

Madalyn Letellier

From: Becky Lopes-Filho [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:06 PM
To: Mayor; [REDACTED]; All City Council; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Public comment from 5/7/25 Public Budget Hearing, Schools Dept

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I'm Becky Lopes-Filho, of [REDACTED], ward 4 resident, writing on behalf of myself as a parent of two SPS students and also as the proud President of the Kennedy School PTA.

Looking out at this beautiful sea of red shirts at the Public Hearing, I urge you to remember that at home there's another sea of caregivers, families, and allies of Education tuning in, watching, and waiting to see your leadership in action.

Somerville is putting our necks out, on a federal level, to stand up for our shared values. But here, at home, we're pretending that our District is doing fine, that we're leading the way on equity, on excellence, and on serving our most vulnerable populations. The reality is, we are limping along, struggling to meet the growing needs of our most vulnerable learners. Our school leaders, School Committee members, parents and caregivers, and Educators have been, and are in, alignment year after year in the collaborative budget process saying we need more. More staff, more counselors, more specialists, more Paras, more supports. More; not the same.

Level funding provides us with more of the same. This budget and this Somerville Educators' contract represents an inflection point. It's time for more, not less. More, not the same. More, not level service. It's time for visionary leadership. We are watching, and we are tired of waiting for something better.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Lopes-Filho
Ward 4 resident

Becky Lopes-Filho
(she/her/hers) [Why do I include my pronouns?](#)
Ph / Text: [REDACTED]