

Sen. BURKE A

316 S.

This is the written testimony
from the meeting of the
Joint Committee on Finance in
Peshtigo, WI.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Krista Broullire and I am a junior at Niagara High School, in Niagara WI. I am a high honors student, with a cumulative grade point of 3.9. I am planning on going to a four-year college to get a degree, in what I'm not yet sure. In order to be prepared for any college, there are some classes that I *must* take, including, and not limited to advanced math and science, advanced English courses, some form of a foreign language, and electives in different areas. Due to all of the cuts Niagara is being forced to make, it is possible I will not be able to take the classes I require. Calculus has been taken out of the curriculum due to lack of funds for a teacher. Advanced Biology and Advanced Chemistry have been cut down to a single semester apiece, and there is some question as to whether or not these classes will even be able to be offered in Niagara in the future. We offer only one foreign language, Spanish, and the classes are so large our one teacher is severely overburdened. Because of lack of options in scheduling, students from many different levels of Spanish proficiency are thrown together into one class and they have to do the best that they can.

Niagara is now capable of offering exactly three electives. We can take Art, Band, or Woodshop. We must have elective credits to graduate from high school; so at least one of these classes must be taken. If there is a free hour in a schedule, a person is plugged into a study hall, because there are no other options.

Our school is running on a skeletal staff. There is no position that can be cut, and still enable us to obtain any degree of a competitive education. Our supplies are very outdated, and there is no money to buy more. In the Advanced Biology class I am currently taking, the book I was assigned is titled "Modern Biology" and is copyrighted 1960. Many of our books are falling apart, and when we look at the names of the students who had the books before us, many of us can find names of parents.

Our extracurriculars are struggling to do the best they can. When a concerned teacher pays for a shot and discus for the track team out of her own pocket, because the school can not afford them, you know things are in a sorry state of affairs.

I want the very best education I can get. You should want that for my peers and me also, because we are the ones who will one day be running this country. We are *your* future, as well as our own. Give us a chance.

- Krista Broullire

If you would like to contact me, you may do so at:
Krista Broullire
N22228 Hansen Rd.
Niagara, WI 54151

Annie Sanicki
1112 Washington Ave.
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Legislator:

I am writing concerning the budget crisis that my high school is going through. I am an honors student who is going to graduate first in my class, but I truthfully doubt my classmates and my own readiness for the challenge of college classes because of the lack of advanced course offered by my school. This year my high school was not able to offer an advanced math classes or business classes, and it can only afford to offer one type foreign language classes. It has also greatly affected me in extracurricular activities because our school can only offer so few of them.

I feel that it is preposterous to propose cutting school funds when we do not have enough money now. If the leaders of Wisconsin truly feel that the education of children is such a frivolous, money gorging issue then why don't you just cut it right out. If you cannot offer a Wisconsin student an education that will allow them to be successful in the future, then cut education, and let every family move their children right out of the state.

Education is a priority and is important. Please listen to our pleas and try to understand what we are striving for. We need funds for education, and I find it quite frustrating that my school has to beg for cash for education. Education is a right, not a privilege. Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,


Annie Sanicki

April 4th, 2001

Bethany Scheidt
1113 Harding Street
Niagara High School

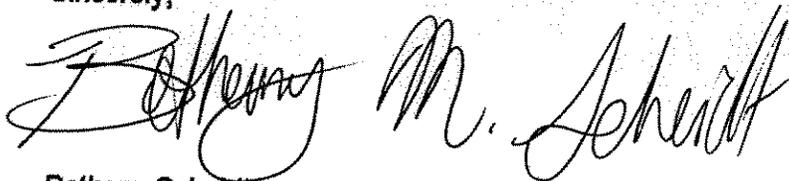
Dear Legislator:

I am writing to you on behalf of Niagara Public Schools and ones like it. The budget cut proposal is severely affecting our schools. We could be your children. How would you feel if your child was being deprived of a good and complete education? That is what you are doing to us. **We ARE your FUTURE!** Our future is as important, if not more important than past generations'. We are a product of the new millennium. What do we have to show? Things have not improved. As Generation 2000 we wish to live up to past generations, and we believe we are being shorted out of what we deserve to do this. We are told to be the best we can trying our hardest to succeed. How can we do this if we aren't provided with the education we need?

It is important for you to understand what is happening. Good teachers are being cut. Needed college courses are being cut. How can we prepare to be future leaders if we aren't getting the education we need and deserve? It is very important that things change **NOW!** We only get one chance to learn, one chance at making a life for ourselves. You as our leaders have a responsibility to support and help us. **DO NOT DEPRIVE US!!!!** As human beings in this country we deserve to have an education, the best possible, and you are responsible for helping us get it.

Please help us, don't harm us....

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethany M. Scheidt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bethany Scheidt

Tony Wodenka
200 5th Street
Niagara High School

April 4, 2001

Dear Legislator,

My name is Tony Wodenka and I'm a freshman at Niagara High School. The future I have ahead of me may be fine to you, but I feel neglected when I look at what I have ahead of me. As a freshman, I'm greatly affected due to the budget cuts.

I'm in advanced math, and the next course I have is Algebra II, and after that Trigonometry. But right now our school isn't teaching calculus, and I need to know it for college. Due to the budget cuts, we may never have Calculus in Niagara ever again. The students in Niagara are all intelligent, and I feel that you are neglecting the entire school, not just me.

Also, our sports are in trouble. My father did pole vault for track and he was quite good. With the budget cut, nobody can do pole vault, even if they request it. Our football equipment is out of date, and frankly, I would like to live to see another game. My sister loves to act, but our school doesn't have a Drama class, and she thinks we need it.

You probably won't listen to a freshman's cry for help. But just remember, we are the future of this country, and without money, we are nothing. Thank you for whatever time you put into this, and I can only hope you make the right choice.

Sincerely,



Tony Wodenka

April 4, 2001

Theresa Kmit
Niagara Senior High School

Dear Legislator,

I am writing in concern to the budget cuts that our state is making in our public school system. I attend Niagara Senior High School. I am involved in our Forensics team and several accelerated classes. If these cuts continue to happen, the activities and classes that I want to participate in are going to be gone.

I am a senior this year and the college that I was accepted to requires me to have a class that Niagara does not offer because they cannot afford to hire the teacher and provide financial help for the class. Because of this I needed to take an extra correspondence class on my own time using my own money.

If the budget cuts continue, will students have class choices? Will they be able to take the classes that they want such as art, choir, band, and metals? Our students deserve more they deserve the same choices that you and I had while in school.

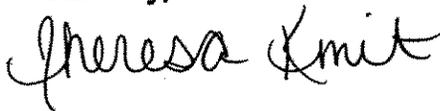
What about the sports? If the school cannot afford to have the classes running that we need, the school will need to cut some of the sporting events that students love to play and parents love to watch. Do you have children Mr. Legislator? Do they play sports? If not, were you involved in any sports while in high school? Remember that feeling that you got when you won a game or that adrenalin rush that runs through your whole body once you know that your team alone is the best.

This is just a letter coming from an actual student who cares about her school and wants the future students to be able to choice the classes that they want and need. They deserve to be able to play the sport that they want and be in the activities that they love.

One more thing, this year on the Forensics team I advanced on to the State Competition. If Forensics is cut out students will not have the opportunity to go and have the opportunity to participate any longer.

Please consider all of my points and hopefully you too will understand where all of the students from Niagara Senior High school are coming from and I hope that you will not take away their opportunities. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,



Theresa Kmit

Ashley Hoffart
700 Jefferson Ave.
Niagara High School
Niagara, WI

You say, "We would do anything to make the world better."

You say, "Look at the children today, they have no respect."

You say, "They will have no future."

But, what are you doing about it?

Only you can give us an education,

Your time, and money to form us into the Future.

We are the future; we need your help, and an education,

To be the best adults we can be.

April 4, 2001

Matt Mangan
W8568 Burbey St.
Niagara, WI 54151
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator,

I am a senior at Niagara Public High School. Niagara School has experienced many budget cuts over the last few years and I don't believe that we need any more. Many of our programs have been cut such as the calculus class which I feel would have helped because I'm going to college next year.

We also have no electives because they have been cut. By cutting classes we are losing things that we need to succeed in college and other areas. Maybe we should make education one of our highest priorities instead of the lowest.

Sports are another thing that have been cut in our area, and all over the state of Wisconsin.

When I go to college next year I hope that the high school will still be here for my little brother. We need to start thinking about our future. Instead of cutting budgets on something so important.

Sincerely,



Matt Mangan

Brad Weber
906 Oak Ridge
Niagara, WI 54151
Niagara High School

Dear Legislature:

I am writing to you on behalf of Niagara High School to discuss my feelings on the budget here in our school. We are inadequately funded, and as a result we as students are not getting the education we deserve. I was unable to take calculus this year because we could not afford to offer it along with many other programs that other schools offer. I will now have to pay to take a calculus course in college equivalent to the free one that should be offered in all schools, not just the larger ones.

I also would like to see more money for the sports programs. In order to keep students out of trouble, they must enjoy school or something about school. This would include sports and other extracurricular, which are under-funded. Under-funded sports, for example, are dangerous. Cheap equipments are not safe.

Sincerely,



Brad Weber

Jessica Gunville

2100 Sherman St.

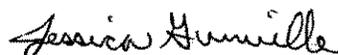
Niagara, Wi. 54151

Niagara High School

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to you on behalf of budget cut proposal. If you really cared about our school you would not go through with this proposal. Education is worth saving and the future generations of students will only suffer because of a lack of school supplies and items that are crucial to their education. Our school deserves better and the students of Niagara High School deserve a better education than what we are receiving now. Remember that we are the future generation! We are the future Americans. We deserve a chance! If you decide to go through with this budget cut then you are taking away our chance at success in life and the chance of the futures students! Is that something that you really want to do?!?!?!? We Deserve Better!!!!!!

Sincerely,


Jessica Gunville

April 4, 2001

Melissa Hansen
1610 Mill St.
Niagara High School

Dear Legislature,

Hello, my name is Melissa Hansen and I am a senior at Niagara High School. I feel that in the past years we have cut a lot of classes and things that are important to many students in our school. They are not taking recognition on what some of our needs are to graduate. We need to many classes to be able to graduate and you are taking some of those classes away. You need to get you priorities straight and start cutting things that aren't so important. Sports may not seem important, but children can either play sports after school or can go out with friends and get into mischief.

Please help us by funding some of the classes and extracurricular activities that we need. The children younger than me need to get a good education and will need many more classes than I need now to graduate.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hansen

Melissa Hansen

April 04, 2001

Jackelyn Kinsella
1108 Pierce Street
Niagara High School

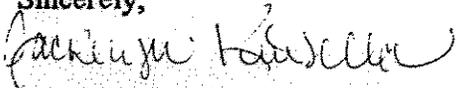
Dear Legislator:

Hello. My name is Jackelyn Kinsella. I am 17 years old and a senior in high school. I am writing to inform you of the problems that have been caused and will be caused by the budget cut in my school and most surrounding schools. Excellent teachers are leaving our school in search for new jobs because their jobs here have been cut to part time. Subjects that are very useful in our high school education are no longer being offered to us. Some teachers are even taking money out of their own pockets to improve our education. Our school doesn't offer all the classes I would like to take before I continue to college because our budget cannot afford to provide them.

Some of our extracurricular activities have been cut and even more will be if this keeps up. These activities are getting some students into college and they depend on these sports to further their education. Extracurricular activities not only are important in some students future but also give them confidence and an ability to succeed.

Thank you for listening to what our school has to say. I just don't believe that you realize how serious this budget cut really is. I hope that you take the time and consider what us students have to say on how this budget is affecting our futures.

Sincerely,



Jackelyn Kinsella

Tara DeCremer

1733 Ridge St.

Niagara, Wisconsin

Niagara High School

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to you because budget cuts have destroyed many of our advanced academic classes. Most of our sports and extra-curricular activities are also being affected. Some of our best teachers have left this state because their jobs were about to be terminated. We are not getting the education that will prepare us for college. If our college preparatory classes are being cut, then how will we ever be prepared to further our education? I'll tell you how. Some people transfer schools, and some people leave this state. The school district of Niagara will be non-existent within the next few years. This budget cut is ridiculous. Remember, my generation *IS* the future, not only our own future, but *YOUR* future as well. Do you really want poorly educated people to take care of you and run this country? Please consider your decision carefully. Your schools are dying.

Sincerely,



Tara DeCremer

Lindsay Gallino
W 5070 Chapman Road
Niagara, WI 54151
Niagara High School

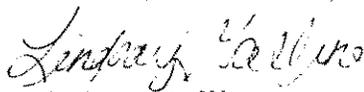
Dear Governor McCallum,

I am writing on behalf of the current Niagara High School students and Niagara High School students to come. Because of this budget cut, our academics and our extracurricular activities are suffering severely. Because of this cut, some of our sports are suffering, and therefore, so are the students because they will no longer be eligible for scholarships and/or awards in these fields.

Our academics are also suffering. As of now, Calculus, Accounting, Publications, and Theatre are all nonexistent in the Niagara High School curriculum. Three of which I personally was planning on taking. But now I have to wait until college to take these courses. Which brings up another problem with the budget cut. I don't feel the least bit prepared to tackle the mountain everyone calls college because I haven't been offered the courses required for the fields that I am interested in. My brothers will be going to Niagara High School in a few years and because of this ridiculous budget cut, they won't get the education that they need and deserve just as I haven't. They won't get to experience the thrill of winning as a team, the feeling of belonging to something bigger than themselves, the camaraderie of teammates, all because of someone with a total lack of concern for a small school with big dreams who says there's not enough money to have a football team anymore. It's not only the football team. It's everything this school stands for.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,


Lindsay Gallino

Jamie Sobczak
N20172 County O
Niagara High School

Dear Legislature,

I am a senior at Niagara High School, so I will be graduating this year. So the budget changes that are going to happen in the near future, will not affect me. It will affect all of the underclassmen, I think that they should have the opportunity to get a good education while they are in high school, and be able to take the classes that they need or want. To get into most colleges, you have to have taken certain classes and met certain requirements, but if you cut our important classes, who knows what will happen. Without some college preparatory class, who knows what college they can get into.

Some of the extracurricular activities are going to be cut also, because of the budget changes. Some students, who love to participate in sports, because they might have a true talent in it, could even get a scholarship for college if they are good in that sport. Extracurricular activities are very important, because it can also give students something to do, and keep them out of trouble.

I thank you for taking the time to listen to what I have to say, and I hope you realize how serious this budget change is. It will really affect all schools, and I ask you to please be considerate in your decision, because your decision depends on our future.

Sincerely,

Jamie Sobczak

Jamie Sobczak

Erin Jean DeClark
N21586 Chapman Rd.
Niagara, WI
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator,

I am senior at Niagara High School and I am writing with concern over the so called "budget-cut." I think that the budget cut is truly affecting our school system. There have been many classes that have been cut from our curriculum because of the money crisis. These classes include, Drama, Publications, Calculus, and Accounting. I think that these classes are very important to a child's education. Drama class can help a student with speaking skills, and also give him/her a sense of culture. Publications can give a student the ability to organize his/her work. This would come in very helpful in the future. Calculus and Accounting class would help students with their math skills. Not having these classes in high school means that the students will have to take the classes in college and that means more classes that they would have to pay for, and they would also set themselves behind the rest of their class.

As I said before, I am a senior in high school, and throughout my high school career I have seen many things that I would have enjoyed but before I even got the chance to take them. This included Drama Class. I am planning on going to college for drama, and now that I couldn't take a Drama Class in high school I am going to have to take the class in college. This is going to put me rather behind everyone else.

This budget cut has also affected the extracurricular activities in our high school. We don't have much money to keep our extracurricular activities up and going. Wrestling has already been cut, and our wrestling team was really good. This budget cut is also threatening to cut even more activities.

Extracurricular activities are very important in a student's high school career. These activities keep students out of trouble, and they give a student the ability to get some exercise and do something that they like.

This budget cut is really affecting our school system and I feel sorry for the upcoming classes that have to put up with no extracurricular activities and no fun classes that would give them a break from studying all the time. I guess I'm trying to say that I'm glad that I'm graduating this year, and you should really consider cutting the budget cut.

Sincerely,



Erin DeClark

Dear Legislator,

I feel compelled to ask you to consider giving Niagara a chance. I know that your decisions will not affect me directly because I'm a senior. However I know many children whom I have baby-sat for at the Parent Teacher Volunteer Group (P.T.V.G.) deserve to have an education. I cant bear to think of them being turned away from classes that could help them become useful members of Niagara and also the world. We need options here! I want them to be winners, the future of this great town and this great state and this great country.

Thank you for this consideration.

Matt Scheidt

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Scheidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

Rebecca Monroe
1006 Pierce St.
Niagara High School

April 4, 2001

Dear Legislator:

The budget cuts that you have proposed will affect today's future generation. I am a senior, so I am or will not be affected. However I feel that I have not received the education I should have to prepare me for college. There have been so many classes cut out of our budget. We no longer have a publication, Athletic Director after this year, we do not have a calculus class, or an accounting class.

All of the underclassmen will be affected. Things are going to have to change. There will be no future generation with any education. We need help!

Sincerely,



Rebecca Monroe

April 4, 2001

Kimberly Champeau
W8606 Timothy Rd.
Niagara High Schools

Dear Legislature,

Hello, my name is Kimberly Champeau. I am currently a senior at the Niagara High School. Within the last few years our school has went through a series of major changes, concerning Niagara's budget plan. Because of the poor budget classes, needed classes, have been cut, extracurricular activities became unaffordable, and we are in desperate need of new books in particular classes. During my sophomore year of high school I was given a grammar book used by my own father. My dad is now 47 years old, which means those books are at least in not more than 30 years old. It's really time for some changes in our school, before not only the books fall apart, but also our school falls apart.

I, even though I'm not directly affected, have a 3-year-old nephew and brand new niece. I know the plans for their schooling are to attend Niagara Public Schools, but I will be in great need to let them know about Niagara's budget plan.

Please help our school's budget. Without particular classes, good and in shape books, and extracurricular activities this school is nothing, and the children that attend Niagara Public Schools will not be able to further their education and learning.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Champeau

Stacy Petersen
N22236 Hansen Rd.
Niagara, WI 54151
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator,

I am writing because our school is being severely affected by the budget cuts that have been done. With the budget cuts we lose out on classes that could benefit us with our future education and future career plans. We also lose out on our extracurricular activities.

We have already lost many of our advanced classes that are supposed to prepare us for our college years. A lot of the students in my graduating class feel that they are not quite prepared for what they have ahead of them. A lot of classes that we were going to take during our senior year were recently cancelled. Some of the classes were classes that would have prepared us for our future schooling and careers.

I really don't feel that it is fair that all of these budget cuts are happening. Without the money to have certain classes we are losing out. There are many younger students who are going to be even more affected than we are. Everyone that has said that students should further their education are just contradicting themselves but letting this happen.

We have even lost many of our sports and extracurricular activities. These things are very important for social development.

Many teachers have left the area for fear of losing their jobs because of cuts. Also many students and families have left the community seeking better education facilities. Niagara High School is going down the drain and will soon have to be shut down.

Please help correct this crisis. This is ruining the education of students that will one day be running the world.

Sincerely Yours,

Stacy M. Petersen

Stacy Petersen

Corey Spade
1741 Ridge St.
Niagara High

Dear Legislature:

I am writing to you on behalf of students here at Niagara High School. I am a senior, and all though I don't think that this change will affect me as greatly as the underclassmen, I do believe that it is a big mistake on your part. I have a brother who is only a freshman and he needs these college prep courses that you want to cut. I would really like to know how you think there can be a future without giving our youth the chance at a good education. Without these courses, they don't stand a chance of getting into college.

These are just a few of my, and many others, opinions on how our youth are being shortchanged. We deserve a future, and we deserve an education.

Sincerely,

Corey Spade

Corey Spade (a concerned student)

Kathleen Butler
N22760 Timothy Rd.
Niagara High School

April 4, 2001

Dear Legislator,

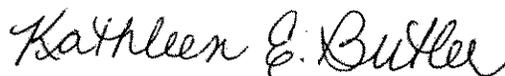
My name is Kathleen Butler and I am a senior at Niagara High School. I am very concerned about the future budget cuts that might occur, and I would like to voice my opinion and be heard. As a senior I am less affected than the underclassmen but I would like the younger children to have the opportunity to have the best learning experience possible. I have two younger sisters in the Niagara School District and their education is greatly affected by the legislators' future decisions.

It is extremely difficult to fund smaller school districts, and the money provided seems to be less and less each year. Without money, Niagara's curriculum has declined and other smaller schools have not offered the best education possible. In the past couple of years, Niagara has dropped calculus, accounting, publications, and home economics classes. I do not want to see advanced classes cut in the future! Many positions in the district have been cut and not replaced (with no intentions of replacing them anytime soon). Without these courses as well as many others that are not offered in our district, the youth of America will have a difficult time succeeding at college and in society.

In addition to the academic area, our sports are also in jeopardy. Without the aid of the legislature money these will be the first to go. Sports are a part of High School as well as Forensics, Drama, and Hi-Q. What a boring school we would have without proper education and extra curricular programs.

Thank you for your time. I hope this letter along with many others have influenced your decision. Smaller Wisconsin school districts are in great jeopardy, and I am sure that people will have no problem going across the bridge if this budget cut is successful.

Sincerely,



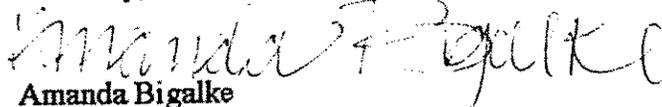
Kathleen E. Butler

Amanda Bigalke
700 Jefferson Ave.
Niagara High School

Dear Legislature:

I am a senior at Niagara High School, and I will be attending NWTC to study Corrections Science, this fall. I am thankful for the more advanced classes that I have been able to take here at Niagara, not only because I have learned the material, but also because I am better prepared to attend college, and look my future straight in the eye. It is my opinion that some, if not most of these budget proposals are outrageous. Without some of the classes that you are willing to cut from our school systems, my younger sister's future will not be as bright and as promising as mine. I believe that the future generations will need to have the more advanced classes to even attend college in their future. Money does not always buy happiness, but without it, you wouldn't have much. How do you expect people to get out into the real world, and not only make money to make a living for themselves, but also to make a difference? Our school systems need the more advanced classes along with the teachers whom are able to teach them to us. I want my younger sister and even the younger generations to have a bright and promising future too. Why? Everyone deserves one. I sincerely hope you realize what these budgets would do to the future generations. Do not think about the "money" for one minute. Instead, think about the broken hearts that these children are going to have when you tell them that their schools no longer offer the classes that they are going to need to take in order to make a difference, and reach the goals in their future to come. Think about how they are going to feel when there is no longer a basketball team to play for, or a volleyball team to play for, or a track or wrestling or golf or football team to play for. Sports are the highlight of some of these children's lives. Are you willing to ruin that for them? Our future is in your hands. Please don't ruin it for us.

Sincerely,


Amanda Bigalke

**James Kluskens
W5490 Chapman Rd.
Niagara, WI 54151
Niagara High School**

Dear Legislature:

I am writing on behalf of the Niagara High School about the budget for education. I feel that cutting the budget is a wrong move. Education in this area is hurting already. If cuts are made, many of the sports and extra-curricular activities in my school will have to be cut because we just do not have the money. That is not fair to the younger students in grades below me. We need more money, if anything. Education one of the most important things and its funding should be into high consideration by the state.

Sincerely,

James Kluskens

James Kluskens

Andrea Romitti
825 Roosevelt Road
Niagara WI, 54151
Niagara High School

Dear Legislators:

I am horrified that a budget cut for our schools is even being discussed because my school is scraping for money as it is. This cut will destroy small school districts such as mine. People who come from small school districts deserve money just as much as the people from larger schools, but we do not have it. Many people have left the area and Wisconsin because of the decline in the effectiveness of our school systems because of monetary problems. This is a crisis that must be resolved because we are now losing important classes and extracurricular activities that are important to our communities and students. We are the future leaders of America, but we are being ignored. We need to resolve this crisis immediately. Please help us to correct this issue because I have a sister in this floundering school system and she is only a freshman. If this issue is ignored then, by the time my sister is a senior, there will be nothing left of our school system. Please help us to rectify this issue.

Sincerely,

Andrea Romitti

Andrea Romitti

Luke Herman
700 Jefferson Ave
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Legislature,

I am a senior at Niagara High School, so I will be graduating this year. The budget changes that are about to happen in the near future will not affect me at all. It will affect all of the underclassmen at my school. It is not fair to them, and the students under them that you do this to them. To get into decent colleges, you have to have certain classes under your belt. These requirements cannot be obtained if you cut our advanced classes. Without some college preparatory classes, it would be impossible for these students to be accepted into college.

Some of the extracurricular activities are going to be cut also. The students who love to participate in sports should be given a chance to showcase their skills. These activities are very important to students. It gives students something to look forward to. I know some students that come to school just to engage in sports.

I thank you for taking the time to listen to what I have to say. I hope you realize how serious this situation is; it will affect all of the schools. I implore you to be considerate in your decision, because it will affect lives all over the state

Sincerely,



Luke Herman

Jeremy Sauld
700 Jefferson Ave.
Niagara, WI 54151

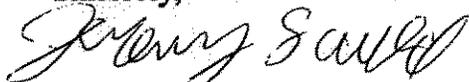
Dear Legislature,

I am a senior at Niagara High School and soon I will be graduating. I am very concerned with the number of budget cuts at our High School. Over the four years that I have been here my school has been limiting us by reducing the number of opportunities that they provide. In the athletic department my school dropped wrestling my sophomore year and threatened to drop football my junior year. You may not see these programs as important but I have received the bulk of my education from these programs. These programs teach us valuable lessons that you cannot learn in the classroom.

On the educational side of things my school has been dropping most of the electoral classes since my sophomore year. It has now become difficult to get into the classes that I needed to graduate. Last year I could not get into History class, a class needed to graduate because I had to take another course I needed to graduate. The forcing of Niagara's teachers at our school to work part time causing the classes to be offered during less hours, causing more confusion in creating student schedules and causing students to lessen the difficulty of their schedules to obtain needed courses.

This year I had to take a higher Spanish course so that I could fit Physics into my senior schedule. It would be greatly appreciated by the town of Niagara if you would consider giving us aid so that we could obtain the education that we need to be competitive with other states on an educational level.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Sauld

Amanda C. Krause
W5960 Chapman Rd.
Niagara, WI 54151
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator,

I am a 17-year-old junior at Niagara High School. I see the things that are happening to our budget and am not pleased. These budget cuts are depriving our whole student body (including Middle School and Elementary School students). We can't possibly cut anything else. Niagara High School has a reputation of excellence and that reputation is slowly diminishing.

We have lost extra-curricular activities such as High Steppers, Pep Band, Wrestling, Tennis, Gifted and Talented, etc. We didn't even have bleachers until earlier this year. Right now we are losing our school nurse. Who doesn't have a school nurse? Who will take care of the sick or hurt children? I go to the nurse's office roughly 5 times each month for various reasons. She has helped me in many cases where I've had headaches, fevers, cuts, bruises, broken or sprained bones, personal problems, and many other things. She gives good advice for treating these illnesses. People need their medications. She takes care of approximately 500 students. We *need* a school nurse.

We cannot lose any more teaching staff. We need more teachers and possibly more teachers' assistants. Students are being discouraged because our school system is dwindling away. Everyday there are hateful words about this school. I admit that I do not like it here. I am originally from Buffalo, New York. To see such a small town go through this kind of trouble is really depressing and embarrassing. There are students here who deserve a better education.

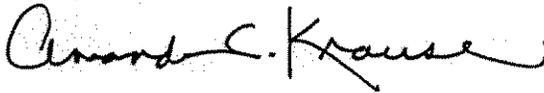
I maintain consistent High Honors and plan to attend college in the future. We need classes such as Calculus, Drama, and other foreign languages like French or German. We no longer have Publications to make our well-liked school newspaper. Our Business electives have been cut. I am interested in a Business path and I am now deprived once again. We try to get some kind of a Pep Band going by playing at a few games each sports season. We used to have a Jazz Band, Marching Band, and an official Choir. I am consistently active with music and was originally planning to attend a school of music, but we have none of these classes anymore.

Our equipment is terrible. I was a mascot for High School Football last year and the Bucky Badger suit was gross. It smelled and was tearing apart. There were dents in the head and body and it was simply old. Our books go back as far as the 70's and earlier. Some students have the same books their parents used. In Middle School, people had to share their Math and History books for a time because our school couldn't afford to compensate for the old ones. You simply don't *share* schoolbooks. Everyone deserves the chance to learn and should jump at the opportunity. Whether they do or not, it is vital to have books. One thing in our school that is nice and fairly new is our theater. It is one of the best theaters around and is rather reliable for such a small community. Only, there is one problem. We could use our theater more. We have One-Act and Forensics, but, we have lost so many drama programs. There are people striving to do something interesting and fun for our students, such as the recently new annual Talent

Shows. We need something more. I look at the class schedules of other schools and there are so many electives that I didn't know even existed.

It is bad enough that we have such a small community with hardly any recreational places for the local students. We should at least be happy with our school system. Please consider what we are going through and think about yourself when you were in high school. What kind of opportunities did you have? If they weren't decent, would you like to see us go through the same torture, or try to help make students more positive? We are desperate and striving. Our school system is the epicenter of our community and it is dying. We need help.

Deprived,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda C. Krause". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

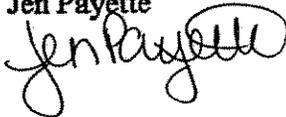
Amanda C. Krause

N2089 County O
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Legislature,

We students at Niagara High School are very concerned about the budget cuts that we are receiving. If you cut our budget then we will not have the funding we need to have the necessary courses that prepare us for the college life and beyond. Our staffing now is at a minimum and if you issue more cut backs, then we will not have enough teachers to teach us or the necessities we need to better ourselves. Things that were valuable to you when you were a student (and that may have gotten you to the legislature today) are not readily available for us. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to prove to you how valuable our education is to us.

Very Concerned Student,
Jen Payette

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jen Payette". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Matt Leslie
W8545 Leslie Rd
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator,

I am a student at Niagara High School who wishes to inform you that this school is very low in funds. We have just enough staff to get by, we have next to no elective classes, the majority of the classes that we, the students, have are study halls or classes that are not really needed for our future and are just used for the credits needed to graduate and get into college, however they are useless credits because the classes do not help us.

Our books are outdated and falling apart, I had one book last year that my neighbor used and he is thirty-three years old. I would like to leave you in saying that help would not only be greatly needed but also appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matt Leslie
Matt Leslie

Robert Phillips
W6991 HWY 8
Niagara

Dear Legislator,

I am writing this letter because a lot of the classes that I personal was interested in were cut and other classes that I was not but other people were interested in were also cut. We do not have that many classes other than the four core classes. How are people from this school suppose to go to a college if we do not have the right qualifications and even if we can get in, how far behind will we be from the rest of the college classes.

The college I am interested in going into has classes that I cannot even get the basics of because classes are not offered. So how am I suppose to have the basics down before I go to that college.

Our books are all falling apart. Our books are so old that they were falling apart since my sister used them and she is 27 years old. If I could I would probably have went to a different school most likely out of the state.

Sincerely,
Robert Phillips

Robert P Phillips Jr.

April 4, 2001

1321 Cleveland St.
Niagara, WI
54151

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Amanda Kalinoski and I'm a junior in Niagara High School. While attending High School at Niagara I have noticed drastic changes in our public school system. These changes are now affecting my education along with every other student in our school. We have a very limited number of elective classes and have also cut many extracurricular activities.

With more and more budget cuts we are losing programs that many of us need to expand our knowledge for future education plans. After I graduate from high school I plan on attending college and majoring in the fine arts. Wanting to do so and being prepared for such a life changing decision are two different things. I truly do not feel ready to attend college in the arts field when Niagara is only able to offer basic art class. We have no pottery unit, sculpture unit, design unit, photography unit, nor do we have any basic supplies for these units of study. The absence of these classes has put a damper on my education. **Something must be done. We are aggressively seeking your help and pray that you will follow through.**

Sincerely,



Amanda Kalinoski

1956 Ledge St.
Niagara, WI

Dear Legislator,

My name is Torrie Gregor and I am a very active junior at Niagara High School. I am class president, student council president elect, and a member of the National Honor Society, to name a few. As you very well know, there have been some very depressing and unwelcome changes happening in our school. This year for example, we had to fight for the class of calculus. There are many of us who would like to go to a four-year college, but are afraid that we haven't had the right opportunities and classes to prepare ourselves.

Classes aren't the only things that are leaving. We have had to cut many extracurriculars and teachers. Some teachers, great teachers mind you, had to leave because they felt they could not support their family with the income that Niagara would be able to offer them in the years to come.

Another concern is our literature. The books are old and outdated, which cannot help but limit our learning. The teachers are not getting paid to make their own books or to find modern information off of the Internet, but are still doing this. Obviously, not allowing them the time to focus on teaching, as they should be.

As we do appreciate your listening and contemplations, we also are praying that something will be done. We are desperate, so I apologize if this comes off as pathetic begging. We do not know what else to do. Not to sound corny, but you are literally our last hope, so please give our concerns serious consideration. Thank you.

Your concerned student,
Torrie E. Gregor

Torrie E. Gregor
Niagara High School

April 4, 2001

N22755 Timothy Ln.
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Legislature,

My name is Amber Gunville, and I am a junior at Niagara High School. I am writing this letter to inform you of the need of money for our school. In the past years, our school has cut many different classes that some students are in need of in order to further his or her education. Some of these classes may help these students to be better prepared for college if they receive them at an earlier stage. Also, the books that are supplied in some classes are older than I am. Why try to read a book when it has pages falling out, and it is harder to keep your book together, rather than actually doing the homework. Although I am not one who needs some of the more advanced classes that have been cut, some of the classes that everyone needs to have, such as our Family And Consumer Education class has been cut. Without that class, how is a person like me supposed to learn to be on my own when I do not even know how to sew a button on a shirt, or even do my own laundry?!

Not only have classes been cut, but also some extracurricular activities have been cut. I know that school is a place to learn, not a place to prove how good of an athlete you are, but when extracurriculars are cut, teenagers do not learn responsibility. At Niagara High School and I am sure at other schools you have to have a certain Grade Point Average to play or even participate in extracurricular activities. I am not saying I am the perfect student, but by being involved in extracurricular activities, I have learned that I must keep my priorities straight, and also to manage my time for what it more important, my education.

If you are a parent I'm sure that you would want the best for your child, so helping our school financially, would make a difference in that perspective. Not only would that help the students further their education, but it would also help parents who are looking for the best for their children. Helping our school with our budget would keep students enrolled in the Niagara school system, instead of families moving to different places to find a better-off school to send their children.

Sincerely,



Amber M. Gunville

April 4, 2001

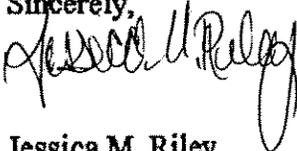
1325 River St.
Niagara, WI
54151

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jessica Riley and I am a junior at Niagara High School. I am currently an above average student and extremely disappointed with the amount of concern for our school. Throughout the past three years we as a city have noticed some depressing changes in our school system. I will be graduating and attending a four year college next year and I feel I will not have as much experience in certain studies or have as many requirements as other students in our state who have access to many options that our school never had. Someday, I hope to follow an internationally based career and I am going to enter this field with absolutely no background. We have no business or accounting classes and the closest thing we have to an international based class is Spanish. Our history books are extremely outdated and our calculus class is gone. We no longer have a drama class, a yearbook/newsletter class, or a tennis team. Our art classes are basic and we do not have enough or the proper supplies that are needed. These are just a few examples of some cuts to our school that have affected the student body greatly. I hope you will be able to stop for a moment and think what it would be like to be in our position. Just because we live in a small town doesn't mean that we should be disregarded or deprived of the support we deserve.

I thank you for taking the time to listen to what I had to say. I hope you will make the right decision and help Niagara. We would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,



Jessica M. Riley

April 4, 2001

1300 Coolidge Ave
Niagara, Wi 54151

Dear Legislature:

My name is Kristie Reimer and I attend Niagara High School. I am in the Junior class and over the past years I have seen many changes in my school system. During my Freshmen year in high school, a referendum for schools was not passed. Since then, there have been many cuts in school classes and activities.

One of the classes that I am most upset about was our theatre class. Several students in my class had signed up for theatre for the last three years of high school. However, before any of us had the opportunity to participate in the class it was cut from the budget.

Most of our curriculum material is mangled and falling apart. I also find it upsetting that our U.S. history books are extremely outdated. The last time period covered is 1984 and the Regan administration. This is close to the time that I was born!

We also had to cut many of math classes. I think that you can agree that an accounting course would be extremely helpful to anyone who is going into business or just opening a checking account. I plan to go into the field of computer sciences. I feel like I am at a great disadvantage because we have so few computer courses. In our programming classes they are still teaching the languages of BASIC and PASCAL.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. However, I would also like to request that you don't just dismiss this letter. Please consider the severity of your budget cuts and how it will affect my generation and future generations.

Sincerely,



Kristie Reimer
Niagara High School

April 4, 2001

924 Main Street
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Legislature,

Hello, My name is Jessica Holmes and I am a Junior at Niagara High School and I am very concerned with the way my school has been changing. It's changing because we have to make tremendous budget cuts every year and very soon we are not going to have the important classes that I need for college. I know I may not be the best student academically, but I care enough to know that I have a goal I have set for myself and I can not reach this goal if I can not get the knowledge I need to succeed. I feel that my school is in need of financial help. So that maybe I may not be able to get the class and things I need by my Senior year, which is next year. But maybe the underclassmen can get the class that they are in need of. I think that it maybe too late for my class. But it is not too late to help the up coming generations.

Classes our being cut, for example, Home Economics. But classes aren't the only things being cut; teachers and extracurricular activities are being wiped out. We used to have Tennis, and because the budget was to low, it had to be cut. Our books are so old that in History, the book only reaches up to the time when President Reagan was in office.

I know that I may only be a Junior and my opinion may not mean much to you, but we need help and I believe that you are just the person to help us. I want a good future, and I think that you are just the person that can help my future generation and myself. Believe it or not, but when you retire, my generation who will be running things for you. So if we do not have the knowledge we need, how are we going to be able to care and keep the world running? We need help, please help us. I am not trying to be pathetic and sound like I am begging for you to come and wave you hand and make everything all better. But I am asking you as a student who has a very big concern for her school. If you have any children, I would think that you would want the best for your children. So think of Niagara High School as your children and do what is best. Thank you for your time

Very Concerned Student
Jessica Holmes

Jessica Holmes

April 4, 2001

1816 Ridge Street
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Legislature:

Hello. My name is Amanda Boesen. I am 16 years old and a Junior at Niagara High School. I am writing to tell you that I am very concerned about the budget cuts and teacher cuts at my school. I was told that there are going to be many classes and sports cut. I want to get a full education and take the classes that I want. Our school does not have that many classes to offer so if you cut more classes, our future is in trouble and so is yours. If we do not have the classes that we need in high school, how are we, the students, supposed to succeed in the future. Of course there is always college after high school, but what about the people who cannot afford to go to college. They are depending on their high school education. As I said before, we need these classes to succeed. You could be looking at a future president or the next Bill Gates. When you are old and retired, we the students are going to be the ones running this country. So your future depends on the budget cuts too.

I also was told that some of our sports would be cut too. The sports in our school are very important to most of our students. Being very good in sports is what is getting some of our students to college. Being in sports also gives you confidence and an ability to succeed.

Thank you for listening to me and what I had to say. I really really hope that you will take what we students had to say into consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Boesen
Amanda Boesen

April 4, 2001
406 Robinson St.
Niagara High Schools

Dear Legislature,

Hello my name is Annie Rugg and I am a junior at Niagara High School. I have a few concerns with the way our school is changing. We have been changing things a lot in the last year or so. A lot of the important classes are getting cut and we need these classes to get in to college. I need the classes and so do the rest of the kids in this school. Kids from other schools are getting the education that they need, why can't we? We have the ability to do great things and go places in life. Without these classes we can't get there. Our sports are an important thing also because some students have the talent to get scholarships to college. The teachers are also being affected. Some of them are being promised a full time job, but because of budget cuts they get half time and can't support their families. We are losing a lot of good teacher. I think that this is not fair at all and you need to do something!

How would you feel if your child had a less than adequate education and limited extracurricular activities?

I bet that you would try to do something. Every parent wants the best for their children.

Please, before you start cutting funds, think about this action! We are students that have goals set. We want to accomplish these goals. Don't destroy our future.

Sincerely,

Annie Rugg

Annie Rugg

Erica Isaacson
Niagara High School
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

I am a junior at Niagara High School. The last couple year we have been making budget cuts, eliminating classes and extra-curricular, because there is no more funding. It concerns my whole town that the state is considering making budget cuts. How am I supposed to get all of the advanced classes I need if the state will not provide funding for me to take them. It is not fair for me to be behind students form other states when I get into college because my state wouldn't provide me the classes I need. How much money do you think can be cut before schools will not be able to provide such basic classes as College Prep English and Trigonometry?

I hope the state will take another look at the cuts it is going to make an think of how it is going to change all of the students lives for the worse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Isaacson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Erica Isaacson

Sheena Gallino
Niagara High School

Attention Legislators:

I am a junior at Niagara High School. I feel that you are making a big mistake by taking away some of our most important classes. I need some of the college prep classes in order to go to college for what I want to do. I want to be a physical therapist when I grow up and cutting my classes is not going to help any. I need a future and you are not giving it to me. We are going to be your future and if we don't get the education we need, then you are going to be in trouble when you are no longer in charge. One of my classmates might just end up being President of the United States, but he/she sure would be a scary one without the proper education. We also need to live our lives to the fullest and cutting our funding will take away from our growing up as happy and healthy teens. I am asking you to please look at the budget once more and see what you can do to help keep our education a good one. We are the future and you won't regret it. I thank you for giving us a second chance and hope you make the right choices.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Sheena Gallino

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheena Gallino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mindy Kinsella
1108 Pierce St
Niagara, WI 54151

Dear Legislature,

I am very concerned about the budget cuts that we are receiving. I hope you do not cut our budget because then us children, the ones who are going to be running the world in a couple of years, will not get the classes or the funding that we need. Our staffing now is at a minimum and if you issue more cut backs, then how are we going to be able to learn everything that we need to know for our future.

Our books are outdated and falling apart, I had one book last year that had my daddy had when he was in my grade. My daddy is now 38 years old. Your help will be greatly appreciated because we need these classes and our teachers for our future. Thank you very much for you time.

Sincerely,



Mindy Kinsella

April 4, 2001

1456 Mill St.
Niagara, Wisconsin
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to you today because my school, Niagara High School, is in dear need of money. We students are not getting the classes that are needed for us to go to college. We are also losing good teachers because they are afraid of only being able to work part time. A lot of our extracurricular are also being cut because our funding is so low. Please help me and the rest of the school by giving us money. We are losing out on an education here. We are going to be the people running the business world in the next generations so we could do it a lot better if we had the money to get the proper learning.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Sanders". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Robert Sanders

April 4, 2001

Ryan Allred
416 Adams Ave.
Niagara, WI 54151
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to you because of the budget concerns at our high school. We have been going through budget concerns for a couple years now. We aren't getting the classes that some of us need to go on to college. Because of our budget we have to cut some our fine teachers that we have. Also we don't have enough money to pay our Athletic Director so we have to cut him and our head janitor has to do the job. Some of our sports are going to be cut before they start cutting college prep classes. They believe that education is more important then our sports. I'm going to the University of Marinette to play basketball. I'm a junior at Niagara High School. I would hate to see any of our sports to be gone for my senior year. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help our school budget. Thank you for cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ryan Allred

Ryan Allred

Helen Westrich
201 Hill Street
Niagara, WI 54151

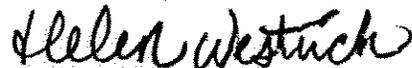
Dear Legislator,

I am writing to you on behalf of Niagara High School. Niagara really needs your help in making the school system better for the students and the future. Please give the students here a chance to take the classes they need, so they can have the future they want and deserve.

I also think it is necessary for students to be able to participate in extracurricular activities. Not only do activities boost self-esteem they teach kids how to be a team player, be hardworking, But they also keep kids out of trouble. Extra curricular activities are extremely important to our school and our community.

Please give our school the funding we need. It is unfair to be cheated of the education we need and want so much. We are the future and without your help where will you be?

Thank You,



Helen Westrich

April 4, 2001

104 Hill Street
Niagara, Wi 54151

Dear Legislature:

My name is Amanda Marcouiller and I attend Niagara High School. I am a Senior class and in the past few years, I have seen many changes in our school system. During my Sophomore year there was a referendum that did not pass. Ever since then, there have been many cuts in classes and activities.

Most of our curriculum material is out of date and falling apart. We need to update, in order to further our education.

I would like to thank you greatly for taking the time to read over my concerns. Please consider the how much your budget cuts will affect my generation and many more to come.

Sincerely,



Amanda Marcouiller
Niagara High School

April 4, 2001

100 Jefferson Ave.
Niagara, Wisconsin
Niagara High School

Dear Legislator:

Hi I am Travis Lincoln and I am writing to you concerning present situation at Niagara High School. We are in great needs for financial help. We are not getting the classes we need for college. We have no electives. We are also loosing good teachers because they are worried of being part time. We are loosing our education while they cut classes. We also don't need to loose sports we need to bring back other sports for those who like them. We will be the next generation running this country so we should get the same education as you did.

Sincerely,



Travis Lincoln

Michelle Cheney

1000 Forest st.

Niagara WI, 54151

I am writing on behalf of the Niagara High School. We desperately need money for our school. How do you expect us to get into college if we can't take the classes that we need. We are the future generation and if you don't help us get an education everything that we have worked for will be gone. We shouldn't have to cut sports because it's known that students perform better in school with extra curricular activities. I don't think you should be so selfish and greedy with the money we need to get an education.

I just hope you know what you are doing to us and you do something about it. Consider what you are putting us through. We need an education and the future students need an education. I have one year left of school and I really need to take advanced classes if I want to be a physical therapist. Please give us the money we need so we can get the jobs we want and the education we need.

Thank You,

Michelle Cheney