

LETTERS | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Think about who suffers when school levies fail

Laura Rarig Pugh, Bremerton

Published 12:09 p.m. PT Nov. 16, 2020

When I read Mr. Daily's recent letter about the SKSD levy discussion ("What will best support students in SK?"), I was disappointed and concerned.

He advocates the elimination of more than 185 jobs. He advocates for increased class sizes, a surefire way to guarantee that SK schools will be unable to return to in-person instruction.

I am an educator in the North Mason School District, where the recently failed levy is tangibly impacting the ability to meet student needs. This year, during the pandemic, I have the highest caseload of students in my 13 year career: 165. Even when COVID cases fall and school can return to in-person classes (which I hope is soon), I will have to offer each student less of my individual attention. Because of the staff loss, most of my students do not have access to support from paraeducators. Instead, I'm answering family phone calls and emails at all hours of the day trying to create workable solutions to support their students.

Mr. Daily, a school board member, wishes that the school board will not seek to renew the levy. His voice was heard loudly by the public in the latest reality-TV-style board meeting. He is entitled to his opinion. However, the claim that it would "best support students in SK" is dangerous. I urge SK voters to learn from the nearby experience in North Mason. Continue to support SK students by voting "yes" for the upcoming levy. As you write to your SKSD board members, consider who benefits from a failed levy.

Laura Rarig Pugh, Bremerton