

Suggestions and Questions

Town Hall Meeting

Budget Workshops

Staff - May 1, 2010

- What have we offered for retirement?
- Do we pay for daycare at Westside?
 - Can we eliminate or charge?
 - How many children are enrolled?
- Will the District receive further stimulus money next year from Federal Government like we did this year?
- Can we eliminate preschool bus runs?
 - How much will that save?
- What is the distance students walk on the average to a bus stop?
 - If we have bus stops located every so many miles we should save fuel.
- Cut Westside Principal and Human Resource person and have Superintendent do his job and Human Resource and have the Assistant Superintendent do her job and Westside Principal's job and have a teacher in charge at that site.
- What sort of criteria is being used to determine essential needs for education? Will the starting point be the classroom and expand outward or will the starting point be the district and work inward or some other paradigm?

Staff Emails

- When will we know what grade level and school we will be working at?
- Will you ask for volunteers to move to DPE if you move 3rd grade there?
- Do you have our districts budget and spending information so that I could look to see where all of our budget is spent? This will help me come up with ideas about where I think we could reduce our costs. It is hard for me to come up with feasible ideas without knowing the effect it will have.
- Have students pay a fee for transportation
- Cut office attendance clerks, have the main secretary do attendance too.
- Charge a fee for sports participation.
- How much would it save if we eliminated consumable workbooks? (Houghton Mifflin, Bellworks, Avenues, CA Standards books, Spelling, handwriting)
- Can you please let us know how much money was spent this year on top of salaries at \$25.00 per hour?
- Can you also please let us know how much we would save if we outsourced our transportation?

- How much would we save by limiting the number of copies made at print shop? And how much would we save by outsourcing our printing needs?
- How many students ride the bus in our district each year?
- How much money would we have to charge each student to make up the difference in transportation costs that the state does not fund us for?
- When considering and submitting ideas, where should be focusing? Earmarked categorical can't be touched, so should we be thinking about stuff like M@O, Capital Expenditures, General Funds?
- I would like to know how many teachers from the high school and Bryant have been proposed to be cut.
- It appears the burden is being placed on K-5 teachers.
- A lot of folks are asking how we are paying for an on campus police officer.
- Add to the list recycling. School wide/District Wide. The new recycling place on Valeria takes EVERYTHING, except paper. If we could find a place that takes paper maybe we could earn a couple of bucks.
- Can we make some cost cuts for sports? I don't think we have ever taken a cut from sports at the High School, have we?
- Charge parents who are more than 20 minutes late picking up their children after dismissal.
- Board members forego their health insurance for next year? I know you have a tough job. I am just sick that Education and our future is at stake.
- What is the average amount before taxes and after taxes that people will lose a month for taking 5 furlough days, spread out over 12 months. How does that work with employees who work more days than us(at district office and principals), they will actually end up paying less than teachers even though they make much more money?
- How much money has been spent, including all departments, for reimbursements for trips? This number should include all fees for anything above and beyond salaries?
- Isn't the board's number 2 priority the education of children? If so, then shouldn't transportation be cut before teachers? I thought we were supposed to follow the list of priorities?
- Can the district office mandate that teachers take furlough days even though the CTA union is not willing to negotiate? Many teachers are willing to take furlough days to save jobs but our representation does not want to? How is that fair to everyone?
- What does WestEd cost us each year?
- What does the H.S athletics cost our district?
- Eliminate pre-school bus runs? How much would that save us?
- What would we save if each 12 month employee became an 11 month employee?
- Offer retirement to help save money and teachers? What have we offered & is it serious enough?
- Move GC to Oro Loma?
- Cut Parent Volunteer position at DPE and Marks? Cost?
- Daycare at GC? What does that cost us?

- We pay a preschool coordinator and that coordinator needs a secretary?? Can't this position be cut?
- What does our district pay for long distance phone calls each year?
- Another idea—end the board benefits. The amount that is spent on benefits for the board would save as much as a furlough day and, therefore, someone's job. The board members are elected to serve. They are not employees. Someone should not lose their livelihood while board members receive perks.
- It seems that the elementary schools are making the brunt of the sacrifice because there are more employees at that level. To be fair, all sites should be contributing an equal amount of money in cuts—if not in salaries/people, then with programs that will yield an equal amount. I would like a breakdown of the cuts at each school site to determine the equality of the contribution that each site is making.
- The sports program that is funded by the school is an area that would yield a considerable amount of money. There are no after-school sports standards required by the state. Parents can fund their children's participation for uniforms, travel, food, coaching, etc.
- Providing transportation is not a legal requirement. Having your child in school is a legal requirement. If parents do not get students to school, they are truant.
- Transportation costs can be alleviated by having parents take responsibility for their children.
- I know this is a little cost...but can't we save some \$\$\$ by having our paychecks being delivered to the schools instead of the mail??? It worked before, so why fix something that was not broken in the first place??
- Are any of last year's ideas being presented to the board again for pay-cuts?? We teachers had a lot of good ideas that were overlooked!!
- 4-day work week would save ¼ the cost a month. Would save on subs, transportation, food services, and maybe PGE.
- Cutting transportation even more or having a parental cost for transportation!
- Tim, I thought a good idea about the furlough days would be to give us less sick days. Most people don't need or use 10 sick days a year. The ones who abuse that would maybe think twice about calling in sick if they weren't getting paid. That would eliminate paying extra substitutes also.
- I have a question and I hope you can answer it for me. How much does the district spend for transportation? I would like to know the breakdown for student transportation—home to school to home. I would also like to know the cost of transportation for afterschool sports—late busses and away trips for games.
- How much does the district spend for transportation? I would like to know the breakdown for student transportation—home to school to home. I would also like to know the cost of transportation for afterschool sports—late busses and away trips for games.
- Some teachers at DPE were wondering what the total cost of transportation is. That includes employee salaries, maintenance, etc.

Dos Palos Community Members – May 2, 2010

- Spelling List sent home with students are only using half a page and it's wasteful. Notebooks should be used instead.
- I think we need to negotiate with the teacher's union to reduce salaries in a tiered manner with employees who are at the top of the pay scale to receive the largest cuts to save jobs and good teachers.
- Comparing DP education to other schools is one of the lowest with only 22:1. Wouldn't 35:1 make it worse?
- Cut the sports program and have intramural sports; it would involve more students, parents and teachers and improve the community. I think the 620 student involvement in sports is considering the same students that go from sport to sport and the number is misleading.
- Unrepresented should take 6 furlough days besides cuts in staff.
- Third grade reorganization doesn't seem to fit into the cutbacks. You are allowing a few teachers and parents to make the decision because they are not happy at Marks. I hope you will really consider this decision overcrowding DPE and leaving Marks with only 4th and 5 grades.
- Make school secretaries go from 11 months to 10 ½ months.

Oro Loma Community – May 3, 2010

- We are a distinguished school and the District should promote that message to the DP Community parents; we might get more students enrolled at Oro Loma.
- Make it easier with the bus routes for DP students that want to come to Oro Loma. DP Parents are discouraged because the pickup times are too early in the morning.
- Cut sports and concentrate on academics.