The following was written by Brad Shear, a parent of two kids in the SK system, a valuable member of the Beloved Community Advisory Board and a recently appointed School Committee member.
This goes against absolutely everything we've been working for, relative to equity, diversity and educational improvements in the South Kingstown
schools.
PLEASE get to the polls to vote it down and encourage others to do so. South Kingstown can NOT be allowed to be ruled by these higher-income-but-want-lower-taxes carpetbaggers!

the article in The
Independent. https://www.independentri.com/news/article_a02f10fa-f4e1-11ed-8628-73b75f076dd6.html

Brad's explanation:

A claim was made by a community member that the schools have $2 million in excess funds this year. This claim appears to have been made because of a recent financial report with approximately $2 million remaining funds. The issue is that the year is not over so that money will be spent as expenses continue to come in. Their claim is equivalent to saying that I have an excess of funds this month when my bills haven't arrived yet. Yes, I have the money right now, but I know bills are coming, and the money will be spent. It is a clear deception in order to harm public schools.

There is also a claim that there was a reduction of 97 students so we should reduce cost by the average cost per child. Again, the claim fails to acknowledge that some of these students went to charter schools or CTE programs that we are still paying for. Even for the kids going to private school, we may be paying for
their transportation and special education needs.

There is an assertion that voting for a lower tax transfer to the schools will lower taxes. This is not true. The vote is for the town to give less money to the schools. It does not automatically lower anyone's taxes. Unless the town takes action to lower the tax rate, the amount of tax being charged will not change. If the lower transfer passes, the schools can appeal to RIDE to keep the original rate. I am not sure how long that appeal could take and tax bills are mailed in the first week of July so it could be that tax bills will be mailed before the town could take action even if there is a vote. So, voting for less for the schools does not necessarily save property owners money.

Lowering the tax transfers means the district has to cut the only things they can cut, anything not mandated by RIDE. Those are things like music, art, library, sports, mental health support, and more.

The ballot is going to be confusing. It asks people to choose between two amounts to give the schools; the current (higher amount) budgeted by the town and schools or the lower amount. So the advocacy will have to be for people to vote for the higher number.

Brad