

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

## School board member's opinions undercut the district

**Tom Juvik, Port Orchard**

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In response to the letter, “What will best support students in SK” (Nov. 14): It's hard to believe that SK School Board member Jeff Daily appears to undercut the district's levy while it is still under construction. Using unsubstantiated data, he paints a picture of a levy that only feeds “rising payroll costs” and excessive staffing levels. It's sad that a board member has chosen to cast shade over the SKSD staff, depicting them as a mob of fat-cats hitching a free ride on some massive gravy train.

In May, Troy Grubb, SK Chapter president of SEIU 925, warned us about this attitude in a letter to the Kitsap Sun, revealing that Jeff Daily was promoting the idea of short-circuiting union negotiations and stripping wage increases through 2021. Now, we find Daily implying that cuts in staffing and salary would have zero impact on “educational outcomes.”

Listen, being fiscally responsible does not mean getting all Draconian about it. Ensuring product (quality education) and valuing those charged with delivering it (employees) while conserving the resources of those who pay for it (taxpayers) means taking a balanced approach using a shared decision-making process. Not an easy balancing act, but for several decades before Mr. Daily took office, the SK School Board conducted business pretty successfully by adhering to group norms for professional communication and collaboration with a focus on what's best for students.

Mr. Daily's decision to sidestep that process and write a letter disparaging a levy that has not yet seen the light of day seems to be a classic case of poisoning the well.

*Tom Juvik, Port Orchard*