

On March 12, the Decatur Board of Education voted to accept recommendations from the district's administration by cutting staff who provide direct services to our students.

As president of the Decatur Education Association, representing teachers and other school employees, we are disappointed that the school board approved cutting 36 teaching positions. This means there will be 36 fewer people helping our students learn and grow.

At the same time, the administration did not ask the board to eliminate a single position in its own office. What this means is that while fewer teachers will be in the classrooms working one on one with students, we will have the same number of administrators who do not interact with students on a daily basis. How does that benefit Decatur?

Teachers who provided additional student improvement to pupils at the elementary level were cut. Teachers who teach *math, social studies, science, physical education* and *foreign language* at the high school and middle school levels were cut. Yet, not one administrator was cut from the Keil building.

This act demonstrates the values of this district. It is a district that deems administrators more important than those who provide instruction directly to our students. This decision does not serve our community well. We know it is imperative that we raise our children and teach our children in a way that allows them to compete in this global economy. However, the board is leading us in the opposite direction.

Decatur needs teachers who work directly with students every day. In the classroom, we are being asked to do more with less. We will do so because we care for our students and we want them to succeed. But the question begs to be asked: Why won't administrators, who have no contact with students, be asked to do the same?

Suzanne Kreps

President of the Decatur Education Association