

Dear Ms. Thibodeaux,

I am a resident of Ward 3 who unfortunately cannot attend the public hearing on April 8<sup>th</sup> due to business related travel. The company I work for has business partnerships with school districts in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

In my job I typically interact with more than 200 schools (including the 5 Dover schools) across all of New England during the course of each school year. Becoming familiar with the school environment in each school is essential for me to perform my job functions. I can say, unequivocally, that the environment created in the Dover schools is well above average. Whenever I visit Dover schools I am impressed with how engaged students and staff are, the enriching look and feel of the environment, and how well behaved and polite the student population is.

In the course of my job it is also necessary for me to do research through organizations like Great Schools and the Department of Education to help get a full picture of the school environment. I am always impressed with Dover School District's overall performance compared to school districts of similar size and socioeconomic makeup.

As a parent of two students who attend Dover Middle School, I am always impressed with the academic rigor of the lessons my children are involved in. The content is often more advanced than I would expect at their age and more advanced than what I remember from my time in school. They are continually challenged by the work but not overwhelmed.

Every time I think about these facts, it always amazes me that the Dover School District is able to achieve all of this at one of the lowest cost per pupil in the state.

I strongly urge the City Council to approve the school district budget as proposed. I urge this even if it means exceeding the tax cap or cutting spending in other areas. Dover School District has proven that it can provide more value per tax dollar than virtually any school district in the state. I feel that providing anything less than full funding to support their efforts is nothing short of an insult.

I feel that the true purpose of a tax cap is to force government to be responsible and thoughtful with taxpayer money. Dover School District has lived up to this standard and I feel we, as a community, need to support them fully.

Sincerely,

Chris Faro

6 S Watson Ln

Dover