

touch a classroom expenditure? I've got one class that's got three kids in it because it's...it was a position created. We fired a coach, we kept him as a teacher. We needed to create a spot, that's probably a good one now when there's some levy limitation, that's a good one to get rid of, but do I have to cut junior-senior prom before I do that?

SENATOR WILL: I guess my intent, Senator Kristensen, would be...and perhaps we can establish a record here, that all else being equal that cuts would apply away from the classroom before they would apply to the classroom.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And, as a general policy, the school board is still given the flexibility to use their judgment as to what to cut first and what to cut last. If they're looking for guidance, what did they mean, our guidance is, look, you should try to do those other things first and not go to the classrooms as the way to put lids on kids. In other words, the intent of this is not to tie their hands; the intent is to give some at least public lip service to the fact that classroom expenditures have a priority over some of these other things.

SENATOR WILL: Absolutely, Senator Kristensen. My intent would be that the Legislature, by adopting this amendment, is making a statement that we understand what the priority is with respect to expenditures in school districts, that it is for classrooms, and that we'd like to send that message to school districts while at the same time not denying (inaudible)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WILL: ..the flexibility to make decisions as they're empowered to do right now.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Bohlke, if...did you hear some of that? I realize it's a little difficult to hear, but did you hear some of that general conversation?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Especially about the junior-senior prom, yes.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay. In terms of an intent, since you're one of the cosponsors and the Chair of the Education Committee, I guess I'm interested in what those last...words of last resort