

V. Adamson 7-12-11 Board Speech

The WCPSS Board just voted a 7.5% pay decrease for teacher assistants changing them from 10 month employees to 9.25 month employees. Per the WCPSS web site, Teacher Assistant pay averages between \$18,000 and \$23,000 per year.

If WCPSS is going to force the lowest paid group to take a pay cut should upper management, the highest paid group, not also take a pay cut? Have there been any management reductions in force or just clerical staff and custodians? Should the part time School Board set a positive leadership example and take a 7.5% cut in their annual \$14,838 stipend (the chair gets \$18,141)?

I am disappointed with the decreased state funding. Even with the Obama stimulus money, classrooms are affected. Mr. Tedesco in his annual April 15th speech promised that classrooms were not going to be affected by the 2011/2012 budget shortfall.

On June 7, 2011, Mr. Margiotta said we should "thank the General Assembly for what they had done." How can we be grateful for budget cuts that hurt the lowest paid and affect the education of our children when the leadership of the General Assembly is giving their well paid staff huge salary increases?