

Good Afternoon Chairperson Quinones-Sanchez, committee and guests.

The pandemic has been a challenge for everyone. Teachers have been asked to do more with even less. We've renovated (personal/private) spaces to accommodate virtual teaching. This translated to teachers purchasing desks, printers, document cameras, lighting, and other items to transform their (personal/private) space to look like a classroom. The cost for these items was absorbed by teachers already on a tight budget. The School District gives us \$100 per year for educationally related supplies. This money is also taxed. Teachers see about \$75 after taxes.

Any plans to use funds from the "American Rescue Plan" should include compensating teachers for the financial weight they assumed. While teachers are teaching hybrid, we've shown that we are willing to adapt to help students to learn and thrive. We've continued to go above and beyond; they have learned to use new technology and adapt to the needs of families. Now, it's time to consider the needs of the teacher. We've stretched and stretched. Now it's time for us to be given compensation. What can teachers use? Help in the classroom with extra support for students having difficulties keeping pace. Assistance with extra supplies and resources to supplement what teachers are already doing to enhance the student learning. Each school should have a social worker on staff to help with mental health issues of both staff and students. _

Finally, professional development for and by professionals who understand what teachers do. We don't want or need anyone to tell us what to do if they'd never done our job.

Thank you, the opportunity, to give my recommendations on using the funds from the "American Rescue Plan Act."

Ethel PetersonJohnson

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Building Rep. 2021-2022

Grade: Kindergarten