

have an increase in the budget equal to the last year's requirements, plus population growth, plus 2 percent. So in making decisions is a school board, when we look at this intent language it only comes into play if we're going to reduce our budget rather than look at how much of an increase we can make?

SENATOR BOHLKE: That's how I understood it.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Well, I kind of sat on my hands a little bit, I think, through these two amendments. And I feel a little bit guilty about that because I did spend 11 years on a school board and I know...I know how difficult the decisions are. And I know that school boards generally will do the very best they can...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...they do the very best they can to provide the best education within the financial capabilities of the district. And you can't put a value on a good administrator or a good teacher in dollars and cents, you absolutely cannot. And if I had to choose a good teacher and keep a good teacher, versus buying some of the fancier supplies or spending money on a classroom expense of a different category, I would choose a teacher. When I was on the board, one of the messages that I always tried to send the administration was you go find the best teacher you can because that is what makes a difference for the students. And, by the same token, a good administrator can make a terrific difference in the performance of your teachers and how the system...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ..accomplishes its mission and I just wanted to get that across. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBER'S: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm going to support this amendment because if something along this line is going to be put in the bill, even though it's a wish, a hope and a prayer, it comes closer to saying that we deem educating the children to be the primary goal of the schools and, because that is virtually all that the amendment