

Olympia School District Community Forum on the 2008-2009 Budget

May 6, 2008

Knox Administrative Center

The following are comments that were made by each table or group at the forum as reflected by the large flip-chart sheets that they provided.

Sports

- Increase pay-to-play at all levels—middle School and high School (This comment was mentioned by 7 different groups).
- Have scholarships available for both middle school and high school. (This comment was mentioned by 4 different groups).
- Think creatively about how parents can pick up costs (i.e. transportation, uniforms, etc.). Parents are willing and able. Need to address the umbrella liability insurance in some cases.
- Don't always think "what revenues do these sports generate?" There is more to a program than revenue.
- Keep sports, including C-Teams in middle school and high school. (This comment was mentioned by 4 different groups).
- Don't Cut C-Team football, drill team, swimming, wrestling, etc. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- C-Team sports provide our students with growth in skill, teamwork, etc. C-Team helps groom student's ability. If this program is cut, it will decrease the quality of the "later years" in Varsity. Allows student to try different sports—lifetime fitness. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Do not touch sports—(This comment was mentioned 3 different groups).
- Think about the implications for cutting sports and the potential impact on Title IX. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Concern about gender equity in the possibility of eliminating certain sports.
- Combine OHS and CHS's sports teams. This would cut costs and improve camaraderie. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Think of the sports you are proposing to cut where there are no alternatives for that sport outside of the school (i.e. soccer-- there is Black Hills, South Sound, and a number of other opportunities).

- There are no sports offerings in the community if these get cut (football, drill team, etc.)!
- Cut all sports equally. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Do not add another athletic director. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups)
- Sports is a productive way for students to spend their time. Sports has social benefits for teens.
- Sports like swimming and wrestling create options for students with different physical assets.
- Keep sports at middle school but having intramural sports may be OK.
- True costs of boy's football not reflected—they have access to ASB funds, not available to other groups.
- Sports are scholarships!
- Eliminate high school gymnastics and wrestling teams.
- Eliminate high school drill teams.
- Eliminate high school swimming teams.

Transportation

- Cut or decrease school bus service to students living within one mile radius of school. (This comment was mentioned by 4 different groups).
- Work with InterCity Transit. (This comment was mentioned by 3 different groups).
- Eliminate crossing guard at WMS. (This comment was mentioned by 3 different groups).
- Have crossing guard at WMS a volunteer position.
- Don't cut all bussing—think this one out strategically. Be creative—cutting buses increases pollution, congestion, etc. Schools are not designed to handle increased traffic and safety concerns. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Keep all transportation- encourages safety, access and attendance. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Eliminate Marshall Middle School and Lincoln transportation bus route. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).

- Keep bus transportation for elementary-- eliminate the 1 mile radius for high school and middle school students. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Do not add transportation secretary. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- If transportation is cut, do not add secretary to transportation office.
- Increase efficiencies.
- Ok to consider increasing walking distances—depending on safety concerns.
- More sidewalks.
- Expand distance.
- Parents to provide transportation for their child in sports.
- Eliminate middle school sports transportation.
- Contract out bussing.
- Revisit transportation contracts.
- All out-of-District students need to pay their way.
- Possibly cut some bussing.
- Eliminate New Market transportation.
- Eliminate transportation for PATS students.
- Eliminating transportation for PATS may decrease participation.
- Eliminate midday transportation for kindergarten.

K-12 Teaching and Learning

- Staff elementary schools at current District goals for student to staff ratios. (This comment was mentioned by 5 different groups).
- Cut or decrease the proposed staff reduction in elementary schools.
- Cut the Educational Service District Media Center Pool. (This comment was mentioned by 5 different groups).
- Reduce one-time curriculum adoption budget reduction. (This comment was mentioned by 3 different groups).

- Cut or decrease curriculum budget -- curriculum adoption base budget and curriculum budget reduction. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- One-time Curriculum adoption budget reduction from \$250,000-500,000. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Choose a one-time curriculum adoption budget reduction. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Utilize one-time curriculum adoption budget reduction.
- No upgrades next year for the one-time curriculum adoption.
- No new curriculum.
- Cut all science adoptions materials.
- Convert middle school Assistant Principals to 0.6 Assistant Principals and 0.4 FTE classroom teachers. (This comment was mentioned by 3 different groups).
- Convert middle school Assistant Principals/Dean of Students Assistant Principals at RMS, JMS, and MMS.
- Don't take away our middle school Assistant Principals! They're very valuable. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Keep middle school and high school electives to aid students in meeting graduation requirements. (This comment was mentioned by 3 different groups).
- Do not eliminate central Administrative nursing services paraprofessional support position. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Reduce Administrative nursing services paraprofessional support position. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Eliminate District membership in Thurston Regional Planning Council. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Change ½ day Kindergarten to alternating full days. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Reduce basic building budget allocations by 5%.
- Manage staff reductions through attrition.
- Transfer funds from Career and Technical Education
- Do not add DIBELS.
- Eliminate District contribution to South Sound Reading Foundation.
- Explore grants for science.

- There is some concern about student preparation in science.
- Keep small class sizes.
- Do not cut programs central to school.
- Purchase PC instead of Macs. HP offers consultation at no cost. Could save 50% on technology budget.
- Reduce middle school electives and increase class size by average of 2 students.
- Consider Washington Middle School bell change—depending on impact on after-school activities.
- Split classes work out okay for most kids at elementary.
- Increase class size at secondary over elementary.
- Support reduction of para hours *if* need in building is reduced.
- Don't support reduction of para hours- we often need more than is available.
- Eliminate all day Kindergarten.
- Restore teaching time 0.4 FTE to Music Coordinator, and provide stipend for coordination duties and restore teaching time 0.4 FTE to Health and Fitness Coordinator.

Grounds and Maintenance

- Refinish gym floors every other year. (This comment was mentioned by 5 different groups).
- Eliminate 1 FTE grounds keeping position. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups)
- Keep maintenance.
- Eliminate 2 additional FTE grounds keeping positions in the Support Services Budget.
- Do not add 1.0 additional substitute custodian.
- Smaller elementary schools need less custodian maintenance.
- Combine Madison and Boston Harbor custodial services.
- Reduce Madison and Boston Harbor custodial services.
- Charge more for building use.
- Don't have cleaning school as part of discipline.

Administration

- Reduce positions and/ or implement salary reductions for central office Administrators. (This comment was mentioned by 3 different groups).

- Cut Administration salaries.
- All salaries of District Administration employees made public.
- Publish the retire/ rehire list with salaries.
- Reduce budget reserve to 3.5-4%.
- Freeze enhancements.
- Freeze all administration/ support custodial hiring.
- No hiring.

Board

- Don't televise Board meetings. (This comment was mentioned by 8 different groups).
- Cut school Board travel budget. (This comment was mentioned by 4 different groups).
- One-time savings in Board and levy elections costs for 2008-09. (This comment was mentioned by 3 different groups).
- Board members donate their stipend towards these programs; although a bit small, it would be something.

Other Activities (Cispus and Music)

- Do not cut Cispus! (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Cut Cispus- too much money. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Increase music \$200 per year for zero-hour. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Keep music.
- There is some concern that pay-to-play for music would reduce participation, especially for students who need the extra credit. Some are willing to pay—we want to cover costs for those who can't afford the activity.

Special Programs

- Don't cut Homeless Coordinator at Madison. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Ratio of students per homeless coordinator.
- Can we reduce homeless coordination time without losing services for kids?
- Retain LEAP. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).

- Combine Madison and Boston Harbor special education support. (This comment was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- Combine Boston Harbor and Madison special services programs.
- Consolidate special programs at elementary levels.
- Value retaining special programs—costs that families can't personally provide or offer.
- Support Life Skills class
- Do not add additional Life Skills class.
- Look at the level of service and resources devoted to special education programs.
- Do not increase the English Language Learner program.
- Eliminate funding for promoting academic success program.
- Allocate projected increase in State Learning Assistance Program (LAP).

Miscellaneous

- Sell extra real estate holdings and subdivide if needed.

Questions

- How many ride the bus? (This question was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- What is the ratio Griffin contributes? (This question was mentioned by 2 different groups).
- What is the average cost per student per program?
- Is the WASL's cost worth it?
- Why did the Administration take pay raises (16%) when they knew this budget shortfall was coming?
- Can a portion of the JV/Varsity sports programs fund a portion of the drill team's expenses?
- Why hire transportation employee if bussing is cut?
- Why hire personal trainer if many of the sports are being cut?
- Why is cheerleading omitted from the cuts? Is funding different the drill team?
- Why aren't "support" activities (Drill Team) for sports like football and basketball protected from budget costs if in fact they help generate revenues?
- Why aren't band, chorus, etc. not cut? What about cutting a portion of these costs?

- What about 5% cuts across the board the all sports, regardless of revenues generated?
- Can individual sports fundraise, provide own transportation, etc. beyond what they are doing today?
- Do adding a Transportation Secretary and Athletic Trainer assume current levels or any cuts as proposed?
- With transportation, are we exempt from paying for access across Narrows Bridge? Could we be? Are we discounted if not exempt?
- Can sports teams just compete within South Sound vs. having to go to Kitsap, etc? This could reduce fuel costs.
- Should we phase out ESD Media Pool?
- Is budget enough for eliminating central Administrative nursing services paraprofessional support position?
- What about cutting energy costs in our facilities (i.e. lighting, A/C, heating, etc.)? Think energy conservation.
- Can we use Educational Service District for Cispus or other learning programs?