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CHAIRMAN OF WAITS AND MEANS.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1.

WE ARE HERE TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON THE FISCAL YEAR '18 BUDGET AS A WHOLE.

DURING THIS BUDGET REVIEW THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HAS HEARD TESTIMONY FROM MANY LONG TIME ADVOCATES AND CONSTITUENCIES INCLUDING WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF BUDGETS FOR WHICH WE HAVE NOT HELD A HEARING.

TO VOTE ON INCREASED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT THE COMMITTEE HAS CALLED FOR THIS HEARING FOR THE SOUL PURPOSE OF HEARING PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ANY ASPECT OF THE FY18 RECOMMENDED BUDGET.

THE DOCKET ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ARE DOCKETS 0536 THROUGH 0538. ORDERS FOR FISCAL YEAR '18 OPERATING BUDGET INCLUDING ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS.

ANY OTHER APPROPRIATION OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AND APPROPRIATION FOR OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AS WELL AS DOCKETS 05 PRESIDENT THROUGH 0943 CAPITAL BUDGET.

TESTIMONY WILL BE TAKEN ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASE WHERE WE MAY RECEIVE FROM TIME TO TIME, REES FROM TIME TO TIME IF THERE IS NO ONE HERE TO TESTIFY IT IS IT IS THE COMMITTEE'S INTENT NOT ADJOURN THE HEARING UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TESTIFY PLEASE SIGN IN TO THE SIGN-IN SHEET TO MY LEFT BY THE DOOR. PLEASE INDICATE IN THE BOX WHETHER YOU WOULD WISH TO TESTIFY STATE YOUR NAME, PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO THREEEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMMENTS AND CONCERNS CAN BE

HEARD.

ALSO ENCOURAGE WRITTEN TESTIMONY
VIA E-MAIL OR SNAIL MAIL AT CC
CCC.WM@BOSTON.GOV.

ALSO CCC-WM-@BOSTON-.GOV.

AND FIOS CHANNEL 64 AS WELL AS
RCN CHANNEL 82 AND COMCAST
CHANNEL 8.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT EVERY
HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK IS
COMFORTABLE AND IS COMFORTABLE
EXPRESSING THE OPINION, WE ARE
HERE TO ESTABLISH COUNSEL I WILL
RULES INCLUDING LIMITING
TESTIMONY TO THREE MINUTES PER
PERSON AND PROHIBIT KNOWLEDGE
ALL VISUAL AND AUDIBLE SIGNS OF
APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.
THESE RULES ARE NOT INTENDED TO
CURTAIL THE VIEWS OF ANY
INDIVIDUAL GROUP BUT RATHER TO
ENCOURAGE THE EXPRESSION OF ALL
VIEWPOINTS.

WITH THAT NOW, I'D LIKE TO
RECOGNIZE -- IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL
CITY COUNCILOR TITO JACKSON.
JUST GOING TO READ A COUPLE OF
STATEMENTS INTO THE RECORD FROM
COLLEAGUES WOULD COULD NOT BE
HERE TODAY.

HEAR COUNCILOR CIOMMO, I AM NOT
ABLE TO ATTEND THE HEARING TO
TODAY.

FY18 BUDGET.

DUE TO A SCHEDULING CONFLICT.
I WANT TO STATE FOR THE RECORD
THAT I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT
TO HEAR PUBLIC TESTIMONY
REGARDING THE FY18 BUDGET AND
YOU I MOST CONCERNLY WILL BE
REVIEWING THE TAPE.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO ANY
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS THAT RESULT
FROM THIS HEARING SINCERELY
TIMOTHY McCARTHY, CITY
COUNCILOR DISTRICT 5.

ALSO DEAR COLLEAGUES,
REGRETTABLE UM UNABLE TO ATTEND
TODAY'S HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR
'18 BUDGET CARRY OVERDUE TO A
PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED CONFLICT.
I LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING THE
RECORDING UPON MY RETURN.
SINCERELY, ANDREA J. CAMPBELL,

BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR DISTRICT

4.

COUNCILOR CIOMMO, PLEASE BE
RISED THAT A LONG-TRIP THAT I AM
CURRENTLY ON HAS PREVENTED MY
ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S HEARING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL'S WAYS AND
MEANS 0536-0543, FISCAL YEAR
BUDGET IN THE CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBER.

I WILL REVIEW ALL TESTIMONY IN
THE DAYS AHEAD, PLEASE READ THIS
LETTER INTO THE RECORD, THANK
YOU, SINCERELY, MATT O'MALLEY
DISTRICT 6 CITY COUNCILOR.

AND WITH THAT, WE HAVE CALL THE
FIRST FOLKS WHO WANT TO TESTIFY,
WE HAVE SARAH CHUCK.

NO DISPLAYS OF APPROVAL OR
DISAPPROVAL, PLEASE.

COME DOWN HERE TO THE PODIUM.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILORS.

I'M HERE AS A CITIZEN

INDEPENDENT OF CITY GOVERNMENT,
I AM VOLUNTEER ONE OF SEVERAL
HUNDRED VOLUNTEERS WITH THE
ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

AND I'M HERE TODAY TO GIVE
TESTIMONY ABOUT THE RESOURCE FOR
THAT DEPARTMENT GOING FORWARD.

AS YOU LIKELY HAVE RECEIVED SOME
LETTER FROM MY COLLEAGUES AND
VOLUNTEERS, I HAVE SOME
ADDITIONAL -- SIX ADDITIONAL
LETTERS TO SUBMIT TO YOU TODAY.
BUT I'M GOING TO URGE TO YOU
SUPPORT A MODIFICATION OF THIS
DEPARTMENT OF \$250,000.

TO FUND AT LEAST ONE OR TWO
ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBERS AND
PERMANENT OPERATING BUDGET.
YOU SEE FROM MY E-MAIL JUST
BEFORE OUR SESSION TODAY THAT
THERE IS -- BUT I WANT TO
CLARIFY IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING
THE RESOURCES ARE GRANT RESOURCE
THAT ARE SPECIFIED FOR A VERY
SPECIFIC SURVEY PROJECT THAT MAY
OR MAY NOT TAKE PLACE IN THE
YEAR OF 2018.

SO, I HOPE YOU'LL TAKE THAT INTO
CONSIDERATION.

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT AS
EVIDENCE THE VAST DEVELOPMENT

THAT WE HAVE HERE IN THE CITY HAS CREATED THE NEED FOR THIS FUNDING FOR THIS DEPARTMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN THE SINGLE STAFF MEMBER TO MAKE SURE -- DON'T IMPEDE ON OUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE CITY. THAT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW AND I HOPE THAT COUNCIL WILL LOOK AT SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN TERMS OF AREAS OF THE BUDGET WE CAN LOOK AT FOR THESE RESOURCES THAT I SENT IN MY E-MAIL EARLIER AND I'LL PROVIDE AFTER THIS TESTIMONY TODAY.

LET'S SEE, ALSO WOULD JUST MENTION THAT WHEN I VOLUNTEERED AT THE OLD CITY HALL, WE HAD HUNDRED OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE STOPPING BY ALONG THE FREEDOM TRAIL DURING OUR REGULAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOVERY THERE, IT WAS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR TOURISTS TO BE ENGAGED IN THE HISTORY, VERY IMPORTANT HISTORY THAT IS HERE IN THE CITY.

ANY QUESTIONS I'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE THOSE AND LOOK AT THE CITY'S BUDGET AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

>> THANK YOU.

>> KATE WILL GRAB THE LETTER.

>> I HAVE THE AWARD THAT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ATTACHMENT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> MIKE HEISCHMAN.

>> DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO TAKE THAT.

>> MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MY NAME IS MIKE, I LIVE AT 920 DORCHESTER.

I RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER FROM THE CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MY DAUGHTER GRADUATED FROM BOSTON ACADEMY IN 2009.

I'VE BEEN AN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVIST FIGHTING FOR QUALITY EDUCATION AND EQUITY SINCE 19 0. WHY TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIAL MOST OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIAL IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON SUPPORT POLICIES
THAT DAMAGE AND HURT OUR
CHILDREN.
THAT'S MY QUESTION.
I'M AN OLD MAN, I'VE BEEN
FIGHTING FOR OUR KIDS' EDUCATION
FOR DECADES.
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE I'LL
CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE
IN THE STRUGGLE.
I'M WORKING WITH BOSTON
EDUCATION JUSTICE ALLIANCE AND
COALITION FOR EQUAL QUALITY
EDUCATION.
EVERY YEAR IT'S THE SAME STORY,
IT'S THE SAME SAD STORY, I HEARD
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TALK
HOW GREAT THE BUDGET IS HOW
THANKFUL WE SHOULD BE TO THE
MAYOR FOR RECORD-BREAKING BU
BUDGET.
THEN I HEAR FROM OUR CHILDREN,
THEN I HEAR FROM OUR PARENTS, I
HEAR ABOUT ALL THIS PLANS FOR
FUTURE FOR NEXT YEAR.
SCHOOLS THAT ARE IN BAD SHAPE
PHYSICALLY THAT NEED OVER
BILLION DOLLARS I BELIEVE IN
REPAIRS.
NOT ENOUGH RESOURCE, OVER AND
OVER AND OVER AGAIN THINGS GET
WORSE AND WORSE.
IF I DO NOT LIVE IN CHELSEA AND
TEACH IN CHELSEA AND TODAY LIVE
IN BOSTON, INSTEAD IF I WERE
LIVING AND TEACHING IN WELLESLEY
AND THE WEALTHY COMMUNITIES,
THEY SEEM TO VALUE AND CHERISH
AND LOVE THEIR CHILDREN MORE
THAN WE DO.
AND WHY, WHY, WHY?
WHY IS AUSTERITY FOR LOW INCOME
COMMUNITIES AND MOSTLY CHILDREN
OF COLOR.
AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL,
ALWAYS FACED WITH THE SAME
CHOICE, IS WORTHY TO THE SUPER
RICH, OR IS IT TO OUR CHILDRENS
IT TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR CITIES
ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH THE
GREATEST NEEDS.
THIS IS THE WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE.
WE FIND THE WAYS AND MEANS AND

INTESTINAL FORTITUDE TO TAKE
BACK THE WEALTH THAT IS GOING TO
THE SUPER RICH.

FIND WAYS AND MEANS AND
FORTITUDE TO BE MORE LOYAL TO
OUR CHILDREN THAN TO THE ZIPPER
RICH.

THAT IS MY MAJOR QUESTION.
WE NEED A MAYOR WHO WILL SUPPORT
POLICY THAT WILL REALLY NURTURE
AND LOVE OUR CHILDREN.

WE NEED MEMBERS OF THE CITY
COUNCIL THAT WILL DO THE SAME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU.

JOHN BOOKSTONE.

>> MY NAME IS JOHN BOOKSTONE I
LOVE AT ONE MASS AVE.

I'M BOARD ARE EVER FENWAY AND
BACK BAY.

I'VE BEEN VERY INVOLVED IN THE
DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATIONS AND AM HOUSELED OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS ARE BEING AIR BNB
FOR OWNER OF APARTMENT
BUILDINGS, I KNOW THAT THE NEW
PROGRAM IS TO REGISTER AS
APARTMENT OWNER, I HOPE THAT YOU
FUND THE INSPECTIONAL DIVISION
ADEQUATELY MAYBE WITH ALL THE
FINES THAT COME INTO THE CITY
THEY COULD GO RIGHT BACK TO THE
INSPECTIONAL DIVISION.

WE NEED TO STOP CORPORATIONS
FROM RUINING OUR DOWNTOWN
NEIGHBORHOODS.

AND THERE IS NO EXCUSE, WE
PARTICIPATED FOR YEARS IN
ALLOWING CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT
THAT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THE
NEIGHBORHOOD ON BOYLSTON STREET.
PARTICULARLY PLANNING FOR ZONING
AND THE CITY HAS NOT TAKEN THEIR
FAIR SHARE OF THE WORK ON THIS
ONE.

I CERTAINLY ALSO AGREE ENTIRELY
WITH THE LAST SPEAKER WHO SAID
THAT EDUCATION HAS TO BE OUR
MAJOR EFFORT IN THIS ONE, THE
YOUNG BOSTONIANS, THE IMMIGRANTS
COMING HERE, THE SCHOOLS,
TEACHERS, NEIGHBORHOOD
ORGANIZATIONS THAT SPEND A LOT
OF TIME DOING THINGS THAT THE

CITY HAS TO STEP UP WITH THAT AS A FIRST PRIORITY.

I VOLUNTEER TO TUTOR MATH AT THE BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY BECAUSE I LIVE CLOSE BY.

I VOLUNTEER TO TUTOR SYRIAN IMMIGRANTS BECAUSE IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO HAVE THEIR LANGUAGE AND THEIR MATHEMATICS BROUGHT UP TO SPEED SO THAT THEY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL WILL PUSH BACK ON SOME OF MAYOR WALSH'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS THAT BRING A LOT OF MONEY INTO THE CITY, BUT WITHOUT CONSIDERATION FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND OUR CHILDREN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU.

>> RECOGNIZES THE JOINED BY FRANK BAKER, CITY COUNCILOR. I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER SIGN-IN SHEETS, ANYBODY ELSE WISH TO TESTIFY AT THIS POINT?

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SPEAK.

I'M GOING TO TRY TO GET THROUGH THIS, I WASN'T QUITE READY, WASN'T SURE IF I WAS GOING TO DO THIS BUT I SEE THERE'S NO LINE. MY NAME IS GINA LEARY I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON SINCE I'VE BEEN 13 YEARS OLD, FIRST VOLUNTEERED IN THE FIELD WHEN THEY OF THERE WERE FIELD DAYS, I ALSO BECAME A CAMP COUNCILOR AT CAMP JOY THEN ON TO A LIFEGUARD.

I DREW GREW UP IN ROXBURY AND I ATTENDED WEST ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL.

I WENT ON TO BECOME AN EDUCATOR AND I OBTAINED MY FIRST EDUCATION LICENSE IN 1985, MY SECOND WAS IN 1996.

I HAVE TAUGHT OVER 25 YEARS IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

I WANT TO CLARIFY THAT I AM VERY HARD WORKING, INVESTED AND EFFECTIVE TEACHER.

I AM WELL RESPECTED BY

COLLEAGUES, STUDENTS AND
FAMILIES.

I HAVE CONTINUED TO PUT A LOT OF
TIME AND MONEY TO MAKE SURE THAT
BOTH OF MY LICENSES ARE CURRENT.
I HAVE PUT IN COUNTLESS HOURS
INTO TEACHING, TEACHER TRAINING,
WORKSHOPS, CERTIFIED PROGRAMS.
I WAS ASSIGNED TO BE TEACHER IN
CHARGE FOR FIVE YEAR THAT I TOOK
DASH I'M SORRY, THAT I TOOK ON
ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES IN THE
ABSENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL.
ONLY WELL QUALIFIED AND WELL
RESPECTED TEACHERS ARE ASKED TO
FILL THIS POSITION AT THE
SCHOOLS.

IN 2014 MY COMPUTER LAB CLOSED.
I HAVE WORKED AT THE SCHOOL FOR
TEN YEARS, I WAS DEVASTATED TO
SAY THE LEAST.

WHAT WAS MORE DID HE HAVE TATING
WAS TO BE USURPED OF MY TITLE AS
TEACHER I'M NOW SBC THAT IS WHY
I'M HERE SPEAKING TODAY.

MY REPUTATION HAS BEEN SHREDDED
BY THE MEDIA, BUT WHAT'S WORSE
THAN THAT IS BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS HAS Demeaned ME AS NOT
WORTHY OF A POSITION.

THROUGH OPINION TESTIMONY,
VARIOUS PUBLICATION, AS FOR THE
MEDIA, BPS STATED THAT SBC ISs
HAVE NOT EARNED POSITION.

OVER 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND
FLAWLESS RECORD AND I HAVE NOT
EARNED A POSITION.

I AM HIGHLY QUALIFIED WITH TWO
ACTIVE LICENSES, I HAVE NEVER
HAD A BAD EVALUATION, I COME
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND I'M ALSO
ON HIGH PRIORITY LIST TO BE
HIRED.

I'VE 'PLAYED FOR 15 JOBS, I HAVE -- I HAVE GUM IN MY MOUTH,
I SHOULDN'T.

I HAVE APPLIED FOR APPROXIMATELY
15 JOBS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS,
I HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED TO ONE
INTERVIEW.

FOR MANY YEARS I'VE HELD MY HEAD
UP HIGH.

SO PROUDLY TO SAY I WORK FOR
BPS.

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS I AM

ASHAMED.

I AM ASHAMED FOR NOT WHAT I DO
TEACHING IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.

I AM ASHAMED THAT BPS IS NOT
PUTTING THE STUDENTS' NEEDS
FIRST AT THE FOREFRONT.

I AM ASHAMED THAT BPS WOULD
RATHER SAVE MONEY AND HIRE
INEXPERIENCED AND UNLICENSED
TEACHERS RATHER THAN HIRING A
HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED
TEACHER.

I DO FEEL BAD FOR YOU YOUNGER
TEACHERS THAT I JUST FEEL LIKE
THEY'RE BOO BEING SET UP.

I FEEL LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE A
CHANCE, NOT GIVEN A CHANCE WHEN
THEY FIRST COME IN.

THE TREATMENT OF BPS TEACHERS IS
DESPICABLE.

I KNOW FOR ME I FEEL LIKE A
PUPPET ON A STRING.

I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER WHERE I
WILL BE ASSIGNED, EVERY SCHOOL
YEAR.

I DON'T EVEN HAVE A SAY IN WHAT
I'LL BE TEACHING.

I AM PLACED A WEEK OR TWO BEFORE
SCHOOL STARTS SBCs HAVE
BEEN -- SO THAT EVEN OUR
COLLEAGUES TREAT US DIFFERENTLY.
THERE'S NO REAL CONNECTION TO
SCHOOL TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.
SO WE ARE NOT CONSIDERED OR I
DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M CONSIDERED
AS A CULTURE OF WE.

LAST YEAR AT AN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL WHERE I TAUGHT COMPUTERS
APPROXIMATELY 625 TEACHERS.

I HAPPEN TO WORK THERE 15 YEARS
PRIOR SO IT WAS -- I WAS GLAD TO
BE HOME.

I GAVE MY HEART, SOUL AND ENERGY
TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF MY
STUDENTS.

PRINCIPAL WANTED TO KEEP ME
THERE BUT THERE WAS NO MONEY.
SBCs CANNOT STAY AT THE SAME
SCHOOL TWO YEARS IN A ROW
REGARDLESS OF THE IMPACT ON
STUDENT LEARNING.

THIS YEAR A WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL
STARTED I WAS NOTIFIED THAT I
WOULD BE TEACHING AT A HIGH

SCHOOL.

13 YEARS TEACHING ELEMENTARY AND I GET ASSIGNED TO A HIGH SCHOOL. THAT IS NOT STRATEGIC PLACEMENT, I HOPE WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THAT.

I WAS ASSIGNED TO TEACH TECHNOLOGY.

SCI IS SHELTERED ENGLISH INSTRUCTION OR SHELTERED ENGINE IMMERSION, DEPENDING WHAT YOU READ FROM.

I AM NOT AN SEI TEACHER BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER IS THE BENEFIT OF THE STUDENT.

I WAS BEING EVALUATED IN THIS POSITION LIKE TELLING BRAIN SURGEON TO PERFORM HEART SURGEON, DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. THE STRATEGIC PLACEMENT WAS SET UP TO EVALUATE ME OUT.

IT WAS UNETHICAL TO EVALUATE MY PERFORMANCE CONSIDERING MY ASSIGNMENT.

I RECEIVED OVERALL PROFICIENT, IT CAME WITH MUCH SACRIFICE.

I HAD TO SPEND COUNTLESS HOURS REINVENTING EVERYTHING AND DEVELOPING A NEW CURRICULUM USING SCI STRATEGIES.

THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO SOCIAL LIFE FOR ME LAST YEAR.

I WANT TO CALL THIS EXACTLY WHAT IT IS, IT'S EVIDENT THAT I HAVE NOT OBTAINED MY OWN CLASSROOM. BECAUSE THEY COST TOO MUCH MONEY THAT'S MY FEELING.

TO ME THIS IS SUCH A WASTE.

I AM ONLY ONE STORY AND THERE'S PLENTY MORE STORIES LIKE MINE SO I ASK YOU TO PLEASE LOOK AT THIS BUDGET, LOOK WHAT BEST IS DOING WITH THEIR INITIATIVE, WITH EARLY HIRING AND PIPELINE PROGRAM.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND MOST OF THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE GOT IN TO TEACHING ARE NOT PASSING THE MTLs THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN.

I THINK THEY'RE JUST SHOVED INTO THESE PROGRAMS, I KNOW IT COSTS A LOT OF MONEY.

I THINK IT'S \$10 MILLION FOR THE

PIPELINE PROGRAM.

WE DO NEED IT AT SOME POINT BUT
I THINK RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO
PULL BACK A LITTLE BIT, HAVE LOT
OF SCHOOLS CLOSING AND
TURN-AROUND SCHOOLS.

THERE ARE LOT OF TEACHERS OUT
THERE RIGHT NOW TRYING TO SEEK A
POSITION THEY CANNOT BE HIRED.
I THINK WE MIGHT BE LOOKING AT
300 SBCs IN THE UPCOMING
FUTURE I'M NOT SURE.

I WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THAT
INITIATIVE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY HOURS THEYHAVE TO DO FOR THESE PROGRAMS,
TEACH AMERICA AND WHAT ELSE THEY
HAVE IN THEIR PIPELINE.

BUT I THINK IT'S CRUCIAL TO
MAYBE TAKE A LOOK AT THE
CREDENTIALS THEY HAVE TO GO
THROUGH TO BECOME PART OF THE
CLASSROOM.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>>

>> IF FOLKS WANTED TO SIGN UP TO
TESTIFY, THERE'S A SIGN-IN SHEET
RIGHT OVER HERE BY THE DOOR.
AND WE'VE SINCE BEEN JOINED BY
AT LARGE CITY COUNCILOR AYANNA
PRESSLEY.

WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, IF YOU
WANT TO COME TO THE PODIUM TO
SPEAK, WE HAVE KATHLEEN ALVAREZ,
TOM ARABIA, MALCOLM CLAF-- I'M
SORRY, THEY SAID NO.

ABIGAIL BOWERS.

RUBY WEN, NATALIE PORTEIL.

>> HELLO AGAIN, SIR.

IT'S NICE SEEING YOU IN THIS
FULL ROOM OF EVERYBODY HERE.

MY NAME IS KATHLEEN ALVAREZ.

I GO TO FLOATING INTERNATIONAL
HIGH.

I'M HERE TO ADVOCATE AGAINST THE
BUDGET CUTS.

I I HAVE BEEN IN B.P.S. FOR ALL
OF MY LIFE.

I WENT TO EDWARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IF I DIDN'T HAVE B.P.S., I
WOULDN'T HAVE THE FUTURE I HAVE
NOW.

IF I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO GO
TO EDWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL, I

WOULDN'T HAVE JOINED DEBATE, I
WOULDN'T HAVE FOUND THE PASSION
THAT I HAVE NOW FOR EDUCATIONAL
JUSTICE.

I AM HERE USING MY VOICE FOR ALL
THE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BE HERE
TODAY.

I AM HERE REPRESENTING AROUND,
LET'S SAY 400 PEOPLE THEY KNOW
PERSONALLY THAT STILL GO TO THE
B.P.S., AND I'M PRETTY SURE
THERE'S WAY MORE.

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO HEAR
THIS OUT.

MY EDUCATION IS A VALUE, AND SO
IS EVERYONE ELSE IN B.P.S.

A YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T-- CUTTING
THESE BUDGETS IS SLOWLY
SHORTENING FUTURE OF THESE
CHILDREN AND NOT LETTING THEM
LIVE TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.
AND THEN YOU WONDER WHY THEY'RE
OUT IN THE STREETS WHEN THE
SCHOOLS ARE GETTING SHUT DOWN
AND YOU WONDER WHY OUR
STANDARDIZED TESTING AND SCHOOLS
HAVE TO SHUT DOWN BECAUSE THEY
DON'T HAVE THE TEACHERS TO TEACH
THE CHILDREN.

SCHOOLS HAVE ONE GUIDANCE
COUNCILOR-- THERE ARE FIVE COPS.
SCHOOLS THAT GOT ALL THE
TEACHERS FIRED, ALL OF THEIR
TEACHERS FIRED, AND GETTING
REHIRED, AND EACH STUDENT HAS
GIVEN UP HOPE.

SCHOOLS WHERE STUDENTS ARE
WATCHING THE PROGRAMS BEING CUT
ONE BY ONE BY ONE, WITH TEACHERS
APOLOGIZING BECAUSE THEY CAN'T
AFFORD TO TAKE THEM ON THE FIELD
TRIP, THEY CAN'T AFFORD THE
TEXTBOOKS, THEY SAY CAN'T AFFORD
THESE NOTEBOOKS.

THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE THEM
THE BASIC NECESSITIES THEY NEED
IN THE CLASSROOM.

SCHOOLS WHERE TEACH VERSION TO
SPEND MONEY OUT OF THEIR OWN
POCKET TO KEEP THE CLASS
SUSTAINABLE.

SCHOOLS WHERE THEY HAVE TO-- LET
ME GAIN MY COMPOSURE.

I CARE ABOUT B.P.S. A LOT.

AND I'M HOPING YOU GUYS DO.
I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE LISTENING
TO ME.
I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO
GET WHAT I'M SAYING.
BUT IN REALITY, IT LOOKS LIKE
WAITING UNTIL I'M FINISHED
SPEAKING AND NOT DOING ANY
ACTUAL ACTION.
IT LOOKS LIKE A COUNCIL OF
PUPPETS, WATCHING YOU COME IN
AGAIN AND WATCHING THE STUDENTS
COME IN AGAIN AND AGAIN AND
AGAIN FIGHTING FOR THEIR
EDUCATION AND NOT CARING ABOUT A
WORD WE HAVE TO SAY.
NOT SHOWING UP, MAKING THE
BUDGET HEARINGS DURING SCHOOL
HOURS SO WE CAN'T SHOW UP.
MAKING THESE BUDGET HEARINGS AND
WATCHING YOU GUYS STARE AT ME,
AND KNOWING IT DOESN'T REALLY
RESONATE WITH YOU GUYS AND THE
CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT YOU'RE
DOING TO US.
MY NAME IS KATHLEEN ALVAREZ.
I AM ONE STUDENT OUT OF B.P.S.,
AND I'M PLEADING FOR YOU GUYS
NOT ALLOW THESE BUDGETS TO GO
THROUGH.
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.
>> THANK YOU.
>>
(APPLAUSE)
>> FOLKS, SO, BEFORE YOU ALL
CAME IN, WE HAVE CERTAIN
PROTOCOLS IN THE CHAMBER.
WHEN PEOPLE TESTIFY, WE ASK THAT
THEY NOT SHOW ANY EXPRESSIONS OF
SUPPORT OR NON-SUPPORT, WHICH
MEANS CLAPPING.
YOU CAN WAVE YOUR HANDS.
SNAPPING, BUT WE ASK YOU TO
REFRAIN.
THAT'S OUR COUNCIL RULES.
SO PLEASE ADHERE TO THEM.
COUNCILOR BAKER.
>> I JUST HAVE A PROBLEM BEING
CALLED A PUPPET, THAT'S ALL.
\$40 MILLION INCREASED BUDGET
THIS YEAR.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOMEONE COME
IN AND CALL US PUPPETS.
I WORK PRETTY HARD.

BASED ON THAT RIGHT THERE, I'M NOT GOING TO STAY FOR THE REST OF THIS TESTIMONY.
I CAME IN HERE TO HEAR TESTIMONY.
SOMEONE CALLS ME A PUPPET, I'M ALL SET.
>> THANK YOU
(SHOUTING)
>> RECESS.
LISTEN, WE CAN ALL JUST BE...
(INAUDIBLE)
>> I'M JUST TELLING YOU, WE'RE EITHER GOING TO CONDUCT THIS IN A CIVIL WAY...
>> THANK YOU, WE'RE BACK IN SESSION.
I LEFT OFF CALLING SOME NAMES OUT HERE.
ABIGAIL BOWERS.
RUBY WREN, AND NATALIE PORTIO.
>> HELLO, I'M ABIGAIL BOWERS.
I AM A SENIOR AT BOSTON LATIN ACADEMIES, ONE OF THE SCHOOLS THAT IS GOING TO BE CUT.
FIRST OF ALL, NO DISRESPECT, BUT YOU GUYS ARE ADULTS.
WE ARE REALLY ANGRY BECAUSE OUR BUDGETS ARE CUTTING.
I'M SORRY IF WE HURT YOUR FEELINGS, BUT WE ARE BEING HURT RIGHT NOW.
FIRST OF ALL, MY SCHOOL HAS SEVEN GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.
IF WE CONTINUE TO CUT THE BUDGETS, GUESS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
WE'RE GOING TO LOSE GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND THE STUDENTS NEED THEM.
I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TO HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT.
BOSTON IS STILL SEGREGATED, TOO.
OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ARE STILL SEGREGATED.
SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT EVEN BEING CUT ARE THE PROMINENT WHITE, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WHICH HAVE ENDOWMENTS WHICH CAN PAY FOR CUTS ARE NOT BEING CUT.
WE ONLY HAVE 20% WHITE PEOPLE HERE.
IF YOU CUT THESE SCHOOLS -- WE

NEED TO FIX THE SCHOOLS AND ADD MORE MONEY INSTEAD OF CUTTING ABOUT, LIKE, 1 MILLION FROM BRIGHTON HIGH, AND MANY OTHER SCHOOLS SUCH AS BURKE, ABOUT \$100,000.

B.L.A. DISAPPOINT EVEN HAVE PENCILS IN ITS ART CLASSROOM. AND WE'RE ONE OF THE PRIVILEGED SCHOOLS.

SOMETIMES WE DON'T HAVE DOOR HANDLES ON OUR STAIRCASES. SO, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE HURT ARE NOT ME.

IT IS GOING TO BE THE PEOPLE, THE STUDENTS OF COLOR AT THE LEVEL-THREE AND FOUR SCHOOLS WHICH ARE ALREADY UNDERFUNDED ARE GOING TO GET CUT.

THEIR I.E.P. PROGRAMS ARE GOING TO GET CUT.

THE ART, THE MUSIC, AND IF THESE PROGRAMS ARE CUT, STUDENTS SUCH AS MY SISTER, WHO HAS ASPERGERS, AND ONE OF MY FRIENDS WHO IS AUTISTIC, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AND WILL HAVE TO SEARCH EXPENSIVE SCHOOLS TO HELP THEM, THAT THEY CANNOT AFFORD.

I SAY THAT WE ARE TRYING TO BE CIVIL, TRUST ME.

BUT WE'RE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE WE WERE HERE LAST YEAR SAYING THE SAME STUFF.

AND WE WEREN'T LISTENED TO. LAST YEAR BHOOR TWO, PEOPLE WERE ON THEIR PHONES.

COUNCILORS WERE ON THEIR PHONES FAZ OUR FUTURE DOESN'T MATTER. I'M GOING TO LET OTHERS SPEAK, BUT I HAVE TO JUST SAY THAT IT'S COMPLETELY DISRESPECTFUL THAT ONE NAME DROVE A COUNCILOR OUT OF HERE.

OUR FUTURE IS HERE.

WE ARE ANGRY.

CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

YOU WALKING OUT IS WALKING OUT OF STUDENTS' FUTURES.

YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN, ONE, WE'RE ANGRY, AND TWO, YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO US, OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.
KATHLEEN ALVAREZ.
TOM TOM ARABIA, DEAN KROFT.
OKAY.
KHALID MOHAMMED, IAN McSORELYY
BRIT MICHAELJOANS.
>> THANK YOU FOR HEARING ME.
I DON'T REALLY HAVE A LOT TO
SAY, AND I WANT TO GIVE MOST OF
THE TIME TO THE STUDENTS HERE.
OKAY.
SO I'M NOT A STUDENT IN BOSTON
RIGHT NOW.
BUT I'VE BEEN A RESIDENT SINCE
2001.
AND WHAT REALLY PAINS ME IS THAT
THIS CITY AND THIS STATE IS
LAUDED AS A PROGRESSIVE ONE.
IT'S A CITY THAT HAS SO MANY
HOSPITALS, SO MANY UNIVERSITIES,
SO MANY SCHOOLS.
AND A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF
WEALTH.
MASSACHUSETTS HAS NOW OVER
15,000 MILLIONAIRES IN IT.
15,000 MILLIONAIRES, OKAY.
AND YET, WE SOMEHOW CAN'T FIND
THE MONEY TO FUND PUBLIC
EDUCATION.
THAT TO ME IS BEYOND BELIEF.
IT'S COMPLETELY BEYOND
PLAINTIFF.
BELIEF.
WE HAVE DEVELOPMENTS HAPPENING
EVERYWHERE IN THE CITY--
DOWNTOWN, BY THE WATERFRONT, BY
FENWAY.
THERE ARE ALL OF THESE CONDOS,
LUXURY CONDOS COMING UP.
NEIGHBORHOODS ARE BEING
GENTRIFIED.
PEOPLE ARE BEING DISPLACED.
THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF
WEALTH WHEN IT COMES TO
DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCIAL REAL
ESTATE, ET CETERA.
I DON'T THINK THAT THOSE PEOPLE
ARE BEING PUNISHED FOR
DISPLACING PEOPLE, AND INSTEAD,
STUDENTS ARE BEING PUNISHED
BECAUSE THIS CITY CAN'T COME UP
WITH THE MONEY, EVEN THOUGH THE
MONEY IS ACTUALLY HERE.

IT'S ALL AROUND US.
WE HAVE PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES
BRINGING IN ALL KINDS OF MONEY.
WE HAVE GENERAL-- IS ELECTRIC OR
MOTORS, I CAN'T REMEMBER-- THAT
JUST MOVED IN.
WE HAVE VAST ARRAYS OF TECH,
PHARMA, ALL OF THESE COMPANIES.
BUT YET, THERE'S MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS BEING CUT FROM PUBLIC
EDUCATION.
I REALLY GENUINELY BOGGLES MY
MIND.
WHY ARE YOU PUNISHING STUDENTS?
AND RIGHT NOW, WE ARE IN A WORLD
AND IN A COUNTRY IN WHICH WE
HAVE A PRESIDENT WHOSE EDUCATION
SECRETARY LITERALLY WANTS TO
DISMANTLE HER OWN PORTFOLIO, HER
OWN DEPARTMENT.
I MEAN, IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.

,
RIGHT.
DO WE WANT TO STEP IN LINE WITH
THAT, WHICH IS ABOUT THE
DESTRUCTION OF PEOPLE AND POOR
PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR AND
YOUTH, OR DO YOU WANT TO CHART A
SEPARATE COURSE THAT SAYS, NO,
ACTUALLY, WE ARE NOT ABOUT THE
OPPRESSION OF YOUTH AND WORKING
CLASS FAMILIES.
INSTEAD, WE WANT A BRIGHT FUTURE
FOR ALL PEOPLE.
AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT THIS
CITY NEEDS TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO
STAND UP FOR AND NOT ON THE
BACKS OF STUDENTS IN BOSTON.
>> SIR, YOU DIDN'T INTRODUCE
YOURSELF, JUST FOR THE RECORD.
>> OH, YEAH, TOM ARABIA.
I'M A RESIDENT OF ROXBURY.
>> THANK YOU.
MISS ELAINE DENSE.
AND SOMEBODY HELP ME HERE.
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY, DOES
ANYBODY ELSE WANT TO TESTIFY?
JUST PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF
BEFORE YOU SPEAK.
>> HELLO, I'M A B.P.S. GRADUATE.
AND I'M ALSO A STUDENT AT BOSTON
UNIVERSITY, SO I KIND OF KNOW A
LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE EDUCATION
IN THE BOSTON AREA.

MY SCHOOL WAS DORCHESTER
ACADEMY, WHICH WAS A LEVEL-FOUR
SCHOOL, AND IT GOT SHUT DOWN.
I AM THE AFTERMATH OF BUDGET
CUTS.

I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO NOT
HAVE ENOUGH GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.
IN FACT, I ONLY HAD ONE FOR MY
SCHOOL OF 400 KIDS.

I KNOW-- I ALSO KNOW WHAT IT
FEELS LIKE TO NOT HAVE ENOUGH
BOOKS, NOT HAVE ENOUGH SUPPORT,
NOT HAVE ENOUGH SUPPLIES.
AND IT REALLY SADDENS ME BECAUSE
THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO MOVE
THIS CITY FORWARD IS IF OUR
KIDS, THE YOUTH, THE GENERATION
OF NOW THAT IS IN CHARGE OF THE
WORLD, THE LEADERS OF THE WORLD
ARE EDUCATED.

AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ACCESS TO
THAT.

I AM VERY LUCKY BECAUSE I GOT A
SCHOLARSHIP AND WAS ABLE TO MOVE
ON TO SECONDARY EDUCATION, BUT
ONCE I ARRIVED AT MY UNIVERSITY,
I FOUND MYSELF BEING BEHIND
OTHER STUDENTS, AND THAT SHOULD
NOT BE THE CASE.

I HAD TO FILL IN GAP HOLES IN MY
EDUCATION BECAUSE PEOPLE AROUND
ME LEARNED ABOUT THINGS THEY
NEVER EVEN HEARD OF BEFORE.

AND THAT'S REALLY SAD.

I'M BACK HERE BECAUSE I'M A
B.P.S. GRADUATE.

EVEN WITH ALL OF THE BAD THINGS
THAT WE LACKED AND THAT HAPPENED
WITHIN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM, AT THE
END OF THE DAY, I KNOW THAT
EDUCATION IS THE FORCE THAT
DRIVES US FORWARD.

SO AS A GRADUATE, I'M BACK HERE
BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE THE YOUNGER
PEOPLE TO BE LISTENED TO, AND
THIS SHOULD STOP.

IT SHOULD NEVER GET TO THIS.

I'M IN MY THIRD YEAR IN
UNIVERSITY, WHY AM I STILL
HEARING ABOUT BUDGET CUTS?

I GUESS THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO
SAY.

>> THANK YOU, CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR SCHOLARSHIP.

OKAY.
I DON'T KNOW.
>> GOOD AFTERNOON, Y'ALL.
MY NAME IS BRIAN BRITS, THE
F-BOMB KID.
NOT REALLY THE F-BOMB KID, BUT
THE KID THAT DOESN'T GIVE AN
"F."
WHERE AM I GOING TO START?
WE'RE ANGRY.
THE REASON I'M GOING TO SAY
WE'RE ANGRY IS THIS, YOU ALL ARE
ADULTS.
YOU HAVE PRIVILEGES WE DON'T
HAVE.
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO MENTION
THAT.
BUT IT'S JUST SIMPLE.
IT'S LIKE WHEN KIDS GET PUSHED
OUT OF SCHOOL, YOU KNOW, WHEN
STUDENTS HAVE ISSUES AT THEIR
HOMES AND SCHOOL WE DON'T GET
RECESS LIKE YOU ALL GET RECESS.
YOU GET TO CALL THAT ALL THE
TIME.
YOU NEED TO STOP THE GAME.
IT'S LITERALLY LIKE A MATRIX,
RIGHT-- OH, I APOLOGIZE.
STOP THE CAMERAS REAL QUICK.
BUT, YEAH, NO, THAT'S, LIKE,
HONESTLY, HOW WE FEEL.
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE JUST IN THIS
GAME, AND YOU'RE ALL CONTROLLING
IT, AND IT'S A MATTER OF REALLY
WHEN I CAME UP HERE, LIKE, MY
PURPOSE OF IT WAS JUST TO TELL
YOU ALL TO PRIORITIZE US.
HONESTLY, THAT'S ALL WE WANT, IS
JUST-- AND THE REASON WE SAY
THIS IS BECAUSE, LIKE, FOR
EXAMPLE, LAST BUDGET HEARING
THEY WENT TO, RIGHT.
IT HAD TO DO WITH B.P.S.'
BUDGET.
HOW COME THIS ROOM WAS FILLED
WITH A BUNCH OF WHITE PEOPLE
WITH THEIR STIEWTS SOOUTS ON AND
STUFF LIKE THAT.
AND NOW THAT THE STUDENTS ARE
HERE, WE'RE MISSING COUNCILORS.
WE'RE MISSING THE PEOPLE WHO
PLAN THE BUDGET.
IT'S LIKE IT'S A MATTER OF US
NOT FEELING PRIORITIZED.

IT'S LIKE-- AND, LIKE, ABIGAIL SAID, WE DID THIS LAST YEAR, BUT I CAN'T PROMISE YOU THAT NEXT YEAR WE'RE GOING TO RALLY. I CAN'T PROMISE YOU NEXT YEAR WE'RE GOING TO WALK OUT. I CAN PROMISE YOUR DOG MIGHT GO MISSING, YOUR CAR MIGHT GO MISSING--

>> COME OMAN.

>> AND THAT'S REALLY BECAUSE WE'RE PISSED AND WE WANT YOU TO KNOW WE'RE PISSED.

WE DO THIS EVERY TIME AND IT FEELS LIKE YOU DON'T LISTEN TO US.

THE REASON I'M NOT LOOKING AT YOU IS BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE YOU ARE NOT LISTENING TO ME.

NEXT YEAR, I'M NOT IN B.P.S., BUT NEXT YEAR THEY'RE GOING TO BE IN THE SAME SPOT OR PROBABLY, LEAK, IN A WORSE POSITION.

AND MY THING IS, LET ME BACKTRACK TO WHERE I WANTED MY SPEECH TO GO TO.

WHAT I WANT YOU ALL TO DO, WHAT I WANT FROM Y'ALL IS JUST TO HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE. HOLD YOUR PEERS ACCOUNTABLE. HOLD THE MAYOR ACCOUNTABLE. YOU FEEL ME?

AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE'RE REALLY TIRED.

WHAT REALLY PISSES US OFF, REALLY, IS FIGHTING FOR THIS LAST SLICE OF THE PIE.

YOU FEEL ME?

THAT REALLY SUCKS.

WE HATE HAVING TO COME TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

WE HATE HAVING TO DO THAT BECAUSE-- AGAIN, WE HATE HAVING TO DO THAT, AND THIS KIND OF GOES INTO ACCOUNTABILITY, WHERE I NEED TO YOU HOLD THE MAYOR ACCOUNTABLE.

AND WE NEED MORE MONEY.

AT THIS POINT, IT'S JUST GET AGO I DON'T KNOW, IT'S BECOME INTERNALIZED.

IT HAS BECOME INTERNALIZED BEFORE IN THE MOVEMENT, WHERE WE COME AT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

BUT WE REALIZE THAT IT'S NOT THEM.

IT'S NOT THEM.

IT'S THE CITY.

IT'S THE CITY.

AND THE MONEY IS OUT THERE.

THE MONEY IS OUT THERE.

WE JUST NEED TO YOU PRIORITIZE

US AND PUT THAT MONEY THERE.

AND THAT'S ABOUT IT.

>> THANKS.

(GAVEL).

>> MY NAME IS IAN.

I'M FROM THE-- I GUESS ONE OF THE LAST GENERATIONS TO SOY THAT THEY CAN SUCCESSFULLY SAY THEY FOUGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

BEFORE I ADDRESS THE BUDGET CUT ALLEGATIONS, I WANT TO ADDRESS THE FACT THAT THE REPRESENTATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IS IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW TO A DEGREE.

AND THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS A MAN WALKED AWAY BECAUSE A YOUNG WOMAN SAID SHE FELT LIKE THESE POSITIONS WERE PUPPETS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T ALLOCATE, AND DEFEND AND PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEIR QUALITY EDUCATION.

IN A WAW I VIEW IT AS A CRIME.

YOU MAY NOT VIEW THAT AS A

CRIME.

BUT SHE HAD THE RIGHT TO SAY HOW SHE FELT BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, THESE ARE OUR LIVES.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WE HAD TO TAKE THE UNPAID INTERNSHIPS JUST TO MAKE OUR RESUMES LOOK JUST AS GOOD OR SOMEWHERE NEAR CLOSE TO THE SUBURB AND COUNTER-PARTS WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

WE COMPETE FOR THE COLLEGES OF THIS CITY.

WE DON'T GET THOSE DEMANDS, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THE WHOLE IDEA ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION SAY VERY HIGH-DEMANDING INSTITUTION.

BUT WE CAN FIGHT FOR THESE INSTITUTIONS AND THE EDUCATION WE DESERVE.

NOW, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THE BUDGET CUTS HAVING GOING ON FOR YEARS, AND EVERY YEAR, LESS ALLOCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IS

HAPPENING IN THIS CITY.
WHEN, LIKE I SAID BEFORE,
BUSINESS OWNERS, PRIVATE
BUSINESS OWNERS, PEOPLE WHO WORK
IN, LET'S SAY, LIKE, LANDSCAPING
AND THINGS LIKE THAT AND, LIKE,
HOUSING, THEY'RE MAKING BILLIONS
IF NOT BILLIONS.
YET, WE'RE LOSING MILLIONS.
WHERE IS THE CORRELATION WITH
THAT?

I'M NOT ASKING EVERY MILLIONAIRE
TO GIVE ME \$100,000.

I'M NOT ASKING FOR THAT.
I'M ASKING FOR APPROPRIATE
ALLOCATION FOR EVERY YOUTH THAT
COMES INTO THOSE BUILDINGS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WHY IS IT
THAT WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THE
SAME RIGHTS THAT PEOPLE LEGIT,
10 MILES TO 15 MILES AWAY FROM
THIS CITY GET, NO QUESTIONS
ASKED.

I ASKED MYSELF WHY IS IT THAT
THERE ARE MORE POLICE OFFICERS
AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.
I WENT TO DORCHESTER HIGH.
WHY WERE THERE ONLY TWO GUIDANCE
COUNSELORS, AND WHY DO EVEN
BIGGER SCHOOLS GET LESS GUIDANCE
COUNSELORS.

I UNDERSTAND THERE HAS TO BE
PROTECTION BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND THE LACK OF
REPRESENTATION.
A LACK OF ACTUAL REAL GUIDANCE.
AND, ALSO, IT'S CLEAR LACK OF
STABILITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE
PEOPLE OF BOSTON, AND THE YOUNG
PEOPLE OF BOSTON.

>> MIC CHECK.

THERE WE GO.

GOOD EVENING, FIRST OFF.
MY NAME IS CHRIS, AND A LOT OF
THINGS HAVE BEEN ON MY CHEST
LATELY AND I HAVE TO THERETO
OUT.

DUE TO THE FACT AS A CITY WE'RE
MOVING BACKWARDS.

INSTEAD OF GIVING MORE TO
SCHOOLS WE GENTRIFY LOW-INCOME
AREAS AND PUSH FAMILIES OUT.
INSTEAD BUILDING A FOUNDATION
FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP, WE CLOSE

SCHOOLS AND CUT BUDGETS WHILE
IGNORING THE VOICES OF THOSE IN
DESPERATE NEED.

I HAVE A HARD TIME REALIZING THE
PROGRESS WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IF
WE KEEP CUTTING THE FUTURE.

IF THE SUPERINTENDENT DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES OF
THEIR CHOICES AND IF THE BUDGET
PASS, STUDENTS' BASIC HUMAN
RIGHTS, TO ACCESS TO A FREE AND
EQUAL EDUCATION WILL BE AT RISK.
CUTTING OFF STUDENTS WHILE
TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF
NOTHING WILL LEAD TO A HIGH
DROP-OUT RATE AND THE
SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE WILL
ONLY INCREASE WILL YOU LET THE
PROGRESS OF THIS CITY BITE THE
DUST OR NURTURE AND HELP
STUDENTS GROW?

IF THE BUDGET PASSES YOU WILL
HEAR MORE FROM US.

I GOT ACCEPTED TO NORTHEASTERN.
I'LL A CHILD FROM A LOW-INCOME
AREA WITH A SINGLE MOTHER AND
STRUGGLES TO PAY THE REPRESENT,
I GOT ACCEPTED TO NORTHEASTERN.
I HAVE THREE YOUNGER BROTHERS
AND TAKE CARE OF THEM EVERY DAY
LIKE THEY'RE MY OWN CHILDREN.
HOW IS IT THE FACT THEY LOOK AT
MY LITTLE BROTHERS AND NO FUTURE
IN THEIR EYES, ESPECIALLY MY
BROTHER WITH THE MENTAL
DISABILITY.

I LOOK INTO HIS EYES, AND ONE
TIME HE ASKED ME, "WHAT'S LEFT
FOR ME?"

WHAT'S LEFT FOR ALL OF US.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M A PRISONER.
>> HI, MY NAME IS MICHAEL JONES.
I'M CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN BOSTON
DAY AND EVENING.

THE TWO THINGS I'D LIKE TO SAY
BEFORE I GET INTO HOW-- LIKE,
WHAT MY POINTS ARE IS FIRST,
SAYING THAT Y'ALL AS, YOU KNOW,
POLITICIANS AND ALSO AS PEOPLE
OF COLOR FROM WHAT I CAN SEE
SHOULD REALIZE THAT WHEN POLICE
OR PEOPLE IN UNIFORMS COME IN,
ESPECIALLY TOWARDS YOUTH, IT IS
VERY TRIGGERING MOMENT, AND THAT

SHOULD BE RESPECTED.
AND, ALSO, THERE SHOULD BE AN
APOLOGY I FEEL.
AND I'M ASKING THAT FROM YOU AND
OF YOU.
SECONDLY THERE, SHOULD BE SOME
OTHER TYPE OF INTERVENTION.
ONE OF YOU ALL SHOULD COME UP,
EVEN IF IT'S GETTING TOO
ROWLANDY, RATHER THAN THAT
HAPPENING.
AND I'M ASKING.
SECONDLY, I KNOW IT'S BEEN
TALKED ABOUT BEFORE WITH THE
WHOLE PUPPET STATEMENT BUT IT
WAS NOT DIRECTED TOWARDS
SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHICH IS
ONE OF THE THINGS WE HAVE BEEN
TOLD WHEN WE COME HERE WE CANNOT
MAKE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL
REMARKS.
AND, TWO, EVERY ACTION HAS A
REACTION.
THE ACTION WE MADE AT THE LAST
MEETING, WHICH WAS LEAVING.
THE REACTION TO THAT WAS YOU ALL
CALLING THIS MEETING TO THE HEAR
OUR VOICES.
THE ACTION OF THE WORDS, "AND
THE REACTION OF THAT MAN WAS HIM
LEAVING.
THAT WAS NOT A GOOD REACTION TO
THAT.
THAT SHOWS HE IS ONE OF THE
PEOPLE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN
HERE, AND AS PEOPLE HAVE STATED
BEFORE, THANK YOU FOR STILL
BEING HERE AND STILL LISTENING.
SO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I'M
GOING TO START OFF WITH IS
BASICALLY SAYING WE'RE AT THIS
MEETING TO CONVEY OUR VOICE.
IT NEEDS TO BE HEARD, AND THE
INTRICACY IS SO URGENTLY TIED TO
WHAT WE NEED TO SAY.
AT THE LAST HEARING IN THE
DISCUSSION OF EMOTIONAL AND
SOCIAL HEALTH IN AND OUT OF
SCHOOL THERE WERE OUTLINES BEING
SET IN PLACE, SUCH AS STUDENTS
AND FAMILY SITUATIONS BEING
DISRUPTED BY ICE, AND HOW THAT
MIGHT AFFECT THEM COMING TO
SCHOOL AND THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN

SCHOOL.

ONE THING THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR IS WHAT THE STUDENTS FACE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL AS WELL AS INSIDE DUE TO THE BUDGET CUTS.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE OUTLINES FOR SITUATION LIKE THAT IF THEY DON'T HAVE ADEQUATE RESOURCES GOING TO SCHOOL, COMING OUT OF SCHOOL, AND FACE BARRIERS OUTSIDE.

THE SECOND CONTINGENT IS THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT FUNDS-- NOT ADEQUATE METHODS OF STUDENTS FEELING JADED AND DISENFRANCHISED WHICH LEADS TO YOUTH PRISONER OUTFIRKTZ BUT MORE SO, THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELEAN.

WHAT YOU SEE WHEN KIDS DROP OUT, AND WHEN PEOPLE SAY THEY DON'T VALUE EDUCATION.

IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE IGNORANT KIDS OR GOING THROUGH ANGSTY PHASE, IT'S LEGITIMATELY BECAUSE OF THE FACT THEY DO NOT A VALUE IN THE EDUCATION FROM THE POWERS THAT BE.

AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT LEADS TO ABSENCE AND SCHOOLS GET GRADED ON WHETHER THEY SHOULD REMAIN OPEN BASED ON PERFORMANCE, GROWTH, THINGS LIKE THAT LINES, WHICH IS HOW SCHOOLS LIKE DORCHESTER ACADEMY GET CLOSED AND WHAT IS HAPPENING AT BRIGHTON AND SO MANY OTHERS.

THE THIRD CONTINGENT IS THE LAST DOMINO WILL FALL.

BY, THAT I MEAN ALL THE TALK THAT WILL HAPPEN HERE OR AT THE BOLING YEAR AFTER YEAR MEANS NOTHING WHEN WE TALK ABOUT HOW TO REARRANGE THE BUDGET, HOW TO CUT IT MINIMALLY, TELLING STUDENTS THERE'S NO NEED THO PROTEST BECAUSE THEY'LL HANDLE IT.

THE CURRENT HANDLING OF THE BUDGET IS LIKE MICHAEL J. FOX WAITING TABLES.

YOU NEED TO HANDLE IT BETTER AND TALK TO THE MAYOR BECAUSE HE IS

THE ONE WHAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE
IN THIS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S WALSH.
ANYONE WHO COMES IN THIS
POSITION NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND
THEY NEED A DIRECT LINE TO THE
YOUTH.
THEY CAN'T DO ANY MIDDLE-MAN
STUFF.
THEY CAN'T DO ANY "WE'LL TALK TO
YOU.
WE'LL DO THESE HEARINGS.
OF THE THEY NEED TO COME
DIRECTLY TO THE YOUTH AND DO
THIS BY THE YOUTH AND FOR THE
YOUTH.
ASK THE YOUTH ABOUT THE BUDGET,
NOT G.E. OR PEOPLE WHO DON'T
LIVE IN BOSTON.
WALSH CAN SAY ALL HE WANTS HE'S
DORCHESTER BORN AND BRED, BUT
NOT ONCE HAVE I HEARD ANYBODY
SAY A GOOD THING ABOUT THAT MAN
IN TERMS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.
>> THANK YOU.
>> HELLO.
I GO TO DORCHESTER ACADEMY.
I GRADUATED FROM THERE AS WELL.
AND I ALSO HAVE TO AGREE WITH
WHAT EVERYONE ELSE HAD TO SAY.
I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THE
SCHOOL SYSTEM IS ARCHAIC, AND IT
IS STUNTING THE YOUTH OF THE
FUTURE AND PREVENTING ANYONE
FROM ANYWHERE FROM GET ANYTHING
KIND OF HEADWAY IN TODAY'S
SOCIETY.
I FEEL LIKE WE ARE STUCK
TEACHING AND LEARNING STUFF THAT
IS UNRELEVANT RIGHT NOW TO
GENERAL SOCIETY.
MY SCHOOL WAS SEVERELY
UNDERFUNDED, SO WE DIDN'T HAVE
CLASSES LIKE-- WE DIDN'T HAVE
ECONOMICS CLASS.
WE DIDN'T HAVE ALGEBRA.
WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY A.P. CLASSES.
BY THE TIME WE MANAGED TO GET
ONE A.P. CLASS, IT WAS MY SENIOR
YEAR.
I WAS GRADUATING.
EVERYONE WHO WANTED TO TAKE IT
COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE BECAUSE
ALL THE CREDITS WERE FILLED.

AND THAT LEFT ROOM FOR THE
PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO TAKE IT,
FOR THE YOUNGER GRADES WHO
WEREN'T ABLE TO TAKE IT.
I FEEL LIKE THE BUDGET RIGHT NOW
IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE.
I HAD A LITTLE BROTHER, AND HE
IS GOING TO BE GOING TO SCHOOL.
RIGHT NOW HE IS IN SCHOOL, AND I
WANT HIM TO GO TO PUBLIC SCHOOL
AND RIGHT NOW HE IS IN A CHARTER
SCHOOL.
I WENT TO THE BOSTON RENAISSANCE
CHARTER SCHOOL.
THAT SCHOOL WAS NOT GREAT FOR ME
IN THE SLIGHTEST.
I HAVE A.D.H.D.
THAT SCHOOL TREATED ME LIKE I
WAS A PROBLEM THEY NEEDED TO BE
KEPT QUIET THEY, NEEDED TO BE
ENTERED, INSTEAD OF TEACHING ME
OR LEARNING TO TEACH WITH ME,
AND THENY WENT TO THE JOSEPH LEE
SCHOOL.
THAT SCHOOL WAS, AT THE TIME, I
FELT TO BE A TERRIBLE SCHOOL
BECAUSE IT DID THE SAME THING AS
THE RENAISSANCE DID TO ME.
IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS OUT
OF PLACE, LIKE EVIDENCE
INCAPABLE OF LEARNING.
THEN I WENT TO DORCHESTER
ACADEMY, WHERE THE TEACH THRERS
TOOK THE TIME TO LEARN AND TEACH
WITH ME AND FIND THE BEST WAYS
FOR ME TO LEARN ALONGSIDE THEM.
I HAD ONE TEACHER NAMED BRIAN
WAUCHBAM, BECAUSE HE TOOK THE
TIME AFTER SCHOOL TO TEACH ME.
HE PUT ME ON THE DEBATE TEAM,
AND MADE SURE I WAS WELL ROUNDED
AND EDUCATED AND I RESPECT HIM
FOR THAT.
NOT EVERYWHERE HAS TEACHERS LIKE
THAT.
OUR SCHOOL CLOSED DOWN, AND HE
WENT TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.
HE WASN'T GUARANTEED TO GO TO
ANOTHER SCHOOL AT THE END OF IT
BECAUSE OF THE CLOSING OF OUR
SCHOOL.
WE NEED TO HAVE MORE FUNDING AND
MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS
LIKE HIM.

RIGHT NOW, TEACHERS SEE IT AS A
PAYCHECK AND IT'S A VERY LITTLE
PAYCHECK BECAUSE TEACHERS
OVERALL ARE UNDERFUNDED.
AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE
UNDERFUNDED FOR SCHOOLS LIKE MY
SCHOOL.
ALL MY SCHOOL HAD WAS SPORTS
TEAM.
THEY DIDN'T VAANY
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
UNLESS THE TEACHERS TOOK IT UPON
THEMSELVES TO DO IT IN THEIR OWN
TIME.
TEACHERS SHOULD BE FUNDED AND BE
PROMOTED AND BE PLEASED TO HAVE
AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES BE
PROMOAPTED AND HAVE OPTIONS FOR
THEM.
RIGHT NOW, I DO ATTEND AND I AM
WITH ALL THE OTHER YOUTH TODAY.
AND I'M OUT HERE SAYING THAT
THINGS NEED TO CHANGE, AND THEY
NEED TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.
EITHER THEY'RE GOING TO CHANGE
ONE WAY OR THEY'RE NOT GOING TO
CHANGE AT ALL.
STAGNATION EQUALS-- HUMAN
EVOLUTION IS PRIZED ON MOVING
FORWARD.
EVERY DAY WE TAKE GREATER
STRIDES IN SCIENCE, SO WHY NOT
TAKE GREATER STRIDES IN
EDUCATION?
THANK YOU.
>> THANKS.
>> ALL RIGHT, SO, I'M 17.
OH, OKAY.
SO-- ALL RIGHT.
HONESTLY, HOW DO YOU GUYS EXPECT
ME TO BE ABLE TO SHARE MY
FEELINGS WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE I
CAN'T EVEN BE FULLY LISTENED TO.
YOU GUYS LEAVE BECAUSE,
KATHLEEN, A FELLOW STUDENT, WHO
SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHARE HER
FEELINGS CAN'T EVEN DO THAT,
THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE.
BUT LET ME GET STARTED.
IT SEEMS TO US YOU DON'T VALUE
OUR EDUCATION THE SAME WAY WE
DO.
YOU CUT THE BUDGET AND IT SEEMS
LIKE IT'S NO PROBLEM.

BUT LET'S BE CLEAR IT'S SCHOOLS
CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MONEY.
I STARTED OFF THIS YEAR WITH
30-PLUS STUDENTS IN SOME OF MY
CLASSSS.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SUPPOSED TO
LEARN WHEN THERE AREN'T EVEN
ENOUGH DESKS FOR THEM TO SIT AT
BECAUSE A CLASS SHOULDN'T HAVE
THAT MANY STUDENTS?

I GO TO SNOWDEN.

IT'S ALREADY A SMALL SCHOOL.
THIS YEAR WE HAVE WAY TOO MANY
STUDENTS AND NOT ENOUGH
TEACHERS.

SOME TEACHERS DON'T WANT TO WORK
THERE NEXT YEAR BECAUSE THEY
DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THE
NONSENSE THAT B.P.S. HAS TO
OFFER.

SOME STUDENTS EVEN HAVE TWO TO
THREE BLOCKS A DAY BECAUSE THERE
UNIT RNT ENOUGH TEACHES TO TEACH
DURING THOSE HOURS.

IT MAKES IT SEEM LIKE THE
STUDENTS WHO DROP OUT HAD A
CHOICE.

WITH ALL THE BUDGET CUTS, DID
THEY?

I ONLY HAVE ONE GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR AT MY SCHOOL.
AND IT'S ALREADY OVERCROWDED.
THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND ALL
THE PEOPLE WHO DENY US ACT LIKE
WE WANT THE NEWEST IPHONE OR
GAME SYSTEM.

BUT NO WE SIMPLY WANT AN
EDUCATION.

I HAVE YOUNGER SIBLINGS, AND
THEY'RE AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE TO DEAL
WITH ANY OF THIS?

THERE AREN'T ENOUGH TEACHERS.
WHAT SENSE IS IT TO FIRE THE
TEACHERS AND OVERCROWD THE
CLASSROOM.

IT'S A PSYCHE THEY'LL NEEDS TO
BE STOPPED.

INSTEAD PAYING FOR FOOLISH
DESIRES, WHY DON'T YOU ALL PUT
THAT MONEY TOWARD SCHOOLS?

>> HI, MY NAME IS NATALIE, AND
I'M HERE TO SPEAK FOR, LIKE, A
FRIEND THAT'S NOT HERE, OR

COULDN'T BE HERE.

HE'S TALKING ABOUT OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL THAT IS GETTING BUDGET CUTS, AND WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT THE EDWARDS?

QUITE A LOT.

THERE'S SO MUCH I CAN SAY ABOUT THE EDWARDS AND THE WAY IT'S HELPED ME OUT.

MY JOURNEY AND PATH INTO THE REAL WORLD.

THE EDWARD WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PLACES WHERE I FELT LIKE I COULD BE MYSELF, WHERE I WAS ENCOURAGED AND MOTIVATED BY MY TEACHERS AND SURPRISINGLY, SOME OF THE BEST STUDENTS COULD BE THE BEST... GOING INTO THE EDWARDS TAUGHT ME SO MUCH ABOUT BEING MY OWN PERSON, AND THAT BEING ME ISN'T HORRIBLE.

THE SCHOOL TAUGHT ME TO BE MORE BRAVE, CONFIDENT, AND CONFIDENCE STEMMING FROM SOME OF THE EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAMS, SUCH AS MUSICAL THEATER.

AND ANOTHER THING, CUTTING THE BUDGET FROM THE SCHOOL WOULD MEAN THAT THE SCHOOL WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FUND THE EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAM, OF LIKE DEBATE, MUSICAL THEATER, POETRY, ET CETERA.

AND ALL THESE CLASSES WOULD BE GONE.

STUDENTS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET THE ENRICHMENT THEY NEED FOR LIFE.

THE CLASSES ARE AMAZING.

THE TEACHERS ARE ASTOUNDING, AND THE STUDENTS HAVE POTENTIAL TO BE BRIGHT MINDS IN THE FUTURE.

IF YOU GIVE THEM THE RICH EDUCATION THEY DESERVE.

THE EDWARDS PROCEEDED ME ALL THE NECESSITIES TO SURVIVE HIGH SCHOOL.

THE SCHOOL GOT ME TO A LEVEL WHERE I'M CONFIDENT, WELL

EDUCATED, STRONG HEARTED INDIVIDUAL, AND FOR THAT, I

THANK THE SCHOOL AND STAFF.

THEY PUSHED ME TO MY ELEMENT FOR BEING THAT, AND I OWE THEM MY

BEST TO PROTEST AGAINST BUDGET CUTS.

I'M VERY AGAINST BUDGET CUTS, AND I HOPE THAT AND PRAY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION RECONSIDERS ITS DECISION.

THE ONLY REASON WHY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE DOING POORLY IS BECAUSE OF BUDGET CUTS.

GIVE US THE CHANCE, AND WE'LL BE SURE TO NOT DISAPPOINT YOU.

I SURELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT CUT BUDGET CUTS.

-- CUT BUDGETS.

THAT'S WHY ALL THESE STUDENTS ARE HERE PROTESTING.

FOR FAR TOO LONG, STUDENTS SAT AROUND AND WATCHING THEIR EDUCATION AND FUTURE CRUMBLE BEFORE THEIR EYES.

AND THIS IS DIFFERENT.

WE'RE NOT SILENT ANYMORE.

WE'RE HERE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE BUDGET CUTS.

WE'RE HERE TOGETHER AND STAND HERE TOGETHER.

THE BUDGET CUTS MEANS DENCH THINGS.

FOR SOMEONE IT MEANS EXTRA MONEY TO WASTE ON TRIVIAL THINGS LIKE A FOUNTEN OR STATUE.

BUT TO THE STUDENTS, IT MEANS TO END PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT THEY LOVE AND ENJOY.

PLEASE WITH ALL OUR HEARTS, WE HOPE YOU RECONSIDER.

THANK YOU.

>> HI.

>> HI.

>> MY NAME IS RUBY.

AND TODAY, I HEARD A VOTE, WHICH IS-- WHICH I LOOK UP TO.

I DIDN'T HEAR IT FOR A WHILE NOW.

THE QUOTE IS "EYE AN FOR AN EYE."

AND IT'S JUST LIKE THIS SITUATION RIGHT HERE.

YOU GUYS ARE EXPECTING TO US GROW UP, BE EDUCATED, HAVE GOOD JOBS, MONEY, ALL THAT, RIGHT.

OKAY.

BUT YOU GRIEZ GUYS ARE TAKING AWAY MONEY FOR US TO DO SO.

YOU WANT KIDS TO GROW UP TO BE
SUCCESSFUL, EDUCATED, RIGHT.
I CAN SAY THAT, OKAY.
AND YOU GUYS ARE PARENTS, RIGHT?
YOU GUYS HAVE EXPECTATIONS FOR
YOUR KIDS, DO YOU NOT?
YOU DO.
OKAY.
YOU HAVE THESE EXPECTATIONS, BUT
YOU'RE NOT HELPING US TO REACH
THEM.
YOU WANT US TO BE EDUCATED, BUT
AT THE SAME TIME, WE'RE HAVING
OUR EDUCATION TAKEN AWAY.
SCHOOLS ARE SHUTTING DOWN.
TEACHERS ARE LEAVING THE JOBS
BECAUSE THERE'S A BUDGET CUT.
AND BECAUSE THERE'S A BUDGET
CUT, TEACHERS DON'T WANT TO DO
THEIR BEST AND TRY THE BEST TO
HELP US WITH OUR EDUCATION.
ADULTS ARE SAYING THAT WE'RE--
THIS GENERATION ARE THE FUTURE.
BUT WHAT FUTURE ARE YOU GUYS
GOING TO HAVE IF WE DON'T HAVE
OUR OWN?
"AN EYE FOR AN EYE.
. "BUT THEN YOU'RE EXPECTING US TO
GIVE YOU GUYS DIAMONDS WHEN
YOU'RE GIVING US A PIECE OF
DIRT.
YOU GUYS ARE EXPECTING US TO GO
TO IVY LEAGUE COLLEGE, BUT THEN,
YOU GUYS ARE TAKING AWAY THE
MONEY FOR US TO BE DOING SO
BECAUSE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE
GETTING CUT.
IN MY SCHOOL, THE LUNCH LADY
DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO SERVE
LUNCH.
SHE ACTS LIKE IT'S JUST HER
DUTY, AND IT'S NOT, LIKE, A
PERSON TO ANOTHER PERSON.
IT'S LIKE SHE'S A LUNCH LADY
FEEDING A KID COLD LUNCH.
SHE'S GIVING LUNCH WITH AN
ATTITUDE.
LIKE, SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE
THERE TO FEED US.
AND THAT'S LIKE WHY?
BECAUSE SHE'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH
MONEY?
BECAUSE THE SCHOOLS ARE
CUTTING-- BEING SHUT DOWN OR THE

BUDGET IS BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM.
SO-- AND THEN YOU WANT TO EXPECT KIDS TO WAKE UP TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY FEELING LIKE THEY ARE BEING HELPED.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE CLASSES THAT THEY'RE BEING MOTIVATED TO GO TO SCHOOL FOR ARE, BEING CUT.
IN MY SCHOOL, THERE'S A FOUR-YEAR LANGUAGE THING YOU HAVE TO TAKE.
AND LAST YEAR, THE HEADMASTER WAS THINKING ABOUT CUTTING THAT CLASS.
HOW CAN WE GRADUATE WITHOUT THAT FOUR-YEAR CLASS LANGUAGE?
SO ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY IS YOU GUYS ARE EXPECTING SO MUCH WITH GIVING US SO LITTLE.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN'T DO IT OURSELVES.
IT'S JUST THAT ONE LITTLE PUSH. SO IS THIS NOT AN EYE FOR AN EYE?
NO, IT'S NOT.
IT'S LIKE A DROP OF PEPPIES FOR FOR-- PENNIES FOR 1,000 OF MINE.
>> WOULD YOU JUST TELL US WHAT SCHOOL YOU GO TO?
AND IF THE CHAIR DOESN'T MIND, IF YOU ARE A CURRENT STUDENT, I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHAT SCHOOL YOU ATTEND.
>> I GO TO SNOWDEN.
>> SNOWDEN, THANK YOU.
>> HELLO.
I'M GOING TO TESTIFY FOR MARTY J. WALSH BECAUSE HE'S NOT HERE.
I'M GOING TO HOLD MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE FOR CUTTING THE SCHOOL'S BUDGETS.
IN ALL SERIOUSNESS.
MY NAIK IS ERIC.
I'M 17 YEARS OLD.
I GO TO SNOWDEN INTERNATIONAL.
LIKE THE OUTFIT?
IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE ONE YOU WORE IN THE VIDEO.
HE CAN AFFORD THAT, BUT HE CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY OUR SCHOOLS.
I WAS BORN IN MELROSE.
I GREW UP A LITTLE BIT IN

BOSTON.

I GREW UP HALF MY LIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA, AND NOW I'M BACK IN BOSTON SO I HAVE A DEEP LONGING FOR THE CITY.

MY DEEP LONGING FOR EDUCATION, HOWEVER, CAME LAST YEAR WHEN THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO CUT THE BUDGET.

I DIDN'T NOTICE HOW MUCH I HAD TAKEN'ICATION FOR GRANTED.

I DIDN'T NOTICE WHEN THEY CUT MY JAPANESE CLASS AND ALL OF A SUDDEN I WANTED TO FIGHT FOR IT. AND WHAT CAME AS A DISADVANTAGE, IS A LOT OF THESE ADULTS THAT ARE CUTTING OUR BUDGET, A LOT OF THE PEOPLE IN POWER, A LOT OF PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES WHO HAVE THE POWER TO STOP WHAT STIFLES STUDENTS FROM GOING INTO THEIR OWN FUTURE LOOK AT ME, AND THEY DON'T EVEN CARE.

BUT SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL HAPPENED WAS A COUPLE MONTHS AFTER GOING INTO-- THE WALKOUT HAPPENED.

AND 3500 STUDENTS STEPPED OUTSIDE THEIR SCHOOLS TO FIGHT FOR THEIR SCHOOLS.

A LOT OF TEACHERS STOPPED THOSE STUDENTS FROM STEPPING OUTSIDE THOSE SCHOOLS.

THE MAYOR SAID THAT WAS WRONG. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE DISCREDITED US,"THE STUDENTS.

DOES THAT HAPPEN ANYWHERE ELSE? I THINK IT DOES.

BUT OUR STUDENTS, WE'RE ASKING FOR AN EDUCATION.

I DON'T EVEN THINK WE'RE ASKING ANYMORE PER WE'RE FIGHTING FOR AN EDUCATION.

IT SEEMS KIND OF DISTURBING THAT THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR.

AND I KNOW I'M GOING TO BE HERE NEXT YEAR, AND PROBABLY THE YEAR BEFORE THAT.

BY THEN I'LL BE GRADUATING.

BUT EVEN THEN I'LL STILL FIGHT BECAUSE THIS CITY IS MY CITY.

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN MY CITY GROWING UP, AND IN MY COMMUNITY, THERE'S GOING TO BE VIOLENCE.

THERE'S GOING TO BE PEOPLE
DROPPING OUT.
RIGHT NOW, PEOPLE CARE ABOUT
EDUCATION.
IT SHOULD BE YOUR JOB TO KEEP IT
THAT WAY.
THEY WANT AN EDUCATION.
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT
AWAY, WHO'S GOING TO WANT AN
EDUCATION ANYMORE?
THERE ARE STUDENTS WHO SAY, "OH,
SCHOOL SUCKS."
BUT WHY DOES IT SUCK?
YOU CAN CHANGE IT.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THE SAME
THING FOR DECADES UPON DECADES.
IT COULD BE DIFFERENT.
BUT IT'S YOU'RE ALL'S JOB TO
STEP UP FOR THAT.
YOU ALL DON'T DO THAT.
AT LEAST I HAVEN'T SEEN Y'ALL DO
THAT-- EXCEPT FOR YOU.
YOU CAME TO YOUNG.
OTHER THAN THAT, I DON'T SEE
ANYBODY ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS
OTHER THAN STUDENTS THEMSELVES.
WHY DOES THAT HAPPEN?
WHY SHOULD IT HAPPEN?
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.
THANK YOU.
HAVE A GREAT DAY.
>> MY NAME IS BRUNO.
I DON'T GO TO ANY OF THE SCHOOLS
CURRENTLY.
I'M 20 YEARS OLD.
AND I WAS BORN IN CUBA, AND
ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO.
AND I CAME HERE THREE YEARS AGO.
AND I WAS ENROLLED IN DORCHESTER
HIGH.
AND I DID PRETTY GOOD THAT YEAR.
IT WAS JUNIOR YEAR.
AND I GOT MOSTLY "A"s AND
"B"s.
BUT AROUND APRIL THAT YEAR, IN
JUNIOR YEAR, THEY TOLD US THE
SCHOOL WAS GOING TO CLOSE DOWN,
AND MOSTLY WHAT I REMEMBER OF
THAT MOMENT WAS JUST PILES OF--
ABOUT TO BE THROWN AWAY IN THE
TRASH BAG.
AFTER THAT, I WENT TO... HIGH.
AND THEN I-- I DID PRETTY WELL.
I GOT MOSTLY "A"s AND "B"s.

I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL WITH A
3.8.
BUT WHEN I GOT TO COLLEGE, I
FAILED TWO SEMESTERS.
I WORKED 40 HOURS ON EVERY
ASSIGNMENT-- NOT ON EVERY
ASSIGNMENT.
I DIVIDED, LIKE, FIVE HOURS FOR
EACH CLASS, AND I WAS TAKING
FOUR CLASSES.
THAT'S ABOUT 20 HOURS.
I STILL COULDN'T MANAGE TO GET
THE WORK DONE, AND THEN TURN IT
INTO THE TEACHER.
I MISSED A LOT OF CLASSES
BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE THE
HOMEWORK.
AND IT WASN'T UNTIL I WAS DOING
A TEST THAT I REALIZED THAT MY
MATH SKILLS THEY LEARNED IN THE
HIGH SCHOOL WERE GETTING ME
STUCK.
COULDN'T FULLY GET THE PAPER
DONE.
SO I WENT TO THE ACADEMY AND HAD
TO FIEND A WAY TO LEARN A NEW
WAY TO THE MATH WAY.
AND GET IT DONE ON TIME.
AND WHILE I WAS TRYING TO DO-- I
COULDN'T DO THE REST OF THE
SCHOOL WORK, SO I FAILED TWO
SEMESTERS OF COLLEGE, BELIEVING
THE HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION I GOT
WAS ENOUGH, AND REALIZED IT WAS
STOPPING ME.
AND I REALIZED THAT THE SYSTEM--
WHEN I MEAN THE SYSTEM I MEAN
THE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM-- THE
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE
CITY IS NOT GETTING, LIKE, THE
JOB DONE, WHEN IT COMES TO
GETTING US TO THE NEXT BAR, THE
HIGHER EDUCATION, THAT IS
COLLEGE.
AND THAT'S-- I JUST SORT OF SAT
DOWN IN MY MIND FOR A WHILE, AND
I CAN'T REALLY PERK WHY, AND I
HAD TO FIND, LIKE-- I JUST FELT
STUCK.
I FELT CONFUSED.
I CRIED AT NIGHT A LOT, AND I
JUST COULDN'T PUT MY MIND INTO
IT.
AND I TRIED TO SLOW DOWN, REALLY

SLOW, JUST TO-- AND I WAS
SUPPOSED TO WORK TODAY, BUT I
GOT THE DAY OFF.
I JUST WANTED TO COME HERE, AND
HONESTLY, I JUST FEEL LIKE...
LIKE, PLEASE FUNDUS.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME YTRY?
BECAUSE HIGH SCHOOL IS, LIKE,
NOT ENOUGH.
WE NEED SOMETHING ELSE.
I KNOW WE'RE BORN IN THE CITY
AND THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS TO
TAKE CARE OF.
BUT IT'S KIND OF LIKE SOMEBODY
HAD TO TELL US, "GO SOMEWHERE
ELSE INSTEAD OF HERE."
BECAUSE PEOPLE COME HERE AND
THEY BELIEVE THE EDUCATION IS
GOOD.
I DID.
I CAME HERE.
I COULD HAVE STAYED IN CUBA, BUT
I STAYED HERE BECAUSE I WANTED A
BETTER FUTURE.
BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO TELL US THAT
THE SCHOOL IS...
>> GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY.
BEFORE I START, LET ME JUST SAY
HI, Y'ALL.
SHOUT OUT TO THE YOUTH, THE
SUPPORT-- ADULT SHIERPTZ, THE
ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE LEAD
ORGANIZERS WHO HAVE BEEN
FIGHTING CONTINUOUSLY AROUND
EDUCATION.
THANK YOU.
ALSO, THERE'S A LOT OF SOUTHIE
STUDENTS WHO HAVE RNOT HERE
RIGHT NOW WHO HAVE BEEN LEADING
THE CAMPAIGN.
THEY HAVE PROM TODAY.
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IMAGERY
REAL QUICK.
I THINK THERE ARE CAMERAS IN
HERE SO THIS WILL BE ON THE
TELEVISION OR THE NEWS OR
YOUTUBE SO PLEASE PAY ATTENTION.
RIGHT NOW IN THIS CHAMBER, WE
HAVE ABOUT FOUR PEOPLE-- THERE
ARE 13 CITY COUNCILORS BUT ONLY
FOUR OF ARE YOU HERE.
THERE ARE 11 POLICE OFFICERS
OUTSIDE.
I'M SHAKING INSIDE OF ME-- 11

POLICE OFFICERS OUTSIDE-- 11.
LET ME TELL YOU WHY Y'ALL HAVE
NOT BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB.
YOU DON'T DO A GOOD JOB BECAUSE
WE'RE HERE AGAIN YEAR AFTER
YEAR.
Y'ALL CONTINUE TO TELL THE YOUTH
THAT THEY'RE THE FUTURE, THAT
CONTINUE-- WHY DO YOU THINK
THEY'RE GOING TO ACT RIDE UP?
WHAT CHOICES ARE YOU GOING-- ARE
WE GIVING OUR YOUTH WHEN WE SAY
EYE JUST REALIZED SOMETHING,
HALF THE TIME THE YOUTH ARE NOT
OF AGE TO VOTE.
SO IT'S THEIR PARENTS, IT'S
THEIR PARENTS, THAT I SEE EACH
OF YOU AS CITY COUNCILORS GO
TOWK TO AND SHAKE THEIR HANDS
AND PROMISE A BETTER FUTURE AND
THE PARENTS WHO YOU SAY, "COME
OUT AND PLEASE VOTE."
Y'ALL ARE LOOKING AT THEIR KIDS
REET NOW.
YOU'RE ALL LOOKING AT EACH AND
EVERY ONE OF THEIR KIDS.
YOU ALL SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF
YOURSELVES.
YOU ALL PLAY A GAME.
AND, YES, THAT YOUNG LADY WAS
RIGHT.
SHE SAID IT BEFORE, IT DOES LOOK
LIKE A PUPPET GAME.
NONE OF THE SCHOOLS THAT YOU ALL
WENT TO, NONE OF THE DEGREES
MATTER WHEN YOU SIT THERE AND
THERE'S A BUDGET IN FRONT OF YOU
AND YOU CAN'T ALLOCATE THE FUND
SO WHAT MATTERS.
WHEN PEOPLE ARE SITTING THERE
AND DON'T HAVE JOBS AND YOU'RE
SITTING THERE TELLING US ALL
HERE'S HOW YOU DO THE BUDGET.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T
WORKED, WHO CONTINUOUSLY, ARE
SHOWING YOU THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
RELENTLESSLY.
YOU HAVE SENIORS HERE WHO
STARTED THIS CAMPAIGN WHEN THEY
WERE FRESHMEN.
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF
YOURSELVES.
ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES.
DON'T GET IT TWISTED.

YOU SHAPE YOUR WIN ON HOW YOU DO
THIS WORK AND HOW WE'RE NOT
GOING TO STOP DOING THIS WORK.
YOUR SEATS, RIGHT NOW,
CONTINUOUSLY ASKING, ASKING FOR
A BUDGET THAT FITS WHEN YOU ALL
KNOW THERE'S MONEY THERE.
YOU ALL WANT TO-- OH, WE WANT TO
ROLL OUT A CONVERSATION AROUND
FREE TUITION.
LOOK AT THIS ROOM.
DISTASTEFUL.
DISGUSTING.
I HOPE YOU FEEL NASTY WHEN YOU
LEAVE HERE BECAUSE THIS IS
DISGUSTING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT OTHER PEOPLE
ARE HERE BESIDES THE YOUTH, BUT
I DO KNOW AT THE LAST HEARING
THIS ROOM WAS FULL.
ALL THIS PLACE WAS FULL.
EVERYBODY AND HERE WAS FULL.
SO HERE'S THE THING-- YOU ALL DO
WHAT YOU WILL WITH YOUR MONEY.
WHATEVER PEOPLE WANT TO LOCATE,
DELOCATE.
"WE'RE REALLY TRYING TO WORK
WITH THIS MONEY."
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
I'M LETTING YOU KNOW, ONE THING
FOR SURE, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE
CARS BEING MISSED, BUT THERE
WILL BE A COMMUNITY AUDIT.
THERE IS A PUSH FOR A COMMUNITY
ED AUDIT.
EDUCATION, MICHELLE WU,
EVERYBODY ELSE WHO IS NOT IN
THIS ROOM, I SAW COLLEGE
STUDENTS PUSH THEM TO BE IN
THEIR OFFICE.
THIS IS PRIORITY.
HAD WE MEET WITH CITY
COUNCILORS, THAT'S ONE THING,
BUT IF YOU ALL ARE THE DECISION,
YOU ALL SHOULD BE A PARENT.
FIDIDN'T SHOW UP TO WORK I'D GET
FIRED.
SO I'M VERY CONFUSED ABOUT WHY
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAND HERE AND
I'M SPEAKING OF THIS AS A LEAD
ORGANIZER, BECAUSE IT'S NOT
FAIR.
THEY SMELL FAKENESS.
I DON'T PLAY THAT GAME WITH

THEM.

THEY DON'T SHOW UP TO WORK BUT
THEY MAKE SOME BIG DECISIONS.
WE HAVE TO SHOW UP FOR WORK.
THEY SHOW UP TO WORK EVERY DAY.
A FEW SHOW UP AND THEN GO TO
PROM, EVERY DAY.

LET ME JUST PICTURE THIS FOR THE
YOU AT THE END OF THE DAY,
BECAUSE I DID SAY IMAGERY.

FOR PEOPLE WHO WATCHING, PEOPLE
WHO WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT OUT
HERE, I BET YOU ALL THOUGHT IT
WAS A GREAT IDEA TO MOVE THIS
HEARING FROM MONDAY TO TODAY
BECAUSE YOU CAN DO IT.

I BET IT'S A GREAT IDEA TO LEAVE
EARLY OUR DISMISS YOURSELF
BECAUSE YOU CAN DO IT.

WE CAN'T DO IT.

SOME OF US HAVE ALREADY BEEN
TERRORIZED BY POLICE.

THE MINUTE I WALK THROUGH THE
ELEVATOR AND THE FIRST PERSON I
SEE IS AN OFFICER, NOT SAYING
HELLO OR NOTHING TO HELP THE
SITUATION, JUST "I AM BIGGER.
I AM TALLER."

LET MOW TELL YOU SOMETHING--
THEY ARE OUR BOSSES.
THEY ARE OUR BOSS.

WE WILL FOLLOW THEM.

THAT IS THE PROMISE YOU SAID TO
THE COMMUNITY, AND WE'LL MAKE
SURE WE LET ALL THE COMMUNITY,
BECAUSE THIS POINT IN TIME, THE
MISSING FACTOR IS PEOPLE TO
STAND RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU ALL
AFTER ALL OF THE HEARINGS
BECAUSE YOU FELT THIS WAS A
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION, AFTER
ALL OF THIS WAS DONE, WHEN THE
REAL PEOPLE ARE THERE IN THESE
CIRCLES IN THESE ROOMS, THAT'S
HIGHWAY WE UNDERSTAND.
THESE YOUTH ARE DYING BECAUSE OF
IT.

AND IT'S NOT JUST BOSTON.

I SAID THIS LAST TIME.

EVEN THE MAN WHO KEEPS ALL OF A
SUDDEN HE'S SHOWING PEOPLE YOU
ALL STANDING HERE, THAT MAN, OR
THE OTHER SEVEN WHO WANT TO
GRILL DOWN PEOPLE.

YES, SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE,
IF YOU NEVER HEARD IT OR
UNDERSTOOD IT, IT'S OUTSIDE.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE HIGH
SCHOOL FEELS LIKE WITH A POLICE
OFFICER, RIGHT OUTSIDE.
WOULD HE LOOK AT YOU LIKE THAT?
WOULD HE LOOK AT YOU THE WAY HE
LOOKED AT ME WHEN I WALKED IN
HERE?
WOULD HE LOOK AT YOU LIKE THAT
WHEN YOU GO OUTSIDE?
THESE YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN
COME IN HERE AND THIS IS HOW YOU
ALL SHOW THEM.
I WANT YOU TO BE ASHAMED OF
YOURSELF.
THIS BUILDING DOES NOT BELONG TO
Y'ALL.
IT BELONGS TO THEM.
THESE WORDS, EVERYTHING AROUND
YOU, DOES NOT BELONG TO Y'ALL.
BUT IT'S COOL, BECAUSE AIN'T
NOBODY TELLING YOU THAT.
THEY JUST MAKE SURE ALL CITY
COUNCILORS GET THEIR RAISE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU ASKED FOR,
RIGHT?
YOU ALL WANTED A EXPRAIZ YOU GOT
IT.
IT FEELS COMFORTABLE, RIGHT?
OFF OF OUR BACKS, RIGHT?
ENJOY YOUR EVENING.
I HOPE YOU ENJOY ALL OF IT.
WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE
FIGHTING, AND Y'ALL ARE READY TO
SEE AND REALIZE THAT THERE ARE
ACTUAL PEOPLE DEDICATED TO DO
THIS WORK-- THEY'RE DOING Y'ALL
WORK-- ACTUALLY HAVE A
CONVERSATION WITH THEM.
AND LET ME JUST SAY, THANK YOU,
TITO JACKSON, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU
MADE IT YOURSELF TO SPEAK TO
THEM ON YOUR OWN LEVEL, YOUR OWN
TIME.
I RESPECT THAT.
YOU NEED TO HAVE ANOTHER
CONVERSATION, DO WHAT THEY DO.
BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S REALLY
DISTASTEFUL TO EVEN BE
REPRESENTING BOSTON BECAUSE I
KNOW HOW THE CITY COUNCIL SETS
UP.

IT'S JUST A SHAME.

IT'S SAD.

AND FOR ALL THE DIFFERENT PEOPLE
AND ALL THE DIFFERENT YOUTH, I
REALLY HOPE YOU ALL REALLY THINK
ABOUT THE FUTURES THAT LIE IN
YOUR HANDS WHEN YOU ALL MAKE
DECISION, AND NOT JUST THIS
DECISION.

BECAUSE NEXT YEAR THERE IS GOING
TO BE ANOTHER BUDGET.

NEXT YEAR I HOPE YOU FIND THESE
YOUTH AND HAVE THE CONVERSATION
WITH THE ACTUAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE
BEEN WORKING ON THIS.

THANK YOU.

\(APPLAUSE)

\>>

HELLO, MY NAME IS KRISTIN.

I AM AN EDUCATION STUDENT AT
FRAMINGHAM STATE AND I AM HERE
TO READ TESTIMONY.

HELLO EVERYONE IN THE ROOM, MY
NAME IS DYLAN NGUYEN, AND I'M
HERE REPRESENTING ALL PUBLIC
SCHOOLS AND MY FORMER MIDDLE
SCHOOL JOHN W. McCORMACK.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WOULD LIKE
TO THANK KATHLEEN ALVAREZ FOR
GIVING ME SUCH A PRIVILEGE AND
OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO
POLITICIANS AND EDUCATORS FROM
THE BEST CITY.

NOW, WITH ALL THE BUDGET CUTS
THAT I HAVE HEARD, IT SEEMS THAT
B.M.C. IS GOING TO LOSE AROUND
\$900,000 IN FUNDING.

SO WE CAN AFFORD TO BUY TONS OF
iPADS, BUT WE CAN'T BUY
TEACHERS WHO TEACH?

HERE'S AN ANALOGY: BUYING AN
iPAD FOR SCHOOL IS LIKE TRYING
TO USE A FORK FOR SOUP-- IT
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

TEACHERS ARE GETTING CUT,
SCIENCE IS NOT GOING TO BE A
YEAR-ROUND CLASS, AND SOME
SCHOOLS HAVE TO USE HISTORY
TEACHERS TO TEACH SCIENCE.

NOW SUPERINTENDENT CHANG LAST
YEAR, YOU CAME TO MY SCIENCE
CLASS.

, IN THE McCORMACK, BOASTING
ABOUT HOW SCIENCE IS KEY FINDING

GREAT JOBS, THAT IT IS SUPER IMPORTANT TO KNOW, AS WE PROGRESS THROUGH LIFE, I TOTALLY AGREE WITH YOU.

AND I KNOW EVERYONE ELSE DOES IN THIS ROOM, TOO.

BUT ON THE CONTRARY, I HAVE NOT SEEN HOW iPADS CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO CALCULATE, HOW FAST THE SPEED OF LIGHT CAN TRAVEL FROM THE SUN TO THE EARTH.

WE HAVE TO THINK HOW WE CAN MAKE CHANGES NOW TO HELP THE FUTURE.

McCORMACK HAS LOST SO MUCH MONEY LAST YEAR, AND THIS \$900,000 CUT IS GOING TO PUT THIS SCHOOL'S FUTURE IN JEOPARDY.

SECONDLY, I JUST WANT TO ADVOCATE AND SHOW YOU GUYS WHAT THE McCORMACK HAS DONE FOR ME IN THE PAST AND NOW.

TO START OFF, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY I CAME TO BOSTON IN AUGUST 2013 FROM CALIFORNIA.

SO WAS A COMPLETE STRANGER.

I STARTED SIXTH GRADE AT THE McCORMACK, AND ENDED AT EIGHTH, OF COURSE.

IN THE THREE YEARS OF BEING AT B.M.C., I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO AMAZING FIELD TRIPS, LIKE A TRIP TO THE BENSKY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

ONE OF THE SPECIAL MUSEUMS THAT HOLDS REAL FOSSILS.

THROUGHOUT ALL THE YEARS I HAVE BEEN IN THE McCORMACK, IT MADE SURE I WAS EXTREMELY READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL.

NOW HIGH SCHOOL IS A BREEZE FOR ME.

ANOTHER THING THAT MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY IS THE McCORMACK DEBATE TEAM THAT RAN-- THAT IS RUN BY PAMELA DOILY AND MELACE PIETRO GOMEZ.

WITH THE HELP OF THOSE TWO COACHES, MY PARTNER JESSICA PONTERKS Z, AND I MADE THE CITY FINALS AND WON.

WITH THAT WIN, WE WERE ABLE TO GO TO THE NATIONAL DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL

TOURNAMENT.

ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS
TOURNAMENTS YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR.
NOW AS A FRESHMAN IN HIGH
SCHOOL, I CARRY THIS DUTY OF
ALWAYS TRYING TO HELP ONES IN
NEED BECAUSE OF THE FAMILY I HAD
AT THE McCORMACK.

THE McCORMACK IS NOT JUST A
SCHOOL BUT A WHOLE FAMILY RUN BY
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.

WE LEARN TO LISTEN, UNDERSTAND,
AND THEN SPEAK.

WE LEARNED LIFE SKILLS THAT MOST
ADULTS DON'T OFTEN UNDERSTAND.
AND WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MOST
OF THE POLITICIAN DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

HOW TO USE THESE
SKILLS.

NOW, BESIDES ME, MANY KIDS IN
THE McCORMACK HAVE GOTTEN
GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO HIGHER
THEIR EDUCATION WITH MATH
COMPETITIONS, WRITING
COMPETITIONS, AND SCIENCE
COMPETITION THROUGHOUT YEAR.
WITH ALL THIS BEING SAID ABOUT
THE McCORMACK, WE CAN'T FORGET
ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOLS AND THEIR
MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT BOSTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS GAVE ME
EVERYTHING I NEED TO SUCCEED IN
LIFE, LATER ON IN THE FUTURE.
I DO DO NOT WANT TO SEE
EDUCATION IN BOSTON SLOWLY GO
DOWN BECAUSE OF iPADS OR SOME
DUMB REASON WE CAN'T PAY
TEACHERS.

AGAIN, I AM THANKFUL FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO LET SOMEONE READ
WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT
THESE BUDGET CUTS.

I HOPE WE CAN COME TO A POLICY
THAT FITS BOTH ECONOMIC NEEDS
AND EDUCATION NEEDS.

MY NAME IS DYLAN NGUYEN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS
TIME.

I'M SURE DYLAN WOULD HAVE READ
THAT BETTER THAN I DID.

>> HELLO, EVERYONE.

MY NAME IS HUMA GREEN.

AND OUTSIDE OF THAT DOOR HAS BEEN MENTIONED MULTIPLE TIMES, THERE ARE MORE POLICE OFFICERS OUT THERE THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE LISTEN ME IN THIS ROOM.

WHY?

BECAUSE YOU GUYS DON'T EXPECT ME TO GRAB THIS MIC AND SIT UP HERE AND TALK TO YOU AS A PERSON SOME WAY, SOMEHOW, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GET ROWDY AND DO SOMETHING SO OUT OF THE ORDINARY EXCEPT FIGHT FOR OUR EDUCATION.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE BEST WORLDWIDE EDUCATION, BUT YET, I'M IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW, FIGHTING FOR YOU GUYS TO PUT MORE MONEY INTO MY TEXT BOOKS, MORE MONEY AND MAKE SURE THEY CAN GO TO SCHOOL.

THAT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE

WHATSOEVER.

I'M AN HONORS STUDENT, AND AS AN HONOR STUDENT I HAVE MY TEACHERS CONSTANTLY TELL ME EVERY DAY THAT I AM LEARNING JUST LIKE THE AVERAGE KID IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL. THAT ASK DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. THAT IS NOT AT ALL ENCOURAGING. THAT'S DISCOURAGING, ACTUALLY, TON THAT TO PUT HONORS IN FRONT OF MY CLASS, THAT'S WHEN I GET TO LEARN LIKE SOMEONE WHO GETS MONEY TO GO TO SCHOOL, SOMEONE WHOSE SCHOOL IS PAID FOR.

IF YOU BUDGETS ARE CUT, THERE'S NO BAY YOU'RE SITTING HERE.

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY WHEN MY EDUCATION ALREADY ISN'T ENOUGH AND THEN HAVE GUYS TELL ME, "OH, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH MONEY."

BUT THERE'S ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP DAMAGING OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND ALL THE SYSTEMS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO PUT ME IN PRISON, EXCEPT FOR THE BETTER QUALITY AND LIFE I DESERVE.

IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE.

THERE'S NO EXCUSES.

THERE'S NO EXCUSES.

THERE ARE A BUNCH OF POLICE OFFICERS.

WE WANT TO DECREASE VIOLENCE.
WE WANT ALL THESE BAD THINGS TO
STOP HAPPENING, BUT WE DON'T
WANT OUR KIDS IN SCHOOL TO GET
AN EDUCATION.
THAT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE.
IT'S OUT OF CONTROL.
THE THINGS THAT WE FUND ARE NOT
HERE TO BETTER OUR GENOVATION
AND OUR FUTURE.
AS I LOOK ACROSS YOU GUYS, I SEE
A BUNCH OF DIVERSITY.
THE FUTURE DOESN'T CONTAIN
DIVERSITY BECAUSE THERE'S NOT
SYSTEMS SET IN PLACE TO TEACH
US.
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
WHY DO I HAVE TO COME AND FIGHT
FOR MY EDUCATION?
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE IN THIS ROOM
RIGHT NOW TO SAY OH, WE SHOULD--
WE NEED MORE MONEY?
IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT WE NEED
MORE MONEY.
WE NEED GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.
WE NEED SUPPORT.
THE YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE, AND
THE FACT THAT I'M EVEN AT THIS
MIC REET NOW SAYING WE NEED MORE
MONEY IT MEANS YOU DON'T RESPECT
YOUR FUTURE.
THAT IS NOT OKAY.
THAT IS NOT NORMAL.
NOWHERE IN LIFE IS IT OKAY THAT
I SHOULD HAVE TO FIGHT FOR
SOMETHING THAT IS MY RIGHT.
IT IS MY RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT
COMES OUT OF MY MOUTH.
IT IS MY RIGHT TO BE EDUCATED.
SO THERE'S NO REASON WHY I'M UP
HERE SAYING, OH, WE NEED MORE
MONEY.
WE NEED, WE NEED, WE NEED, WE
NEED.
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A
NEED AND A WANT.
WE NEED IT.
WE NEED IT.
OUR FUTURE NEEDS TO CONTINUE.
WE NEED TO BE BETTER.
WE NEED TO BE GREAT.
THANK YOU.
(APPLAUSE)
>> HI.

MY NAME IS STEPHANIE.
I'M FROM THE NORTH SHORE.
I AM CURRENTLY A RESIDENT IN
BOSTON BECAUSE I GO TO COLLEGE
HERE.
I JUST WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE HOW
STRONG AND SMART AND EDUCATED
THESE STUDENTS ARE DESPITE WHAT
THEY'RE FACING AND DESPITE THE
FACT THAT THEY HAVE TO COME HERE
EVERY SINGLE YEAR AND HAVE THIS
CONVERSATION WITH YOU GUYS WHILE
YOU SIT ON YOUR PHONES AND NOT
PAY ATTENTION.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE DOING THAT WHILE
IT'S ME SPEAKING AND NOT ONE OF
THEM.
I JUST WANT TO SAY, YOU KNOW,
I'M FROM A-- I WENT TO HIGH
SCHOOL IN THE SUBURBS.
AND WE DIDN'T HAVE PROBLEMS LIKE
THIS BECAUSE WE'RE WHITE.
AND THIS IS A-- I'M GOING TO
CALL THIS WHAT THIS IS-- THIS IS
INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM.
THIS IS STUDENTS OF COLOR ARE
PACKED INTO THE CITIES.
THEY DON'T GET WHAT THEY NEED,
BUT THE STUDENTS LIKE ME WHO ARE
WHITE OUT IN THE SUBURBS GET
WHAT WE NEED BECAUSE IT'S
INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM.
AND I THINK WE NEED TO CALL THAT
WHAT IT IS.
AND IT'S YOUR JOB TO FIGURE OUT
HOW TO FIX THAT AND HOW TO STOP
THAT.
THOUGH, YOU ARE PROPONENTS OF
THAT SYSTEM SO GOOD LUCK TO YOU.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE GOING TO
DO THAT.
BUT, YOU KNOW, I GO TO-- I GO TO
A STATE SCHOOL AND MY SCHOOL,
MASS. ART, JUST GOT A LOT OF
MONEY TO BUILD A NEW BUILDING.
I THINK IF MY COMMUNITY HAD
KNOWN HOW BADLY THESE STUDENTS
NEED THE MONEY WE WOULD NOT HAVE
ENDORSED THAT BRAND NEW BUILDING
EVEN THOUGH WE NEED IT.
THE FACT THAT THESE ARE HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS COMING HERE
FIGHTING FOR BOOKS AND TEACHERS
AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, THAT'S

CRAZY.

YOU KNOW, WHERE I COME FROM?
STUDENTS DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
KIDS THAT GO TO SUBURBAN HIGH
SCHOOL, THEY DON'T CARE.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO FIGHT.
THESE STUDENTS ARE FIGHTING FOR
SOMETHING.
THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING
THEY NEED.
YOU GRIEZ GETTING PAID TO TAKE
CARE OF THEM, AND THAT'S WHAT WE
WANT YOU TO DO TAKE CARE OF
THEM.

I HAVE TO FIGHT FOR WHAT MY
SCHOOL NEEDS, LEAKS AND
DANGEROUS THINGS.
BUT THESE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN
DOING THIS SINCE THEY WERE,
LIKE, 14 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER.
THAT IS INSANE.
THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO EVEN
HAPPEN.

SO I'M JUST HAD HEAR TO LET YOU
KNOW THAT, YOU KNOW, THE ADULT--
THERE ARE ADULT PEOPLE HERE WHO
SUPPORT THESE STUDENTS, AND
THESE ARE OUR FUTURE.
AND IF WE DON'T SUPPORT THEM,
THEN OUR FUTURE IS-- THEY'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING
AND THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
MY NAME IS MONTY NEIL, THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MASS. TEST,
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAIR AND
OPEN TESTING.

I LIVE IN JAMAICA PLAIN.
I'M HERE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS.
I HAVE HAD THE HONOR AND
PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH MANY
OF THEM FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.
AND I REALLY HOPE YOU HAVE HEARD
THEIR PAIN, THEIR ANGER, AND
THEIR HOPE.

I HOPE ARE YOU LISTENING TO
THEM.
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS THIS
BUDGET NEEDS TO GO BACK TO MAYOR
WALSH.
YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE CITY
PROPOSES A BUDGET THAT
INADEQUATELY FUNDS THE SCHOOLS.

IN REAL-DOLLAR TERMS, YEAR AFTER YEAR, THEY GET A CUT. THE CONSEQUENCES PLAY OUT IN THE STORIES THAT YOU HAVE HEARD FROM THEM.

IT'S NOT UNIQUE TO BOSTON. THERE ARE PROCESSES GOING ON IN BOSTON AND OTHER CITIES THAT AMOUNT TO A DELIBERATE DEATH SPIRAL FOR SCHOOLS-- CUTS, THE LEAD TO KIDS DON'T WANT TO GO THERE, LEAD TO MORE CUTS, UNTIL SUDDENLY YOU'RE IN LEVEL THREE AND THEN LEVEL FOUR.

SOME OF THE STUDENTS NOT HERE TODAY WERE FROM XCEL HIGH. THEY HAD GREAT DEBATE TEAMS. THERE ARE A LOT OF STUDENTS WHO CAME FROM EXCEL WHO WERE ON THE DEBATE TEAM AND IT HELPED MAKE THEM POWERFUL LEADERS.

THIS YEAR, BECAUSE THEY'RE BUSY BEING TORN APART BY CITY FIAT-- YOU CAN'T EVEN BLAME THE FEDS FOR IT, CITY FIAT.

THE FEDS DON'T REQUIRE THIS ANY MORE.

TEARING THAT SCHOOL APART, NO DEBATE TEAM, NO DEBATE TEAM. THAT'S JUST ONE LITTLE EXAMPLE. NURSES CUT.

THE LARGE CLASS SIZES. THE COUNSEL THOORS THEY DON'T HAVE.

THE LIBRARIANS THEY DON'T GET. THE DMIEWRTZ THEY DON'T HAVE. PROBLEMS EVEN WITH BASQUE SANITATION SOMETIME.

THEY DO GET A LOT OF STANDARDIZED TESTS TO GO ALONG WITH NO TEXTBOOKS.

YOU KNOW, THIS IS NOT HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOLING. AND, UNFORTUNATELY, WE'VE GOT A MAYOR WHO SAYS HE IS THE EDUCATION MAYOR, AND LO AND BEHOLD, HE'S NOT THE EDUCATION MAYOR.

SO THE STUDENTS COME TO THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE, ALONG WITH PARENTS.

I HEARD PARENTS FROM THE McCORMACK.

I HEARD TEACHERS FROM SCHOOLS.

I HEARD STUDENTS SAY THEN WHAT
THEY'RE SAYING AGAIN TODAY.
AND NOTHING CHANGED.
LAST YEAR, AS THEY REMINDED YOU,
THEY DID A WALK-OUT.
DOES IT TAKE A WALK-OUT TO GET
EVEN
NEW VISION FOR OUR SCHOOLS.
OUR SCHOOLS ARE NOT SUPPORTING
OUR CONCERN AND THEIR FUTURE AND
THE COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION
THAT WE NEED.
IT ISN'T HAPPENING.
ONLY GRASS ROOTS MOVEMENT.
PLEASE SEND THAT BUDGET BACK.
THANK YOU.
[Applause]
>> YOU HEARD OUR WORDS.
I GET IT.
ALL RIGHT.
TO FINISH UP YOU'VE HEARD ALL OF
OUR TESTIMONY.
YOU HEARD WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY.
YOU LISTENED TO EACH ONE OF TH
THEM.
YOU HEARD NOT WHAT -- YOU HEARD,
YOU HEARD MICHAEL JONES, YOU'VE
HEARD NOW FINALLY ARE HEARING ME
AGAIN.
WHAT I FINALLY HAVE TO SAY I
WANT -- ARE YOU GUYS PUTTING ME
IN A BROKEN DESK?
ARE YOU THE ONES WHO DELETING
TEXTBOOKS FROM 1999.
ARE YOU THE ONES -- ARE YOU THE
ONE THAT FIXTURES.
ARE LEAVING CLASSROOM BECAUSE
THEY THEY ARE GOING TO GET FIRED
SOON.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO WATCHING THE
PROGRAMS GO AWAY.
I KNOW SOME OF YOU GUYS HAVE
CHILDREN AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU
WANT THE PUT THEM THROUGH THE
PUBLIC SYSTEM.
MOST CLASS, BY THE WAY.
I KNOW THAT YOU GUYS SIT HERE
AND -- SYSTEM THAT IS COMPLETELY
FLAWED.
TITO JACKSON, HE'S LISTENING TO
US.
AND SOUL ESSAIBI GEORGE.
SORRY.
YOU DON'T HAVE A NAME TAG.

IF YOU GUYS COME TO LISTEN TO
WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY THEN YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE TO COME HERE EVERY
SINGLE YEAR.

THIS IS ONE OF MY FIRST YEARS
COMING TO THESE BUDGET HEARINGS
AND I KNOW IT'S DEFINITELY NOT
GOING TO BE MY LAST.

SO, I'M GOING DA DA -- YOU,
UNITED, WE'LL NEVER BE DEFEATED.
YOU, UNITED WE'LL NEVER BE
DEFEATED.

YOU, UNITED WE'LL NEVER BE
DEFEATED!

[CHANTING]