

**OPINION****South Kitsap's budget shortfall is self-inflicted**

Chris Lemke, South Kitsap    Published 11:32 a.m. PT May 7, 2019

Regarding the South Kitsap School District plan for teacher and staff layoffs, there are many to blame.

The key organization is the Washington Education Association. The Supreme Court ruling on the McCleary lawsuit ink wasn't dry and this group was already pushing its members like South Kitsap Education Association to ask for pay well above that set by this ruling.

The SKEA leaders were driving the request for an unsustainable 20 percent wage hike. Like any union attorney will tell you, that it is their job. The school district's board and Superintendent Karst Brandsma had to know this was not possible, but approved the contract to avoid a strike. Their hope was to push for a levy lid bump and put the burden for this error on the taxpayers.

This exact situation happen six years ago, when a former superintendent and human resource director resigned and left the district to fix the problem.

Teachers, like all workers, deserve fair compensation. The state Legislature did this. The problem is that some of the 295 schools districts failed to adhere to it, like South Kitsap School District.

*Chris Lemke, South Kitsap*

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[William Hattrick](#)

Can C Lemke give us some idea of the purchasing power of the average SK teacher salary at 5 year instances over the past 20 years so that we can understand the effect of the current "20 percent" raise on the average taxpayer?

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THE MONEY MULE

Mr. Hattrick – please feel free to pay my share of our local school taxes. I would consider it an early X-mas gift!

In addition, Mr. Lemke – nicely done!

We read what the levy lift means for Kitsap taxpayers. Ok, so here is what it will mean for SKSD Administration and School Board. **NO MORE EASY MONEY: WE ARE SICK OF IT!**

SKSD - the biggest tax hog off all the tax assessments we suffer.

SKSD Administration and School Board - budget challenged. They have known from the start that those hefty raises would deplete State funds, funds intended "for the kids". And the beat will go on, as Chris says. Many, many more years of pay raises this District cannot afford!

So now, as always, this District just assumes we taxpayers will cover their mistakes and approve any levy they throw in front of us, Why? Well cause - "It's for the Kids" for heavens sake.

Truth is told levy dollars continue to pour into SKSD's fat cat administrator's pockets. Who's taking the hit? The staff and teachers followed again, "by the kids". Watch SKSD ramp up their efforts for the unneeded second high school and a flurry of levy, after, after levy. Has anyone read that fat cat administrators will lose their jobs? I mean the ones clearing at least \$180,000 a year! Do you think SKSD is so top-heavy Admin wise? Looks to us like they have finally managed to capsize the "budget boat".

The Citizens Supporting South Kitsap School District

[citizenssupportingsouthkitsapschooldistrict.com](http://citizenssupportingsouthkitsapschooldistrict.com)) are looking for more like-minded property owners and voters who are sick and tired of being sick and tired of all this. As a group, we will continue to remind the District (and the voters) what is coming. We do not have to wait until SKSD drops more levy and bond requests in our laps. We don't have to get mule kicked repeatedly by this SKSD money mule! Shame on the School Board and their boss Karst Brandsma for doing this to the kids.

If you are sick and tired of this, give us a call, write us. Join us. We can stop this budget juggernaut from putting all of us in the poor house. They must be held accountable, they must be stopped. Let's stop this money mule in it's tracks!

You can find us at: [citizensupportingsouthkitsapschooldistrict.com](http://citizensupportingsouthkitsapschooldistrict.com).  
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