

November 8, 2004

Letters to the editor
The Republican
P. O. Box 2350
Springfield, MA 01102-2350

Dear Editor:

In a recent article in *The Republican*, Superintendent Burke indicated that members of the control board want him to create a surplus in the School Department budget so that money could be transferred to the city side of the budget.

While I may agree that in these difficult economic times the Superintendent needs to go over the school department budget and make adjustments in some line items that are not justifiable, e.g., numerous consultants, new out-of-building administrative staff, workshops that pull teachers and administrators out of their school buildings during the school day, just to name a few. The savings that these adjustments realize should be transferred to direct service to the children in the Springfield Public Schools, not used to help balance the city's budget.

What Springfield really needs is a fair and equitable share of revenue from the commonwealth of Massachusetts so that we can stop the deterioration of our quality of life and protect our children's future. By making such a suggestion, Governor Romney's Control Board has once again shown its ignorance of the impact of the Romney budget cuts to the school department over the last two years and/or its insensitivity to the needs of the youngest citizens in this city.

One could point in many directions to place the responsibility for Springfield's financial problems, but there is one group that absolutely has no responsibility for these problems--the children in our public schools. This attempt to balance the city budget at the expense of our children is simply outrageous.

The installation of Governor Romney's control board has stripped our local elected officials of their authority to govern, but it has not stripped them of their moral authority. It's time for our elected officials to exercise that authority and speak out for what is right and just for the city of Springfield. It's time for them to speak out against any action by Governor Romney's control board that would hinder the city's ability to recover in the long term.

Sincerely,

Timothy T. Collins
President