachers and tutors along with taking away much needed electives, will they Board seek to pass a levy? And with a levy, are you willing to work with residents to include parents and community members to detail what money is needed, how it will be used and what would happen if it is not passed?

Are you also willing to help out together a committee so that residents can learn facts, made up of the parents and community members that live in the district?

Thank you

Miranda Terry

Thomas Deneen <t_deneen@yahoo.com>
Mon 5/18/2020 11:47 PM
Comments, Board of Education

I am writing concerned about the proposals to cut fine arts programs due to remote learning. All kinds of learning can be achieved remotely. I am sure students can learn and practice via video learning. If this path is taken I want to know what will be done to rebate the monies that were budgeted to the homeowners of Springfield Township and Lakemore Village. As a homeowner in the township and a family that owns a business in the village, I will no longer support any levies for the schools if this path continues. My other 3 family members (including two Spartan Band alums) feel the same.

We demand that these programs continue as normal as possible in these tough times.

Tom Deneen and family

Miranda Terry <mdterry818@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 12:07 AM
Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;
Comments, Board of Education

Hello,

I wanted to take a moment and reach out to members of the Board of Education here in Springfield because if I don't, I will regret it. I've sat down to write this email numerous times today and yesterday. At first, it was only going to go to the comments@springfieldspartans.org address but a lot of thought and following by heart and gut, I feel that there is a big possibility members of the Board will not see all of the emails sent to that address. It is my hope that this email will be read by all of the members.

All of you know me. My name is Miranda Terry and at one point this year I wanted to sit on the Board with you all. Choosing to take a different approach of being involved with the schools and community I continued to coach basketball and to substitute teach in the district. I even had a long term job at the High School for six weeks, which ended 2 weeks prior to the closing of the schools on March 13. The seat you all sit in is not at all to be attacked and I do hope that you will understand that my email is coming from me as a parent and someone who has fallen in love with the kids in our district by being given the opportunity to sub.

I knew months ago that there was a possibility of cuts coming. I have tried to attend every Board of Education meeting possible. I listened and heard you all loud and clear that not everything was golden. That new money would be needed. Then Covid-19 decided to really throw a wrench into everything with more Educational Budget Cuts.

My heart dropped on Sunday when someone reached out to me about what they had heard through the Springfield Rumor Mill. Music, Art and Physical Education classes being cut from every school within the district. Then I believe 16 or so teaching positions cut within the district. I couldn't even fathom how this was happening. New Money, I heard it said numerous times within your meetings over the past year. What happened to that? What happened to coming to our community and asking for New Money?

Our kids, oh my gosh these kids, they have been put through the ringer this year. Missing out on so much and having to accept this new way of living for the time being. New way of being taught and learning. Most have had their sports, dance recitals, music concerts, art shows... all cancelled. Not postponed, cancelled. Not to happen. They walked out of their schools with two weeks to do packets, a wave and went home. Never realizing they would never say bye to Kindergarten, to Young or Springhill, to Schrop or have a Graduation like they dreamed about. Our teachers have saved days. They have worked countless hours for months. They stay up late, they hold classes and do their best to reach every single child they had. They check in on families, deliver things when a student can't print or get a book. They find ways to help. Then you have our "Specials" or "Electives" those teachers are trying just as hard. They have made videos about instruments or music. They have taken kids on hikes and made challenges for them to stay active. They have made sure art could happen with anything around the house or with nature. These kids are feeling the love even through a computer.

Peggy O'Mara stated "The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice."

What are we saying to our kids if we take away things that make them see their own potential. Art class isn't just squiggly lines on a piece of paper. It's a kid having an imagination about who they want to be, what book they just read, a superhero they wish they were. Music class isn't just a recorder or a cute concert in 2nd grade. It's a skill a child finds and falls in love with. Physical Education is far more than gym class. It's a release. It allows the kid that can't focus a chance to release their energy so they will go back to class and sit still and learn. As the kids get older and move on through Schrop, they get more into Art and find their talent with abstract or pastels. They begin to see that art uses Math or History. You have kids that finally get to be in the band, they are going and seeing the Marching Band perform and find a drive to get better so they can be on the field marching on Friday nights. Physical Education gets kids more in tune with their skills. The shy girl realizes she really enjoys learning about volleyball and starts to practice more at home then decides once she gets to Jr High, she will try out for the team. Everything begins to come together in Jr High and High School. More electives means more opportunity. More opportunity means more hope, more confidence, more desire to be at school. They start to enjoy the Arts or learn more about Health in Physical Education. They learn about themselves and how to take better care of themselves because their Physical Education Teacher explains to them why they shouldn't vape, why they need to eat better and move more. Their parents aren't teaching them these things. They have the guidance and the support from their teachers. Their teachers that spend time getting to know them. Learning who they are. What they are good at and love. Who they want to be as they get older and what they want their goals to be.

I get it, our country and our state and district and city and households took huge hits when Covid-19 shut things down. However, our kids, the students and teachers, they deserve to be fought for. I believe

there are better answers than to let go of 16 or so teachers. Better answers than cutting Art, Music and Physical Education from our schools and taking those much needed programs away. Our kids deserve the best.

I do feel there are options out there. I understand time is short but this decision should NOT be made without giving our community, the residents, voters and households a voice. Not every email is going to be shared with you all or read by everyone. I don't even know if this one will. But options, there are options. Other districts are coming up with options, why not communicate or form some sort of County Committee to find out what others are doing to see if we can do the same? Or what about a parent / community member committee that can help with getting a Levy Committee going, getting communication out there about what the District needs with New Money. What it would be used for, how it will be used, what happens if we don't get it, etc. There are a lot of people wondering about the Cares Act. Did Springfield get any relief money to help? IF SO, how is that being used? Could it be used better, differently?

I just feel that if we gave this a bit more time, if our community worked together with our Board, with our parents, for our kids and our teachers and schools, we can win. We can truly find ways and save jobs and important programs.

I'm literally begging you all to not vote on anything that would be a final decision on the next school year without letting everyone be heard. Without allowing some help. Our district has the power to be amazing and strong. Without a strong and solid school to build a foundation from, our community will not grow.

I will stop with my ramble and hope that you will hear the heartfelt pleas. Know that people truly love our community and want to help. I believe that with some time before final decisions, something can be done without cuts or such drastic cuts. We need to be one, come together. I ask you to let us do just that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Miranda Terry

One more thing, it is been told that all meetings are streamed live on YouTube. Is this true? Is there anyway to be allowed to ask questions or take part in the meeting?

Thank you again.

ALEXIS LEMON <sp_alexis.lemon@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Tue 5/19/2020 1:11 AM

Comments, Board of Education;

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

To the ones who vote on this matter,

Please read this and listen deeply to what I have to say. Please do not cut the arts programs. I understand I do not know the money situation, but I am one of these kids that flourished in these programs. I am one of them, very proudly. I do graduate this year, but let me take you on a journey. I have been in band ever since 5th grade. Went through the recorder and ended up playing the clarinet- with nothing else to help me make that decision but Squidward from Spongebob. I played that instrument proudly and even became one of the first to show others the upper register of the notes and teach them

as well. I went all the way to 7th and 8th grade with this instrument, not realizing how much it will matter until now. I had finally went to a different, brand new school we now call home. During these years, I got introduced to a high school choir, I joined during my 7th and 8th grade years. This was the start of a whole new story for me. I joined March band as an 8th grader, I went to all the grueling and wonderful practices, as well as my favorite part, Band camp. 8th grade year was a brand new start, by the end of marching with a clarinet, I was introduced to Mr. Coles' new idea, a Colorguard Team. Let me tell you, this changed my entire life. At this point I quit choir, I had no idea how to manage time as a 9th grader honestly. My freshman year, I auditioned for a colorguard line and got in. I was taught by Sandra Peters and Sherry Brown, my mentors for the next upcoming years it turned out. I got to experience my first everything again- this time as a twirler. My tenth grade year, I became more advanced in twirling and things picked up pace. As I learned to manage time and find the right friends, I was encouraged to try out for Spartanaires and add choir to my schedule. I auditioned and got to be a first and second soprano, as well as join symphonic choir. This is where I gained all the right friends and excelled in academics as well, this year was my best in that area. My 11th grade year, I continued with all of these, furthering my skills in every way possible it seemed. I even became the Choir Vice President and took on even more responsibility. I gained the confidence to audition for the musical that year, Beauty and The Beast, after falling in love with the previous production, Little Shop of Horrors. I got casted as a Silly girl! First ever role. I got thrown in a loop with the musical community- and I loved it more than life itself it seemed. I gained a massive amount of confidence in myself, my dancing, and my voice, through musical and choir. The preparation is like no other. The lines, the songs, the costumes, the technology, blocking scenes, everything. This fueled my entire love of arts. Leading all the way up to my passed, most recent, senior year. I became Colorguard captain of the team, the squad leader, the leader of a team that was created my freshman year. I became The Choir President this year, I joined, not only symphonic, but continued Spartanaires and even Treble Choir as well. I became the choir representative for the students. And finally, I auditioned for the musical again, Music Man. Even though we never got to perform it because of all of this, I got casted as the Female Lead, Marian Paroo! As you can see, the development is amazing. The help I got will be like no others. What I have experienced deserves to be experienced by others. The late night practices for colorguard, doing routines until it hurts. The musical practices, the incredible dances and beautiful songs and mind boggling blocking. The tornado warnings that happen every year for musical. The late night food runs. The coffee runs for others because you want to be nice. The singing outside for spartanaires to feel connected. The traditions before concerts. The band camp moments watching the stars and writing on the plates and the bonfires. Getting kicked in the face while watching the stars because it's dark. The water drinking contests. The water balloon fight that ends with laughing until you cry and welts from your classmates. The seniors nights. The last announcements. The walks. The swims at camp. The seniors staying up until 3 to enjoy everyone. The ride to the top of the hill with human seat belts. The bonds no one else will ever understand. I cry and plead with you to please feel what I read. And know the teachers this will affects. Personally, Mrs. Sabree is the best teacher I have ever met in my 13 years of schooling. The amount of care she has for her students is unbelievable. No one will know how much she took me and others in. Emotionally and mentally, she was there. The tea and coffee making and sweet words and the advice. The reason I succeeded was because of her and the arts teachers. Mrs. Ibos, the most fantastic artist with musicals. She forced my confidence out of me on stage and in real life. Sent me a letter over quarantine, told me how much I lived up to be who I am and the character I was casted as. How amazing I am in every way. You will never be able to replace these people. Mrs. Fraley, an absolute light for the choir and band programs. How much she has handled and been a part of is so fantastic. She kicked off my choir career and excelled my band career. Her ability to manage and multitask and be there for her hundreds of students, for every arts teacher, is something I haven't seen in any other teacher. Mr. Cole, this man. He has been there since the beginning. Dragged me through these years I never thought I would make it to. He taught me how to take criticism and do my

absolute best. All the arts and PE teachers, I never got to know any personally. But from talking to other students, these programs are outlets to us. A place to go. Many students you have attend here don't have the best lives. I know that very well. The arts are a place to go. A creative door to a good day and life. I could write all day, all night, just to sway you, but I know how voting works. I know there are issues. But honestly, as I sit and see this tumbling down, you may lose more than the students. You will lose students to other schools. These are not just extra activities. You have absolute gold here. The students. The teachers. Please. I beg of you. Read and feel these words I am writing to you. I know there are ways to make it work. There are always ways. And I know you can find one. Please do this for the kids after me. I am who I am because of these people and activities. Please give them the chances I had.

Deb Burdette <debburdette10@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 1:23 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Dear Decision Makers,

I am a graduate of Springfield. I understand that you are in financial trouble, as many are right now. However, the Arts are what many cling to in tough times. Children, especially teens, are having their world turned upside down. It is in times of stress and struggles that they need more than ever, to learn safe ways to release that stress. For many adolescents, the Arts provide that release. This is not a time to remove the supports and forms of expression that students need. Is they way they will need to be taught different than it was in the past? Of course. But if you think your teachers aren't up for the challenge, you're wrong.

I know there are no easy decisions when it comes to trying to cut expenses. I doubt anyone is even considering thing without weighting the consequences, but the lessons taught in the Arts are ones that we need children to learn. When you don't learn safe ways to deal with stress as a child or adolescent, it is much harder to learn as an adult.

I could go on and on about the importance of the Arts and the sense community that goes with them, especially in high school. I hope that you explore every other option that puts the students' needs first, before you make final decisions(hoping I'm not too late).

-Deborah (Shaffer) Burdette class of '05

Alexus Swiger <swigeralexus@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 1:39 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Hello this is a former Springfield Spartans graduate and this is in reference to the arts programs. I think they should continue to be a thing at the high school because some people don't have a safe place at home when they come to school their performing arts is their safe place. Springfield won't be the same without their performing arts programs. I was a band member was in the marching band and my safe place was band. Out on the practice field knowing I had nothing to worry about. I didn't have to worry about what was going on other than where my next move was to. Band isn't just another class it's a family. Band doesn't let anyone feel outta place. They are one big family that doesn't leave anyone behind they are there for each other through out the whole year even those who have graduated those

who have made more memories in the band room than in the actually classes. The band teachers mean more to us then anything else. Please keep the arts programs!

Officer Swiger #9171

Kearstin Arney <kearstin.arney@yahoo.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 1:50 AM

Comments, Board of Education

It has come to my attention the fine arts programs at Springfield High School are up for debate on whether they will be continued. Do you not understand that fine arts is what some people LIVE for? All the students that wish to pursue a fine arts career would have no luck getting any head start going to this school. The students cant stand this school as it is and you want to take away the only escape for the kids who need?? Not a smart move. If this passes I will highly encourage everyone I know to never ever send their kids to Springfield High school because all hope of a normal, authentic high school experience is ruined.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

KARRAH SWAIN <sp_karrah.swain@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Tue 5/19/2020 3:53 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Getting rid of arts makes everyone sad. Arts are what we use to cope with stress or being sad and your taking it away. Arts make us want to go to school because we know that we get a class full of fun where we can express ourselves. No matter if your painting, playing a instrument, or singing. The arts classes are something we need at school. You might say we can do it at home but some people don't have money to get supplies and instruments and sheet music and school helps us provide those things. Don't get rid of the arts classes.

Anne Marie <thatcouncilwoman@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 5:43 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

Mr. Hofer, Mr. Hess, Mrs. Dodson, Mr. Lance, and Mr. Petry,

Greetings to all of you. I hope you are all well and safe. Due to Covid, I realize you are facing some tough decisions and are making one tonight concerning whether to cut funding for all our fine arts programs. As a parent of three successful alumni and as a community leader, I am urging you to reconsider this budgeting decision and to consider other places to trim the budget. My children have benefited by being a part of band and as a human being, we all benefit from the arts. It would be a disservice to our community and our students for you to discontinue these services. We could also lose students to other districts if these programs are discontinued. Your students are getting online learning in these subjects and it is possible.

Our students benefit from studying and engaging in the arts. According to a Brookings Institute study, "arts educational experience has remarkable impacts on students' academic, social, and emotional outcomes." Our society benefits by students having a well-rounded educational background. The arts touch us in so many ways and allow us to connect in so many ways."

Surely, there are other places to cut back the budget. The plan is for students to return to school, according to Governor Dewine. It will be different, to be sure. But the arts are essential. There are other ways to cut the budget that will not hurt our students and your work is about our students and their future.

Please consider the students and their future by keeping the fine arts in Springfield Schools.

Respectfully yours,

Anne M. Snyder,
mother of alumni and Lakemore Councilwoman

"The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose- and is a test to the quality of a nation;s civilization."

Jennifer Stubbs <jennifer.stubbs4@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 7:10 AM

Comments, Board of Education

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my anger and disbelief regarding the possible elimination of "The Arts" programs and physical education. This action would not be in the best interest of our students. So many students express themselves through these programs and taking them away will result in the detriment of their education. Please do not take these classes away!

Thank you

Jennifer Stubbs

Mother of a current HS student and 3 Springfield Graduates

wlininger@neo.rr.com

Tue 5/19/2020 8:01 AM

Comments, Board of Education

Dear Mr. Sincere and Board Members, I am writing to implore you to find an alternative to cutting Music, Sports and Art. I have a up-coming Senior Zach, 8th grader Sam, and 6th grader Andrew. These boys are involved in Band and Track. Zach has been working almost every day since March 13th to keep himself, and our up-coming 6th grader Andrew ready for Percussion this fall. Zach is looking forward to his Senior year in Band and Track, Senior Night in the fall, amongst other Senior Year Events. A pay-to-play system keeps the programs going; and are left for the groups to decide how to proceed. PLEASE do not take the programs away. Spread the word on the levy. You have our support. Sincerely, Debbie Lininger

maria wilson <swamm6@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 3:15 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Hello- I am writing this email as I was alarmed to hear of the recent budget cuts announced recently that will be impacting the Fine Arts Programs at Springfield High School on 1880 Canton Road in Akron Ohio. My name is Maria and I am the mother to Clare Wilson, a student who will be entering her senior year this Fall, 2020.

I would first like to commend you on the quality of your teachers, curriculum and so many other aspects of your school district that allowed my daughter (and son who is now a sophomore at the University of Akron) to thrive and become the best versions of themselves over the past years. We came into this school system later in life when Clare was in the 5th grade. This normally would have been a difficult transition for a child but the faculty made it easy for her to adjust, grow as a person and come out of her shell as she was a very shy child. Thankfully, music and arts became her niche and those teachers took her under their wing as they helped her overcome her insecurities, installed good work ethics, strive for better grades and develop her social and leadership skills in order to obtain the leadership positions that she has now obtained through hard work and dedication. I also noticed over the years as an onlooking parent how beneficial these programs have been for numerous other children (up to 150 currently in the band from grades 7-12 which is a significant amount). Clare met so many people in the fine arts programs that she can see as lifelong friends and they have all gone through similar struggles but with the camaraderie of the band, theater and choir programs they developed friendships and bonds that brings them together through music that keeps them going. Because these programs allow them to work towards a common goal and endure everything together, they become a close-knit group that might not exist without these programs.

Clare has become a very outgoing strong young lady and I feel that had these programs not been available for her her life may have continued on a very different path. As a result of these experiences I have proudly watched her develop into a young woman that is a force to be reckoned with and is ready to take on the world. She's part of a new generation of hard working leaders and I am proud to call her my daughter.

I am confident in saying that the following programs have had a strong part in contributing to Clare's success:

- 1) Marching Band- Section Leader of Baritones
- 2) Symphonic Choir
- 3) Theater- Clare played Belle in Beauty and the Beast
- 4) Wind Ensemble Band- 1st chair Euphonium / Baritone
- 5) Spartanaires
- 6) Jazz Band- Trumpet and Euphonium
- 7) National Honor Society (GPA 4.0) - Clare had enough state testing points to graduate early but chose to stay at SHS to enjoy her senior year in the band along with theater next year due to the joy and experiences that she received from these programs in the past.
- 8) Sophomore Representative and Junior Representative of SHS Band

As many of you in the school board are parents I'm sure you have known the heartbreak of watching your child cope with new challenges and face difficulties so I'm sure you can understand when I tell you how important the music and arts programs are to those children who perhaps do not have athletics of

other sports programs to rely on but instead have arts and music as their passion. This is not only school to them but an outlet that they might not otherwise have. I honestly believe that without these above listed activities along with the unbelievable music and arts teachers that were by her side not only coaching her but guiding her, supporting her, and being there for her Clare would not have been able to have the confidence to accomplish what she has done in her academics as well. She is in the top 25 of her class and aspires to be an aerospace engineer. She wants to stay local by going to my Alma mater, the University of Akron along with her brother who studies computers.

Having been a registered nurse at a local Akron hospital for the past 31 years both on the front line and now in nursing administration I have seen many changes so I understand how difficult these decisions can be to make but I implore you to reconsider cutting these essential teachers and programs as they make such a lifelong impact on so many students in ways that contribute to more than their academics, it also adds to their emotional and mental well being allowing them to become well-rounded more well-tempered human beings. There is strong evidence that the arts contribute to a complete education by showing that students who took arts and music scored higher on their SAT's and ACT's than students who did not. Many of the children in the top 25 of the class are in the arts and music programs and without that outlet their grades may suffer.

That being said I feel it is also important to mention how impressed I am with the dedication that all of the Springfield High School teachers have shown the students during this difficult time. They have gone above and beyond for the students and Clare has expressed to me her gratitude to them and the feedback she gets from her teachers is very beneficial. The quick turnaround time has helped accelerate her learning experience at this difficult time. The remote zoom teaching classes she has received from her band teachers have allowed her to grow as a player more than anticipated which drives her to practice even more and the students have gotten more individual instructions as well. The joy of playing her instruments, having a goal to look forward to for next years band season, band concerts, theater production and Spartanaires performances gives Clare & many other children purpose during these long days of being stuck in the house.

I am confident that you will seriously consider these concerns and I know that the school board is committed to the best interest of all of the children equally. I appreciate the time, attention and effort the school board will put into considering continuing the fine arts and understanding the lifelong impact that the arts and music has on our children. If you would like to discuss this request further, please feel free to contact me at **330-806-1985** or **swamm6@gmail**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Stasin-Wilson
3129 Northview Road
Uniontown, Ohio 44685

Conni Contreras <chcms.contreras.clan@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 3:29 PM

Comments, Board of Education

I am writing to implore the Board to take into consideration that not all children go to school just for the sake of Core Subject matter.

I am the mother of 4 children, including one graduate of Springfield Local.

My oldest enjoyed her physical education and Fine Arts classes, including photography and 3D arts more than her core subject classes because she was more of a hands on learner and very active. These classes were the reason that she went to school everyday.

My 3 other children have the same experience. My 10th grader enjoys her Core subject matter but she also excels in her extracurricular activities, including art classes, PE classes and theater. These classes give her an outlet for her personal expression and more enjoyment to her days.

My 7th grader needs an active outlet during the school day. He becomes restless and does not harness his pent up energy to sit in a core class hour after hour. He needs to take PE, weight lifting, sports to be well rounded and able to sit down and be a productive member in a classroom. He also enjoys being creative but will not be creative on his own because he is sensitive to judgment so he chooses to take art classes, cooking classes, where his expression is accepted and guided.

My 6th grader is academically challenged and has to work especially hard in Core classes to be successful. Arts, music and PE classes she can divert her energy to expression without difficulty. These types of classes are the highlight of a special education student's day. Computers and painting and singing are diversion for her when she sits in a core class and must rack her brain to get the information in and out. Taking these classes away would do more harm than good for each of these students as well as her classmates.

As for taking Fine Arts away in the case of remote learning, is a ridiculous thought as well. Many online schools have successful fine arts classes, online activities, clubs and productions that provide the rounded education our youth require in this day and age. There are special programs and platforms available for online theater, arts, PE, etc that are very successful. Online schools such as Connections Academy arrange Fine Arts online learning and trips through a variety of outlets.

Could we not investigate other available forms of these types of programs so that we may offer the best possible options for our children

Even if a nominal fee is required for specific classes or electives, I would be willing to pay for my kids to enjoy their education.

There are local physical education places that may be willing to help with online /at home activities such as NST Sports Performance in North Canton, Asian Sun in Green or partnering with other youth sports programs outside of school might be feasible.

To save money in the face of this pandemic and lower youth population in our community is necessary but saving money by cutting such important programs like PE and Fine Arts will hinder the growth, physical, emotional and spiritual, of our kids.

Let's investigate other options, hybrid learning, online, remote, outdoor, etc before we restrict their education to core subject matter only.

Many colleges require a well rounded secondary education for entrance to higher education. Liberal and Fine Arts are just as important, if not more so, than Core Subject matter to create intelligent, creative, and well rounded adults.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and your continued support of our youth.

Sincerely,
Conni Contreras
1528 Jordan Ln
Akron OH 44306
330.926.7595

Dawn Hlass <dawnhlass@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 3:34 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Good Afternoon,

It is my understanding that the administration is proposing music among other arts cut from the next school year. If true, my family and I certainly understand the challenges our district must be facing during these unprecedented times but we are extremely disappointed. It saddens me deeply this issue is even being proposed. My daughter's entire education has been in this district and she is approaching her senior year in the fall. The band program is where she found her identity. Her talents have been nurtured, explored and encouraged through the years and the thought of her losing this program has had her in tears for days. The leadership of Mr. Cole and Mrs. Fraley are unmatched and have been her motivation for being successful in school. Academics are essential, of course, but a mere requirement in her eyes. She is inspired by the arts, mostly music. She considers her marching band peers family and it has given her the drive to be in leadership roles. She is currently an assistant section leader, striving for section leader and running for president. As you make the difficult budget decisions necessary please do not take away the dreams and hearts of our youth. She is currently attending the PLCC half day and only staying at Springfield High School to be a part of the band program.

I appreciate your time and willingness to hear the voices of our community.

Sincerely,
Dawn Hlass
2077 Darnell Dr
Akron, Oh 44319
330-472-8254

Jonathan Michaels <jam496@zips.uakron.edu>
Tue 5/19/2020 3:36 PM
Comments, Board of Education

As a Springfield Alumni, I do not think cutting the art, music, or PE programs would be a good idea. I participated in both the track program and the Band between 2012 - 2016 and it was some of the most memorable moments I had when I went to Springfield. The teachers leading those programs enjoyed what they did and they made their enthusiasm for these programs known. This positivity even spread to the students they lead, and cutting these programs would take away this positive nature. If these programs are cut, these teachers who are teaching and running these organizations will not stay, and the teachers who lead just the program will be cut altogether.

Jackie Langenek <jlangenek@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 3:55 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Dear Springfield Local Schools Board Member,

I am writing you today on behalf of my children (who are currently in the Springfield Local School District), my family (who have previously attended the Springfield Local School District), and my community (where I have lived in the Springfield Local School District for the past 18 years).

I urge you to please find it in your power to keep the arts in the Springfield Local School District. I truly believe it is vital to the success and future growth of our community. Yes, as an educator, I could talk about the numerous benefits that art and music can offer a learner. Yes, as an avid parishioner, I could talk about the multiple ways that art and music have influenced and expanded religion. However, I have decided to point out the drawbacks that the lack of art and music in the school district will have on the future of this community.

To say that my son loves art is an understatement. Andrew draws constantly. Over the years he has tried many new techniques and began using other forms of media due to the assignments he was given at Young Elementary and Schrop Intermediate. We are pleased that he delights in art and are not surprised that he is creative, compassionate, determined and intelligent. He was recently tested in the areas for gifted abilities. When he left the elementary school his art teacher suggested he attend The Miller South School for Visual and Performing Arts and offered a recommendation for him. We declined for various reasons, but mostly because we are pleased with the teachers and curriculum of the Springfield Local School District. It is now two years later and we still believe the same to be true. Andrew has now joined the band at intermediate school. Although he struggled at first, he has now performed three different pieces for his band teacher during the distance learning phase. He has also created four different art pieces for his art class and each one them encouraged different ideas and techniques. All of his teachers have provided individual support through Google Classroom and he has done quite well during this unprecedented time in learning. Even Mrs. Kern, who is no longer at the intermediate school, reached out to Andrew and encouraged him to join her Google Classroom group to help him stay active. We are very pleased with how the Springfield Local School District addressed the distance learning situation.

Grace is finishing her freshman year at the high school. She continues to maintain her honor roll status while enjoying the French Club, band, choir, Spartanaires and the school musical. Her busy schedule has pushed her to manage her time wisely, organize her agenda, improve her decision-making skills and create self-discipline in order to complete everything in a timely fashion. In early March Grace achieved

the Renaissance accomplishment and is on track for joining the National Honor's Society. I believe that many years the top 25 students in Springfield have come from having some sort of grounding in the arts over their middle school, junior high or high school career.. Academics aside, when you ask Grace what her most memorable parts of her freshman year are, she will give you multiple examples and all of them include her clubs. We are not surprised to find that she loved traveling to various nursing homes at Christmastime to carol with the Spartanaires, or make new friends bonding over activities at band camp, or go door-to-door dressed in uniform on Tag Day and see the overwhelming support that the community has for our Marching Band. You see, these educators and their dedication to bringing the arts to these young people go beyond the classroom walls. They are a family, a sense of belonging that some may not get at home. Losing these programs will gravely impact not only the future of these students, but it will be a detriment to our entire community. I fear we will lose families to other districts and it will take many years to build it all back up.

With everything going on in the world today we shouldn't take anything else away from our kids. I know that you are faced with an enormous amount of decisions concerning budget cuts and possibly needing to use distance learning again this coming fall. But I urge you to reconsider cutting the arts from our school district. The arts are needed as an outlet and encouragement for social-emotional growth and development even more so now. Without proper social-emotional support students will not be ready to learn anything in the content areas. I believe all of the fine educators in Springfield Local Schools have proven that they can do their job effectively, even through a distance learning setting. In a great time of need Woodrow Wilson (28th President during WWI) once said, "The man who disparages music as a luxury and non-essential is doing the nation an injury. Music now, more than ever before, is a national need."

Here are a few articles that support the arts being essential for young children in any form.

<https://www.artandmusiccenter.com/blog/2019/4/23/10-reasons-why-kids-need-art-and-music>

<https://www.campelectric.com/young-musicians-important-church-reasons>

Thank you for your time-

Jackie, Todd, Grace and Andrew Langenek

1985 South Gregg Road

Akron, Ohio 44319

Jackie Langenek-Administrator/Lead Teacher

Hope Lutheran Preschool

999 Portages Lakes Drive

Coventry Township, Ohio 44319

(330)644-3522-Office

(330)203-3591-Cell

SHELBY BORN <sp_shelby.born@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Tue 5/19/2020 3:58 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Hello, my name is Shelby Born, and I'm a freshman at Springfield High School. I have heard that the Arts and Physical Education programs at our schools are in danger of being cut, and I implore you to rethink this decision. The Arts and Phys Ed programs at our schools give students the opportunity to express themselves in abstract and unconventional ways not supported by the core subjects (Math, Science, Social Studies, English). The problem solving skills these classes instill in us are important for our daily lives beyond highschool and even for the rest of our lives. I understand that a driving factor behind these cuts is that supposedly these subjects cannot be taught remotely, however, in my experience, this is not true. So far, the art classes I have taken have adapted wonderfully to this change, from teaching us how to create sculptures from nature in our own backyards, to allowing us to create mini-artworks using items we have lying around the house. While Phys Ed may be more difficult to monitor; that doesn't make it impossible. Many apps can monitor daily steps or miles walked, and students could then turn in a screenshot in Google Classroom of their progress for the day. These classes provide a safe space for many students where they can learn and improve themselves and their individual skills without fear of judgement. In this time of crisis, we have to have these subjects as they help us express our feelings in a healthy manner, and they give us some stress relief whenever our daily lives or other schoolwork may get to be too much. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Shelby Born

Mary Calcei <calceimary55@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 4:07 PM

Comments, Board of Education

I am guessing that our Budget concerns didn't happen overnight! I know we very much need a safe lot for the buses, but why build that now, for buses owned by First Student.

Why are we showing a beautiful new athletic complex on our home web page, this also is needed but not the best timing for that either?

Why do we need a separate building/location for the administration? There is room on the property where the High School/Junior High is sitting and also where the new Bus Depot is located. I have wondered for years why the purchase of another building was made when we own Boyer, also!

Thanks,

Mary Calcei

1523 Elm Grove Ave.

Akron, OH 44312

Mason Moore <masonmoore83@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 4:08 PM

Comments, Board of Education

To Whom it May Concern,

I understand that times are currently very difficult. Tough choices are being made everywhere and no one is exempt from making choices that they would otherwise not want to make. That said, I would like to express my concern for cutting the Arts, PE, and Music programs.

As a former student, I can say, without doubt, that these programs are extremely important to the development and education to all students. The Arts teaches creative and abstract thinking, and acceptance of the world through a different perspective. PE allows for the ability to exercise, collaborate, and teaches sportsmanship. Music programs teach self-expression and the skill to create passionate music. All of these areas are needed, as they allow for education from the traditional classroom structure or experience. The omission of these courses is something that is easily noticed, even if it is for a brief period.

You are also affecting the individuals who run those programs, not just students. Teachers whose livelihoods are tied to these courses and separating student teacher bonds that encourage and liven the educational experience at the school. The loss of these valuable educational programs and teachers will greatly hurt the school system as a whole. Many students form positive and powerful memories and habits from these courses. I am sure you have seen those bonds and memorable moments at your school, as I have, and have many of those memories yourself.

Simply put, the cutting of these programs should not be allowed. Too many benefits come from these programs for your schools, your teachers, and your students. Removing them, removes a key component in the educational system that is part of the foundation for a healthy learning environment. Times are difficult, for all of us, but these classes should continue into the next term. It is in these times we need individuals with the ability to collaborate and create and give them the ability to find what their passions are. Please reconsider passing a proposal to cut these programs as they are very vital to a future beyond the current pandemic. Thank you for your time and consideration and I hope all your families are staying healthy.

Thank you

Tracey Harris Campbell
1734 Toepfer Road
Akron, Ohio 44312
Sapphire1963.tc@gmail.com

May 19, 2020

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that you are considering eliminating the Fine Arts programs at Springfield. I believe that this would be detrimental to the district and to the students. If you eliminate the Fine Arts programs, you may lose a good many students to other districts that offer it. Those that can't leave the district will turn to other means for their self-expression and those choices may not be good ones.

Many students need the outlet of expression in music and/or drama for their own wellbeing. Some students look to band, choir and drama as a "positive" in their lives; a reason to go to school every day.

Speaking from a band perspective, band is more than just a class with teachers giving instruction and handing out assignments. Band is a family. The Directors expect high standards of the students and the students respect them enough to comply. That being said, the Directors genuinely care about each student and do whatever they can do to help the students be successful. That positive support carries over into other areas of their lives as well.

If you look at the student population, you will see that a good number of Top 25 students, as well as students that excel in other areas, are usually members of one or more of the fine arts. This is because the students learn to manage their time and push to excel because of what they've been taught, and responsibilities expected of them because of the arts.

If you are continuing with online learning, I'm sure there are other areas where budgets can be tweaked to keep these programs in place. Examples such as:

- Bussing – no transportation needed if student are not coming to the buildings
- Food – no food needed in cafeteria or vending machines if no students in buildings
- Utilities – lights out in all areas except office and outside perimeter
- Custodial – buildings won't need cleaned every single day

I am fearful at how this district is going to survive if students and families leave. Why is it always the Fine Arts programs that get cut before anything else when economy is bad? This isn't right. Believe me, I don't want anyone in the district to lose their jobs. But there has to be a better way to budget to work it out.

I grew up in Springfield. I was in band and choir. I raised my children in this district and all three were in band and one was also in choir. These programs were beneficial to them emotionally as they made many friends in the programs. I believe it helped them to stay focused, learn to manage their time, and what they learned has carried over into their adult lives as well as a continued appreciation for music.

Not only am I an alumni, I was a member of the band staff shortly after graduating. I was a band parent, band booster and also former Band Booster President. Music is a big part of my life which I continue to enjoy in my life now. I am a member of my church choir and also the hand bell choir. This would not have happened had it not been for the opportunity of music in my school while growing up.

Please – Please reconsider this decision! Please consider the students in this decision. Where does this leave them? We want better for them.

Please have enough faith in your Fine Arts teaching staff to be able to adjust and be flexible with new requirements mandated state wide. Let them be there for the students in our great township!

Sincerely,

Tracey Harris Campbell
Class of 1981

Carrie Janickas <cjanickas10@yahoo.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:11 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Hello,

I am voicing my concerns before the board meeting tonight. I have heard that the district may be cutting music, art and physical education programs next school year!

Haven't our children suffered enough? The whole pandemic and virtual learning has been stressful on everyone involved. I do not feel it's right to take away things that the children love plus NEED in their education. Please do not take this things away. They are an important part of a child's education.

My daughter has attended the school district since the 2014-2015 school year. She has had some wonderful teachers so far. However, as I look around at some of her peers that attend other districts, I can't help but compare the many opportunities and programs that are offered to the students in the surrounding districts that are not offered here in Springfield. It's actually pretty sad, if you ask me. Do you know that students in the intermediate school in Green are taking foreign languages? Something that is not offered here. In fact, I did not even see it being offered at the junior high school for 7th graders? This is just one educational program that our kids in Springfield are missing out on. Now, it could be that they will miss out on art, gym and music too?

Are you kidding me? This is not a good thing.

I hope that you guys make the right decision and do not take away these opportunities for our children.

Thank you,
Carrie Janickas
Northview Rd

Melissa Reynolds <misciej@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:18 PM
Comments, Board of Education

What does the arts mean to my family? I am sure you have received many letters about this topic. Art is Joy, art is expression, art is therapy and art brings people together. What about music? I will say it is the same expression. Our students NEED this expression. Isn't this required for graduation as well? The same as English, Math and Science? Art is equally as important as these other three. It isn't just drawing, singing and playing an instrument. It is finding out who you are, what you really can do and be.

My husband is an incredible artist. He won many awards back in his time at Springfield in the late 1970s and early 1980s. His art class gave him confidence to put himself out there, his art class led him to his

profession as an engraver. I am not sure he would have went that route in life had it not been for his art class and direction in life.

One of my son's, 2017 graduate, was extremely shy in elementary school. His third grade teacher told me during a Christmas class party that he still wouldn't talk to her or even smile. In fifth grade he started band, he wanted to be a percussionist. By sixth grade he was talking to his teachers and was becoming quite a chatterbox with friends. He joined the marching band and fully blossomed! He was such a different child in band. The band is more than a student group. The band is a family of friends. They have online groups together, they support each other, cheer each other on. They become a family with each other. He still talks to his percussion group today. By the way, today he is a United States Marine! The band taught him well! He looked wonderful marching out on that Parade Deck!

I also have a student that learned to love running through our Schrop PE instructor. She also gave them instruction on their health, PE is not just the sport of the sports world, it is the sport of a healthy life. She taught them about healthy food and drink choices. She taught him that drinking soda is unhealthy. He has been without a carbonated beverage for 6 plus years! He is a normal weight and chooses food wisely. His PE instructor taught him that!

The students taking instrumental music have continued to do online music instruction. My student has taken a video of himself playing his instrument for his instructor. Online music instruction is actually one of the perfect courses for this distance learning time. They play on their own time, practice on their own time and then play for their instructor on time. They have the ability to ask questions and get help as needed, and they get a personal answer.

I ask that you NOT cancel out our fine arts and PE. There HAS to be another solution. If this is needed to save our district money, then it HAS to be found elsewhere. It has to. This is going to affect too many students. In school the times for music classes can be separated by group. We CAN make this happen.

We have to also think about what happens to our music program after this pandemic. Will it bounce back quickly? Will students miss too much and then come back not prepared to be at a performance level? This doesn't just affect this year it affects our following years.

Please do not quickly vote on this. Please take the community and ALL of our students into consideration. Look for other ways, they are out there.

Melissa Reynolds
2410 Delaware Ave
Akron, OH 44312

330 338-2416
330 794-8066

Jason Lipscomb <jaylippy547@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:32 PM
Comments, Board of Education

I believe our board and schools have done a great job. Unfortunately elected officials at the state and federal level have been gutting public schools. Betsy DeVos has been extremely detrimental on the public schools. It falls on local communities to pass levees.

I also believe its silly to keep using 5 yr levees. Push for permanent ones. Voters see schools on the ballot every other year and get worn out voting. I know it's renewal money but you still get worn out voting every other year . They haven't ask for new money in over 20yrs. Imagine if voters hadn't seen a school levy in 20yrs. I'm sure people would be more likely to vote Yes.

Hope to see the sports complex very soon also. I know a lot of people have complained that they'd rather see new elementary schools but it's very costly to build new schools without federal and state help. So you must wait until you get federal or state help

Thank you
Jason Lipscomb
2332 shoreside Cir, Uniontown, OH 44685

CHLOE PAUL <sp_chloe.paul@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:40 PM
Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry;
Comments, Board of Education

Hello Board Members,

My name is Chloe Paul and I am a student who is involved with the fine arts at Springfield High School. For myself and many others it is quite upsetting to hear that the arts may be taken away from us. There is a large sum of students who attend these classes and they end up being the only good thing that happens during that day for them. As a part of the band, I do not know what my life would be like without the class. It is a safe place for all who are there. When the most recent football season ended, along with the marching band's time together, it caused many of us to feel empty.

One student in my grade had nothing else he felt like he could live for once it ended and attempted to take his own life. It was very hard for those of us who know him and it was a difficult thing to get through. I fear that if we lose band or any other fine arts classes he may feel the same way. My graduating class has recently lost a student at the beginning of the quarantine and I do not believe we would be able to handle the loss of another one of our classmate's lives. I write this email to explain the importance of these classes for myself and my fellow students. I am also writing this with the fear of losing a friend and hope that the importance of these courses to the students are recognized.

Sincerely, SHS Marching Band Student, Chloe V. Paul
3661 Albrecht Ave. Akron, Ohio 44312

Jessica Casher <jcasher2@kent.edu>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:44 PM
Comments, Board of Education

To Whom it May Concern,

Hello. My name is Jessica Casher and I am in my fifth year of teaching junior high art here at Springfield Local Schools.

I first decided to become an art teacher when I was a junior in high school. I had the honor of participating in a career tech program for teaching and I was placed in an elementary art room 4 days a week. It was instant love. My passion for the field of Art Education has only grown deeper in the 11 years since.

I was first introduced to Springfield while I was still a pre-service educator at Kent State University. As part of my field experience, I spent a semester teaching Adaptive Art lessons at Springhill Junior High School. Now I have the absolute honor of teaching that class every semester.

I have a prominent memory of Mr. Morgan walking me out of my first interview and asking if I was relieved to have completed it. My response was, "Honestly, I just feel excited that this position is open. It is in a district that I love and it is exactly the age level that I want to teach." I had a feeling that this job would be a good fit but I had no clue how deeply I would grow to care for our staff, our community, and most of all, our students.

My gratitude for employment at Springfield has always been on the forefront of my heart. Because of how much I value the opportunity of working here, I am also always painfully aware of the vulnerability of that honor.

The mere consideration of having to leave Springfield is heartbreaking to me. However, the thought of losing entire programs is unacceptable. In my interview, I asked what stood out at Springfield, what made the interviewers proud to be Spartans? The unanimous answer was our arts programs. Over the last five years I have seen our band, choir, visual arts, and physical education programs win honors and awards at every level. I quickly learned that the answer from that interview was genuine.

The only thing about Springfield that stands out to me more than our arts programs is the overwhelming amount of love that courses through our buildings. I went home after my first day of work and said, "Wow! I have never been in a place where teachers have so much love for their students." That initial impression has remained the main reason that I am proud to be a Spartan.

It is that love that makes the proposal of drastic cuts to teaching positions unacceptable. I thought my worse case scenario would be losing my own job but this has become so much bigger than myself. The staff members and programs that would be affected by these cuts are not only essential to the education of students, but they are vital to the emotional survival of our kids.

Music, visual arts, and physical education provide a crucial emotional outlet for our students. Due to the nature of our programs, we forge strong bonds with these students and are so often the trusted adults they turn to.

In only five years, I have seen students endure more personal traumas than my naive mind knew existed in the world. I have seen my colleagues step up to help these students through those moments every time. We are more blessed than we realize to work with these talented professionals who put their hearts, souls, and many years of experience into their work every single day for our kids. We must do everything we can to fight to save as many teaching positions and programs as possible. The students of

the Springfield community are facing the most trying times any of us have ever witnessed, in their formative years. We cannot add to the emotional trauma of the pandemic by destabilizing the students' support systems and eliminating the sources of positive emotional outlets from their educations.

I acknowledge that times are complicated beyond comparison but I believe in the Board of Education's ability to creatively problem solve. The emotional survival of our students and the future of our district hangs in the balance of rejecting these cuts. You have the support a united staff who will fight along side you to pass levies in the fall. We need to reach a creative solution that saves teaching jobs until that levy passes in August. We need to give the community an opportunity to do the right thing. I believe that you will do the right thing as well, which is why I so greatly appreciate your time listening to the community the last several days.

My personal cell phone number is (330) 704 – 0816 and I happily extend a standing invitation for calls, texts, video calls, or meetings to discuss what is best for our students.

I will leave you with a reason to smile and to reason to be proud of your decision to serve the students and families of our Springfield Local Schools District. I proudly present to you a small portion of the artwork that students at the junior high have completed over the course of remote learning. I hope seeing their work brings you as much pure joy as it brings to me.

Sincerely,
Jessica Casher

https://youtu.be/UBpmauE_KuA

EMERSON HORNISH <sp_emerson.hornish@shs.springfieldspartans.org>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:44 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Dear, Springfield Township Board of Education,

My name is Emerson Hornish and I am going to be a Junior at Springfield High School. Recently I heard that there are going to be budget cuts and that the Arts are going to be removed from being an elective. Throughout Junior High and High School I have taken Junior High Art 1,2, and 3, High School Art 1 and 2, 3D Art 3 and 4, and finally Creative Solutions and Design. I am highly recommending that you do not cut the Art programs.

The reasons why I feel that the Art programs should not be cut is because they help students express themselves in many forms. I personally have enjoyed being able to express myself creativity through all of the Art programs. For example, Creative Solutions and Design gave me the opportunity to see if architecture was a path that I would want to take in the future. The same goes for all of my other art classes where I was able to use multiple different materials and art forms that were there to help guide me towards my career path. One of my art projects from this year was entered in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition where it competed against other student's art projects from 1,112 other schools in

Ohio. By my teacher entering my project into this competition I have started receiving letters and emails from colleges interested in me from across the United States.

Even in these uncertain times art can still be taught remotely because there are many forms of art that can be taught at home. All of the art teachers have adapted their projects so that students can still create artwork from home by allowing students to use different materials at hand. Each teacher has been able to give guidelines to the students remotely in order to keep their art classes running smoothly.

Please reconsider cutting out art classes from Springfield Junior High and High School. I believe that all students should be given the opportunity to express themselves through art especially during such stressful times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Emerson Hornish
Springfield HS- Junior
1007 Killian Rd
Akron, Ohio 44312

Mitzi the cat <mncapoun@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:45 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Hello, my name is Marlo Capoun. I am a student at Springfield junior high and high school. I heard that we may be losing our Arts programs. I have been in band since 5th grade, joined art classes in 7th and 8th grade, and have been in choir for 7th and 8th grade as well. These programs have helped me thrive in a creative aspect, have helped me make friends , and helped me to not feel as scared to talk to and interact with others. To lose these programs would make the kids at the junior high and high school very sad, but it would be more upsetting knowing the younger students will not get to experience being in a choir, band, or an art class on a daily basis or at all. I hope the event of losing these programs does not happen and cause kids to lose the Arts they love, or never get to experience the ones the could have had.

Marlo Capoun, 8th grader
1756 Myersville Road
Akron, OH 44312

scott porter <natejenna38@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 4:48 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Dear members of the board,

As a Springfield alumnus who participated in the band through his time in this school system, I was excited that as my kids became of age, my wife and I have the pleasure of raising our two kids in this

school system. I am however now saddened that I hear you may be eliminating the fine arts programs if remote learning continues.

I was able to have Mr. Cole as a teacher his first year at Springfield. Now that my children are entering both the high school and junior high this coming school year I am very excited to have him teach my children as well (along with Mrs Fraley). I have no doubt that their love for not just teaching but to pass along all their knowledge will do wonders for my children.

Since I was first introduced to a musical instrument back in 5th grade at Young Elementary, my love for music and the arts in general has grown exponentially. Through the years of being in this school system and becoming an adult I have learned to play five different instruments and in turn I have been able to pass that enthusiasm to my kids. It has been a real pleasure to share with them.

It would be a travesty if the Fine Arts programs were halted. Cutting out these teachers and these programs will do more harm than good. In the last year alone, my oldest has excelled leaps and bounds as a percussionist. He does not want to let his instructors down and comes home and practices an hour or more at a time on a new piece of music. He loves the challenge with new music and will not stop learning it front ways and back until he knows it 100%.

Within the Springfield Band my children have both found a love of art, an appreciation of all kinds of music and they have created some of their closest friends. I know that my children will be better off having these programs kept in place as they continue to learn and grow into well rounded individuals. I know this, because I was one of them. I urge you to consider an alternative to halting the Fine Arts programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

“Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.” — Confucius

Scott Porter

2159 Portage Line Rd

Mogadore, OH 44260

Michelle Csonka <mcsonka@ca-akron.org>

Tue 5/19/2020 4:56 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Hello

I am a parent of a senior at the High School. It has been devastating to all of these young adults losing so much of their senior year spring sports and festivities. I understand that graduation needed to be done by video and I have accepted that. But we only have 153 give or take, seniors in the class of 2020, why can we not have some type of senior breakfast either in a park following all social distancing recommendations or zoom meeting announcing senior scholarship winners

Thank you

Michelle Csonka

Recruitment & Enrollment Specialist

670 W. Exchange St.

Akron, Ohio 44302

P: 330.572.8299

F: 330.376.2244

ZACHARY LININGER <sp_zachary.lininger@shs.springfieldspartans.org>

Tue 5/19/2020 12:31 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Dear Mr. Sincere and Board Members,

My name is Zach Lininger. I am a student at Springfield High School, and it just came to my attention that there is a possible consideration to get rid of the Art, Music, and PE programs. As someone who has been heavily involved in both, it would break my heart to see them go. I have been in the band since 5th grade and I have been in cross country and track since 7th. I am currently in 11th grade, where I have one year of high school left. I'll be a senior next year, and I have not worked my butt off all the years leading up to this, just to see it all fall now. Our band is one of the best in the area and one of the best programs we have here at Springfield. In addition, our cross country and track teams are finally on the up and up, after years of working to get to where we are. We are knocking on the door of the state championship, and if this cut is made, all is for not. Now I know you guys have a tough decision to make, but I hope and pray with all my heart that you will look through all the messages you are receiving and realize how much these things mean to all of us. Please make the right decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Zach Lininger

2339 Mingo Trail

Akron, Ohio 44312

Phone number: 330-958-3690

Alaina Cole <amthiel83@gmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 12:42 PM

Comments, Board of Education;

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Alaina Thiel Cole. I grew up in Springfield township at 2238 Saranac Ct in Uniontown, 44685. I graduated from Springfield in 2010, and was an avid member of band from 5th grade until graduation, and also found a home in the art room at SHS. I am writing to you today to share my experiences as a band member, an SHS alumni, and how these factors are still impacting my life today.

As a young teenager in junior high, I was painfully shy. I had difficulties connecting with kids my age outside of my few friends. I was good at school, but didn't look forward to classes and would shut down if I was out of my comfort zone. In the art classroom, I could feel myself becoming a different person: more outgoing, critical but confident in myself, liked by my peers, and encouraged while also challenged by my teachers. At the end of 8th grade, I was asked to hang one of my art pieces as the representative from the "graduating" class. My drawing hung in Spring Hill until the day the building was torn down, and it is still be one of my proudest moments. These were also the years that students have the opportunity to really involve themselves in band. In the band room, I found another place of comfort.

Fast forward to high school, I am still a shy kid, but more comfortable and confident in my zones. This will not come as a surprise to anyone reading this, but my comfort zones were the art and band rooms. Every year, I looked forward to the end of summer because that meant to start of marching season and band camp. My parents were actively involved in band as well and supporting me every step of the way, making my two families come together as one. Senior year, I became one of the leaders, further pushing me out of my comfort zone and challenging me in different ways. I needed to be challenged to mold my leadership, communication, and confidence. Band pushed me in these ways and allowed me to see the person I could become. After senior year, I wasn't ready to be done with the SHS band family -- I joined as a band camp instructor for the next 5 years. I embraced being a teacher for one week a year and continued enhancing my leadership skills.

I graduated from Springfield as valedictorian in 2010. I went to University of Akron for my undergraduate degree in biochemistry (while also participating in UA's marching band), and was accepted to medical school at West Virginia University in 2014. I graduated as a medical doctor in 2018, and I am currently at the end of my 2nd year of Family Medicine Residency at Akron City Hospital. I just found out a few weeks ago that I have been chosen as our program's Chief Resident. Without my art and band experience, I am confident in saying that I would not be where I am today. The arts pushed me to emerge from my shell, gaining the leadership, confidence, teaching, and interpersonal skills that are necessary for my accomplishments. A purely academic high school experience would not have allowed me to grow as a person, now with the ability to connect with, earn the trust of, and give advice to a patient all in the time span of a 15-minute appointment. I would not have been seen as a leader capable of representing and being responsible for 24 young doctors. I would not be an educator of medical students and junior residents, which is one of my favorite parts of my job. My well-rounded experience at SHS was a huge factor in these accomplishments.

As one last note, I met my husband through the band family. He did not graduate from Springfield, and so it was the band program that first connected us in 9th grade. We have been together for 9 years and going on 2 years of marriage. Though we are early in life, I could not imagine doing life with anyone else. He has continually supported and encouraged me to push myself in my personal, academic, and professional goals. If the arts had been cut while I was a student, I never would have met him, and again, my life would look very different today.

I will forever be a supporter of Springfield High School because of the strong foundation it has provided me. I realize these are difficult times (being in healthcare, I am humbled at this fact), but I would argue for the current and future students, completely eliminating the arts is not the right move to overcome this obstacle, even if for a short period of time. These years are so critical in the development of a person's brain and character, and missing out (even one year) could change the trajectory of every art or band kid. Please reconsider to allow the future doctors, engineers, Imagineers, graphic designers, entrepreneurs to continue having the well-rounded experience that Springfield has provided all of its graduates. I am proud to say that I am a graduate of Springfield High School, and this is large in part of the arts programs.

Thank you,
Alaina Thiel Cole
SHS Graduate 2010
3832 Wickham St NW
Uniontown, OH 44685

Tammy <ttammy0404@gmail.com>
Tue 5/19/2020 12:46 PM
Comments, Board of Education

Dear Board Members of Springfield,

Please do not take away the fine arts programs. The fine arts mean so much to me, and have impacted my life a lot since the 5th grade. I am now a sophomore, and the arts still have a positive impact in my life. It gave me the chance to be myself, and to finally be good at something other than school. The arts being cut makes me upset because I have been involved for long and I put in so much, but now it could possibly be taken away from me. With my peers and I becoming juniors this coming school year, we'll finally be considered upperclassmen, and it'll be our time to shine the next two years. We won't get the chance to shine or the chance to represent how great Springfield is if the fine arts programs are cut. My experience in the arts has shaped me into a well rounded person. I have learned to work with many others, I have learned leadership skills, I have learned that it takes time and dedication to be good, and I have learned time management because I am in the marching band and I run cross country in the same season. The arts have helped me through the remote learning process by giving me two great teachers/directors who have helped me through every step of the way. They are always there for us on the online meetings to help us with any questions or just to be there if we need someone to talk to. The arts also gave me a fun escape from all of the other school work I had. Of course I complete all of my school assignments, but when I complete my fine arts assignment, it's playing my instrument which refreshes my mind. I have learned many things in my fine art class during the remote learning process such as more practice makes you a better player, I have gotten better at counting rhythm, and I have learned to use many different musical apps and websites that helped me become a better player. For many kids, the fine arts are an escape for us where we are comfortable enough to be ourselves because we know that no one will judge us since there is so much love and acceptance in these programs. Please do not cut the arts. Thank you.

A current high school student of Springfield,

Tammy Pham

943 Impala Drive

Akron, OH 44319

Rebekah Smith <bekah_s1@yahoo.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 12:52 PM

Comments, Board of Education

To Whom It May Concern

I understand that there is a need to make some changes in the budget due to financial insufficiency. Please take the time to reach out to teachers, and others that work closely with our children. They might have some wonderful ideas about what can be cut, and changed in order to keep physical education, music, and art in our schools. I know personally, my kids enjoy being able to go to these specials (electives) to get a break from their core subjects. These specials allow children to be more well rounded, and for some, to even find their "niche". There are kids that struggle academically, but are able to excel in physical education, music, or art. Please keep physical education, music, and art in our schools! Thank you so much for your time!

Sincerely,

Rebekah Smith

732 Westview Dr.

Akron, OH 44312

May 19, 2020

Dear Springfield Schools Board Members and Officials:

My daughter, Marlo Capoun, is an 8th grader at Springfield High School. I live at 430 Hilbish Avenue and her father, Mark Capoun, lives at 1756 Myersville Road. Our daughter has attended Springfield Schools since 4th grade and has benefitted from the art and music classes she has taken in this school district.

She began playing the flute in 5th grade and her father and I watched her confidence blossom. As she became more proficient at it, we saw her challenge herself and continually work on harder music pieces in order to become better. She never gave up or wanted to quit, I believe in part to the confidence she was building and the care and encouragement of the teachers she has had over the last 4 years. She dreams of marching with the band this fall and has already committed to the jazz band. Also, being in the band classes significantly helped the transition from Schrop to Junior High. She cemented newer relationships with like-minded students as many of them had similar class schedules and this is a group

that she has maintained contact with even through the movement of school from the building to online learning at home.

Marlo has also enjoyed performing with the choir. She enjoyed learning music in a different way with the same challenges as band where a group has to learn to work and perform together. With every performance, we saw her become more confident and more relaxed in front of the audience. She truly loves singing and has hopes to continue with the various choir offering through high school.

Marlo has also taken art classes which she has thoroughly enjoyed. Art classes gave her a creative outlet and introduced to her various mediums for expression. She is a creative person and is genuinely satisfied planning out a project and creating something new.

Additionally, we would like to add that some of the teachers that Marlo has developed the best relationships with are in these fields. Ms. Casher, Ms. Sabree, Ms. Fraley, and Mr. Cole have been instrumental in her academic success. Sometimes the traditional classes that are in the lecture/learning style do not give students a lot of opportunity to open up. Music and art classes can offer more opportunities with the teachers for dialogue and I know for Marlo these teachers have her respect and trust.

I know these are difficult times. But I implore the Board to reconsider any cuts to these programs and staffing. While these programs may not be on any cut and dry mandatory state exam, the skills and relationships they offer are an invaluable part of the students learning and career. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alison Rogalski 430 Hilbish Ave Akron, OH 44312

Mark Capoun

1756 Myersville Road Akron, OH 44312

jlangenek@neo.rr.com

Tue 5/19/2020 1:02 PM

Comments, Board of Education

From: jlangenek@neo.rr.com

To: "sp_hofer@springfieldspartans.org", "sp_hess@springfieldspartans.org",
"sp_dodson@springfieldspartans.org", "sp_lance@springfieldspartans.org",
"sp_petry@springfieldspartans.org"

Cc:

Sent: Tuesday May 19 2020 12:56:21PM

Subject: Save the arts in Springfield Local Schools!!!

Dear Springfield Local Schools Board Member,

I am writing you today on behalf of my children (who are currently in the Springfield Local School District), my family (who have previously attended the Springfield Local School District), and my community (where I have lived in the Springfield Local School District for the past 18 years).

I urge you to please find it in your power to keep the arts in the Springfield Local School District. I truly believe it is vital to the success and future growth of our community. Yes, as an educator, I could talk about the numerous benefits that art and music can offer a learner. Yes, as an avid parishioner, I could talk about the multiple ways that art and music have influenced and expanded religion. However, I have decided to point out the drawbacks that the lack of art and music in the school district will have on the future of this community.

To say that my son loves art is an understatement. Andrew draws constantly. Over the years he has tried many new techniques and began using other forms of media due to the assignments he was given at Young Elementary and Schrop Intermediate. We are pleased that he delights in art and are not surprised that he is creative, compassionate, determined and intelligent. He was recently tested in the areas for gifted abilities. When he left the elementary school his art teacher suggested he attend The Miller South School for Visual and Performing Arts and offered a recommendation for him. We declined for various reasons, but mostly because we are pleased with the teachers and curriculum of the Springfield Local School District. It is now two years later and we still believe the same to be true. Andrew has now joined the band at intermediate school. Although he struggled at first, he has now performed three different pieces for his band teacher during the distance learning phase. He has also created four different art pieces for his art class and each one them encouraged different ideas and techniques. All of his teachers have provided individual support through Google Classroom and he has done quite well during this unprecedented time in learning. Even Mrs. Kern, who is no longer at the intermediate school, reached out to Andrew and encouraged him to join her Google Classroom group to help him stay active. We are very pleased with how the Springfield Local School District addressed the distance learning situation.

Grace is finishing her freshman year at the high school. She continues to maintain her honor roll status while enjoying the French Club, band, choir, Spartanaires and the school musical. Her busy schedule has pushed her to manage her time wisely, organize her agenda, improve her decision-making skills and create self-discipline in order to complete everything in a timely fashion. In early March Grace achieved the Renaissance accomplishment and is on track for joining the National Honor's Society. I believe that many years the top 25 students in Springfield have come from having some sort of grounding in the arts over their middle school, junior high or high school career.. Academics aside, when you ask Grace what her most memorable parts of her freshman year are, she will give you multiple examples and all of them include her clubs. We are not surprised to find that she loved traveling to various nursing homes at Christmastime to carol with the Spartanaires, or make new friends bonding over activities at band camp, or go door-to-door dressed in uniform on Tag Day and see the overwhelming support that the community has for our Marching Band. You see, these educators and their dedication to bringing the arts

to these young people go beyond the classroom walls. They are a family, a sense of belonging that some may not get at home. Losing these programs will gravely impact not only the future of these students, but it will be a detriment to our entire community. I fear we will lose families to other districts and it will take many years to build it all back up.

With everything going on in the world today we shouldn't take anything else away from our kids. I know that you are faced with an enormous amount of decisions concerning budget cuts and possibly needing to use distance learning again this coming fall. But I urge you to reconsider cutting the arts from our school district. The arts are needed as an outlet and encouragement for social-emotional growth and development even more so now. Without proper social-emotional support students will not be ready to learn anything in the content areas. I believe all of the fine educators in Springfield Local Schools have proven that they can do their job effectively, even through a distance learning setting. In a great time of need Woodrow Wilson (28th President during WWI) once said, "The man who disparages music as a luxury and non-essential is doing the nation an injury. Music now, more than ever before, is a national need."

Here are a few articles that support the arts being essential for young children in any form.

<https://www.artandmusiccenter.com/blog/2019/4/23/10-reasons-why-kids-need-art-and-music>

<https://www.campelectric.com/young-musicians-important-church-reasons>

Thank you for your time-

Jackie, Todd, Grace and Andrew Langenek

Jackie Langenek-Administrator/Lead Teacher

Hope Lutheran Preschool

999 Portages Lakes Drive

Coventry Township, Ohio 44319

(330)644-3522-Office

(330)203-3591-Cell

Fenske, Michelle

Tue 5/19/2020 1:10 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Dear Administration and Springfield Board Members,

Good morning. I am a 3rd grade teacher at Spring Hill Elementary. I began my teaching career with Springfield in 1995 as a high school tutor. Then, I moved to Roosevelt in 1997 when I became a teacher. I have worked with many supportive, encouraging and professional teachers, administrators and students over the years. I love my Springfield team and the students. The district has pulled through many financial struggles in the past and I strongly believe we will get through this one too. The community is powerful and the staff is strong. We will work hard to get this levy passed.

This time of remote learning has been a challenge for me as well as many of my colleagues, the students and their families. I know I spent a lot of my time watching webinars, youtube videos, tutorials and in Zoom meetings with my 3rd grade team to prepare my Google Classroom for the students before we started our remote learning in April. I know through chats and social media that my colleagues did also. We helped each other through this crisis. I am saddened that our administration is considering cutting some of the jobs of my colleagues. I know by teaching with these specials' teachers how much they care for our students.

During this crisis, I post each day on my classroom for my students to go visit the classroom of the special teacher that they would have had that day. I know that some of them are. A few that had a ukelele are still practicing on their instrument. The Arts are so important for our students. This is where many of our students excel and find their voice. From the pride of seeing their artwork in the hall to the excitement of singing or playing the xylophones for parents, the students are actively engaged in the Arts at Spring Hill. It is heartbreaking that they may be taken away. The students need these classes.

I truly believe there are many other ways we can make the needed cuts. I believe every angle needs to be looked at with a fine tooth comb from administration at the central office to our support staff and everywhere in between. These cuts should not just fall on the shoulders of the teachers. I am not an accountant but, I am sure if the books are looked at carefully we can find other ways. These teachers that have been serving the Springfield community for 20 years or more do not deserve this! If these cuts are approved, I believe it will have a negative effect on the community. We will lose supportive voters, students and money.

Thank you for your time. Many positive things are coming from Springfield and we are all proud to be Spartans. Our country is in turmoil and people's lives are being affected in ways we do not even know. This is a time to come together not a time to bring us apart. We, as teachers, are willing to work with you for solutions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fenske

3rd Grade Teacher

Spring Hill Elementary

Knight, Annie

Tue 5/19/2020 1:16 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Name: Annie Knight

Address: 486 Reynolds Ave, Akron, OH 44313

Dear Board Members,

As a teacher within the district, I feel very strongly about advocating for the art, music, and physical education departments during these troubling times. Springfield Locals Schools has a history of success in areas like marching band and visual arts. So many students within our district have developed a true passion for the arts; many of these students have continued to cultivate this passion into their adulthoods. The removal of these programs from our district, even for a temporary amount of time, would be unconscionable. The value of art, music, and physical education to any school district has no dollar price.

Furthermore, the new CARES Act clearly states the importance of retaining as many employees as possible. The following sources states:

Eligibility for funds hinges on a commitment to employ. The general commitment for any entity receiving funds is “to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.” School districts will want to continue paying their employees and contracted vendors to the fullest reasonable extent to ensure they remain eligible to receive monies sourced from the Stabilization Fund.

(<https://www.bricker.com/industries-practices/COVID19-education/insights-resources/publications/the-current-impact-of-the-cares-act-on-k-12-education>)

Please at least allow for a chance for further negotiation on this matter in order to reach a more fair agreement. Let's come together to work hard to pass the upcoming levy before making unfounded cuts that will affect the livelihood of many families and the state of our schools. The future of the district is on the line.

Thank you for your time.

Annie Knight

Nemet Alrawajfeh <nalrawaj@kent.edu>

Tue 5/19/2020 1:18 PM

Comments, Board of Education;

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Dodson, Mary Lou;Lance, Chad;Petry, Larry

Hello,

My name is Nemet Alrawajfeh, and I am a 2018 Springfield graduate. I am emailing you in regards to the decision being made of whether or not fine arts should be removed from the curriculum due to covid-19. As a previous fine arts student, I hope that you will consider this email when voting in the near future.

I was in the fifth grade when I joined the band program at Springfield. I vividly remember the instrument day we had, where we were able to wander around the cafeteria, pick up an instrument, and see if it was of any interest to us. I picked up an alto saxophone for the very first time in my life, struggling to place my fingers on each of the buttons. It was a challenge, but I fell in love with it immediately— maybe because it was shiny, maybe because I knew Bill Clinton could play it, but nevertheless, it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Life was not easy for me, and I feel that I had to handle much more than I needed to as a kid. I was forced to grow up way too quickly, and I never had the opportunity to genuinely enjoy anything for myself. My mom knew this; she scraped up what little money she had, took me to the music shop, and enrolled in a payment plan. I had my very first instrument, and my first *big* item. I was thrilled, but I had no idea it would change my life.

Music became my outlet. I could not wait for music rehearsals, and after music rehearsals, I could not wait to go home and practice the saxophone (bless my mother, because she had to deal with some horrendous practice sessions on the daily). At the end of my seventh grade year, I received a letter asking me to join the high school marching band. I was thrilled; I was going to get to be around (who I thought were, at the time) grown ups. My freshman year, I went to my very first band camp. It was my first time being away from home for a longer period of time, but I wasn't scared or anxious because the upperclassmen welcomed us with open arms. I met some of the funniest, craziest, most inspiring people there. We ate all three meals together, worked long days together, laughed together, prayed together, and cried together. Band did not just teach music to me. It taught me empathy, community, aspiration, leadership, and love. It is the reason I developed social skills and it is the reason I have the friends that I have today. By my senior year, I strived to be the kind of mentor that I had. Now, as a graduate, current band kids still reach out to me for help and advice. It is so special to me, and it is so sad to think that the senior year every band kid looks forward to will be taken away so suddenly.

It is not just the band program, but the fine arts program as a whole. If my experiences don't change anything, then please consider my older brother, Awad. Awad is autistic and non-verbal. The only way he is able to communicate is through his sounds, eyes, and art. I will be honest, Awad hated school. It offered him nothing. He didn't learn anything, nor did he do anything *except* for when he was in art and gym. He loved to ride the bikes and shoot basketballs. He loved having the space to run around and flail his arms. He loved going into the art room, taking all the blue crayons, and lining them up. He loved to color and paint. He loved to sing. I find that Awad and I connect the most through music; it is the one medium in which I feel we can genuinely understand each other. When I heard the news about fine arts being cut, I was absolutely devastated. This program, and the absolutely incredible, sympathetic, and passionate directors of these programs are what changed me and Awad's life. If Awad was still in school when this was happening, taking fine arts away would have meant taking away his livelihood. Disabled kids and kids with developmental disabilities are, undeniably, overlooked— even by core teachers at times. However, you will ALWAYS find these same kids in the band room, the art room, the choir room and the gym. These are the memories I look back on fondly, and to take these away are to take away the pride I feel of being a Springfield graduate.

The only reasons kids, including myself, picked themselves up and went to school every day is for those few hours we could be in fine arts classes. This will be so detrimental to Springfield's image, and Springfield as a whole. People will inevitably stop attending and enrolling. Springfield will lose some of its finest, most intelligent, most motivated students. I would hate to see this happen to the school district I loved so dearly. An uncreative, lifeless Springfield is something that is so incredibly damning to me. Please think this over clearly and carefully, as these teachers are the teachers who have dedicated their livelihoods to this work. They are the teachers who spend extra hours catering to their students, the emotional support teachers, the teachers students still talk to and connect with even after graduating. I still have hope, and again, I implore you to think about the impacts this will have on students and their families. Thank you.

Best,

Nemet Alrawajfeh

REGINA GOLDINGER <rbgoldinger@hotmail.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 1:24 PM

Comments, Board of Education

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a former band mom of 2 students that graduated from SHS. Both my daughters were in the top 25 of their class. They graduated with honors. Band was a second family to them. A family that has so much compassion for helping others and fellow students, it has been taught to these students if you care for something, stand up for it. I know how I feel about the band program, my girls couldn't have succeeded without this program.

I volunteered with this program for many many years. I even volunteer now and my girls have graduated, but once a booster always a booster member. This program helped lift my family up in some very hard times emotionally. During my oldest daughter's senior year, her father was hospitalized many times and was on death's door. The band directors were there for both of my daughters, they helped them get through a very scary time in their lives. They listened to them cry, held their hand and even skyped senior night, so my husband could see our daughter walk across the field, with her younger sister by her side, he was in the hospital.

I love this program, it teaches more than music. When there is a current band member, alumni or fellow student in need, we pull together and help out.

Music, choir, and theater are classes these students need. It is a place to come to, to feel like they belong. Please don't take these classes away from these kids. I don't understand that when cuts have to be made, that the arts are the first on the list. I thought that students had to have some of these classes as credits to graduate.

I am hoping you can find another way to figure out what needs to be done to keep these classes going. The Care Act, if you haven't already applied, could help.

The band is a very important part of Friday night lights, all you have to do is look in the stands.

All these teachers in all these classes and programs, love these kids like their own, I have seen it with my own eyes.

Please check the top 25 students for as long as you have records of them, just see how the majority of these top 25 have come from the arts program at school.

Sincerely,

Regina Goldinger

Get Outlook for Android

Rhianna Timms <rhiannagrace03@icloud.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 1:52 PM

Comments, Board of Education

This is for Coach Gorby. He means so much to me, he has always been there and I think of him as a second dad. He treats us like we are his own, he buys us food from his own pockets and is always a text or a call away. He gives us shoes if we don't have any, even clothes. He gives us rides if we don't have one. He gives us money to go buy shirts from our Xc/Track meets if we don't have the money. He wants us to make as many memories as we can as a team. Losing him will be very very heartbreaking to the whole team. I can't imagine having someone else coach me as well as he can. I am crying writing this because he truly brightens up my day and as well as my other teammates. His crazy energy lights up the whole world. I am begging you, please don't take my best friend. -Rhianna

Sent from my iPhone

Ashley Cooper <amcoope2@yahoo.com>

Tue 5/19/2020 3:01 PM

Hofer, Dave;Hess, Neal;Lance, Chad;Dodson, Mary Lou;Petry, Larry;

Comments, Board of Education

Good Afternoon Mr. Hofer, Mr. Hess, Mr. Lance, Mr. Petry, and Mrs. Dodson,

My name is Ashley Fraley, and I am the Assistant Band Director at Springfield Junior/Senior High, a lifelong Springfield resident, and a graduate from Springfield High School (Class of 2002).

We were notified from our union leadership on Saturday of very drastic cuts that will be proposed at this evening's board meeting. These cuts are absolutely shocking. We knew about cuts that were approved in March, and we know there is a levy that MUST pass in August, but some of these cuts in many minds are excessive. As a member of the fine arts department it was shocking and hurtful for them to say these cuts (Music, Art, and Physical Education) would be made if we do not return to a "normal" school setting. These programs are so meaningful to our students and continue to be during this uncertain time. To us it implied that they do not have confidence in our ability to adapt to a remote learning model based on the content areas that we teach.

This link is to a youtube video of a google slide presentation that we've created to demonstrate exactly what we've been able to do with our students during this online learning process. Has it been easy? No, but I feel we have risen to the occasion and will continue to do so if necessary, along with the other teachers in our district. Thank you for your time today and we hope you enjoy seeing what our students have been working on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf5FVuqbl3E&fbclid=IwAR0eRJaT-33N81RSIvEy6AZuc98ERfQIOLpo1RBRJP59mGemLmmdz0erfNk>

Sincerely,

Ashley Fraley

1016 Middle Way

Akron, OH 44312

Meyers, Brian <meyersb2@miamioh.edu>

Tue 5/19/2020 3:10 PM

Comments, Board of Education

Superintendent Sincere and Members of the Board of Education,

While I am no longer a member of the Springfield community, I still feel bound to write to you today as both a graduate of Springfield High School ('92) and as the son of parents who still live within the district.

We are certainly facing unprecedented times in the world of education. Schools across the country have been asked to change the very nature of educational instruction in a matter of days. This shift has caused considerable turmoil in the lives of students, parents, and teachers as we must rethink how we reach students in order to positively impact their learning and success. As you and the members of the board know, the pandemic has also brought financial uncertainty as local tax revenues decrease and

funds from the state are slashed to the tune of over \$300 million statewide. Overall, it is a situation fraught with difficult decisions.

As a graduate of SHS, I know the long history of quality education within the district. I also am intimately aware of its long history of musical excellence. I believe that I am a success story of both of those histories. Upon graduation, I attended college on a full-tuition academic scholarship, graduated with my Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree, taught high school and middle school instrumental music in both Ohio and Arizona for a combined 13 years, earned a Masters and doctoral degree in Music Education, and have gone on to teach in collegiate teacher education programs in music education in New York and Ohio, currently at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. All of this would not be possible without the firm educational and musical foundation I received from the faculty and staff of Springfield Local Schools.

As you proceed through the coming months with discussions on the finances of the district, I certainly hope that you continue to honor that long history of musical and academic excellence. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2016 further built upon the work of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1967 and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 in solidifying instruction in music as part of the "well-rounded education" expected for all students in the United States. Music is not ancillary to education; it is a vital and sustainable part of the educational equation.

Music is also deeply rooted in the standards movement, being the first school subject area to establish national standards in 1994 by an act of Congress. Music also was one of the first subjects to revise these standards with the adoption of the National Core Arts Standards in 2016. State standards, such as those of Ohio, closely follow these standards and present a clear and progressive way forward in furthering the musical knowledge and literacy of students in the United States.

There is little doubt that the shift to online/remote instruction was difficult for music teachers of all age groups and of all experiences. To make matters worse, many were asked to do so within days. That is no easy task as it requires not just moving instruction into an online mode, but also a fundamental shift in how we teach as well as what we teach. With only days to prepare, difficulties should be expected. With the possibility of remote instruction and social distancing continuing into next academic year, we now have much more time to adequately prepare for these possibilities as well as a wealth of knowledge from our current situation to help us better prepare and plan.

I present the above thoughts as a means of leading to this final one: if you and the members of the school board believe in the notion of a "well-rounded education," music must remain a core subject in the curriculum of the Springfield Local Schools. Even in times of financial hardship, music still serves as a vital and humanizing subject that allows ALL to participate, expressing those feelings and emotions that can be difficult to articulate in other ways. Students deserve that opportunity. I might even say their social emotional health requires it. Yes, the music faculty of the district may need to rethink much of what they do in our current situation, but with the time at hand this summer, they can do so and create plans that not only continue the tradition of music excellence, but also expand that tradition into previously unexplored areas of musical learning. Allow them the time, flexibility, and support to do so. I am confident that they will do many wonderful things if provided the opportunity.

I say this all as a professional in the field, but, more importantly, as one who owes much to the Springfield community. Afford the students of today the same great academic and musical education I was graced with. I may be one success story, but I hope that I will not be the last.

If you have any questions or wish to further discuss any of these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time.

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Dr. Brian D. Meyers

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