

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take a few minutes to respond to some of the discussions at Tuesday's night TRSU board meeting. I would like to address the notion that this board is not interested in working collaboratively with the other board in the SU.

I believe the GM board and quite honestly all school boards are trying to do what is best for their students, their staff, their school and their community. I understand that as the administration your priority is the SU but our scope is much larger and has wide ranging implications that extend well beyond the school. The decisions of this board affect the lives of each member of our communities. A community that we live in. Our decisions can impact a family's ability to stay in our community or move into our community. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly.

I have been a board members for several years now and a common theme from the SU is we need more positions and more money and this year has been more of the same. The administration presented the finance committee with a proposal to hire 5 new positions at a cost of approximately \$400,000. These are not teacher positons, these are not boots on the ground positions, they are SU controlled director/coordinator positions.

As Mr. McBride discussed at the last finance committee meeting, two of the goals of the Act 46 merger were to save money and provide more educational opportunities to our students and I do not see any of these positions as doing this.

I find it disingenuous for the Superintendent to lecture this board because she does not feel that it is supporting her initiatives. The administration's role is to act on the priorities of this board not the other way around. I feel that the SU's response to the district's needs is always to spend more money and hire more people which is frustrating.

I would like to see the Superintendent spend her time better managing her more than adequate resources to address the needs of the district. Instead of bringing on more positions and spending more money, I would like to see the SU get creative and use their resources more effectively and efficiently. The reality is that the taxpayers of our small towns cannot afford the path that we are on and it is time that the administration realizes this and changes they way that they do business. Thank you.