

To Whom It May Concern,

February 23, 2015

I am writing this letter to share how CommPACT has impacted my children as well as myself over the past five years.

I started out being a parent who was afraid to send my daughter to her middle school because of the things that others would say about the school. I had no choice though, and I had to send her to receive an education, but that did not mean that I did not worry about her.

About a month or two after she started her first year in middle school, back in 2010, I had the pleasure of meeting the Parent Liaison at the school. She talked with me and shared about CommPACT with me. Right after that meeting, I made the decision to be more involved at my daughter's school, not because I had to, but because I could.

CommPACT creates a way for parents, community members, administrators, teachers and other staff to come to the table together for the better of the school. All ideas are listened to, and voted upon if needed. The great thing is that the parents came up with a lot of great ideas that everyone thought were great too, and the same with the teachers and staff. They brought great ideas to the table that the parents loved. Everyone was working together as one.

CommPACT also has smaller groups within the school known as Cadre's. My first year there we had a Parent Engagement Cadre. There were a few teachers and staff on the Cadre with us, as each Cadre tries to have a mix of people depending on what that Cadre is.

Some of the Cadre's at our school are:

1. Parent Engagement
2. PBIS
3. Student Recognition
4. School Operations
5. Unity (Faculty Recognitions)
6. Reading
7. Math

Our school, in my opinion was a school where the majority of the staff there respected and welcomed parents and their input. I have never seen anything like that before, and it was great, actually beyond great!

I have been very fortunate to be involved with this middle school for five years now. I have seen things grow dramatically. The school now has their very own Parent Resource Room where parents can come to talk to one another, find information and resources within the community, and have coffee, tea and light snacks. This is a room that parents can now call their own.

It doesn't stop there though. We still have CommPACT meetings and Cadre meetings all on a regular basis. It is a support system that works for everyone involved. It brings the parents and the staff together unlike anything I have ever experienced before.

I had my daughter in this school for three years before she went on to high school, and I believe in the CommPACT school's so much that I am still engaged at this middle school even two years after my oldest daughter went to high school.

I am hoping that CommPACT will still be in place when my 8 year old daughter comes to middle school, and that all legislators will stand up for our children and for the parents in Connecticut, and stop all of these cuts that the governor is proposing.

It is very sad that when cuts are made the first cuts that are made are to the most innocent of all, our children, who will be our future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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