

Dear Members of the Tacoma Public Schools Board,

I am writing to express deep concern about the recent staff reductions at the juvenile detention education program within our district. These cuts represent more than just budgetary adjustments, they impact some of the most vulnerable youth in our community, many of whom already face significant educational, emotional, and social challenges.

The Remann Hall learning environment is not typical, it demands highly skilled and compassionate educators trained to manage complex behaviors, foster emotional growth, and inspire academic progress. Cuts to this already under-resourced school undermine the mission of equity and justice that Tacoma Public Schools claims to uphold.

As an educator who has worked closely with these students, I often ask myself how so many young people are allowed to slip through the cracks of Tacoma Public Schools—how a student can come to me their senior year still struggling to read, write, or complete basic math. I've met TPS students who were chronically absent for years, involved in risky and unsafe behaviors, without any meaningful intervention. I struggle to understand how this happens in a system that claims to care about equity, opportunity, and the whole child.

It has become clear that these students are not only overlooked, they are pushed out. And now, the dedicated, loving, and trauma-informed educators who choose to show up for these students every single day are being pushed out too. Not because of poor performance, but because of the district's failure to proactively manage its budget and prioritize the most vulnerable.

In just two years working at Remann Hall, I have lost too many young people to gun violence. Young lives that, with our **consistent** support and care, could have had a different outcome. I have watched countless others disappear into the prison pipeline, that continues to ravage the Black community, I've witnessed young people from all backgrounds with potential, with creativity, with intelligence be lost and abandoned to a life of poverty by a system that should have fought harder for them.

I urge you to reconsider these cuts and instead take bold steps to invest in restorative, culturally responsive, and inclusive education—especially for those who have already been failed by traditional systems. Staff at Remann Hall are not just teachers, they are mentors, counselors, advocates, and often the only stability these young people have.

I hope you understand that when you cut staff, you play an active role in the violence, drug addictions, and trauma plaguing our nation. Also, it's unacceptable and wildly inappropriate that administrators in Tacoma Public Schools are making \$200,000 to \$300,000 annually off the backs of Title I schools where families and students live below the poverty line. That is not equity. That is exploitation.

Please do not let your legacy be one of neglect. Let it be one of transformation and courage.

Thank you for all you do,

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