

COMMUNITY FORUM 2023 01 24

Worries:

Classified always take the hit first, but we are the ones who were here in the building during the pandemic and kept the ball rolling. Most teachers did NOT work Friday, but got paid for it. They posted on Facebook vacation pictures on Friday. We showed up.

Safety for all schools. We have an SRO, but rarely see him at school.

That there will be classified staff cuts, and there won't be enough support to students/teachers.

At the May deadline for RIF, we will cut to the budget, but then we get more enrollment and thus class size impacts, difficult to get RIF'd back.

RIF'd teachers will have real difficulty getting jobs locally, as other districts cut.

ASD is largest employer here. Lost jobs will impact community!

of administrators increase this year, especially compared to enrollment.

Special Education, Categorical Programs - nothing funded - HiCap

Discipline for broken rules - set/expectations of behaviors not being met and no recourse.
Transportation.

State funding issues: social & emotional

We will need to hold students to higher standards. We don't need extra \$ to enforce what has always been expected.

Letting teachers or para educators go - we need them.

If #'s are down, it could be community isn't happy w/school - why?

Tough time for cuts, my kindergartner, along with a group of classmates, ended up in the nurse's office today due to student's behavior. Behavioral supports are an essential part of supporting education.

The people and families who most need support from the school may be least able/likely to attend or be involved in the budget forums/task force.

Lose good teachers/staff.

Worries:

Increase of Admin during a time when our budget is looking grim.

Decrease of resources

Decrease in enrollment

Upcoming Levy? Bond?

Cuts to arts

Significant cuts to staffing

Support staff cuts for ELL and translation services

Cuts to transportation to different programs within the district.

Putting off bonds for needed facilities construction and improvements.

Larger class sizes

Decreased resources

Decrease in special programs, SpED, 1:1 support, etc.

Already needing to replace/update schools prior to \$/budget issues

How does the budget affect approving out of district students? I worry our children would not be allowed to enroll every year due to staffing/budget.

What resources will be cut?

Employees/staff changes

Safety for both staff and students

Using up our "rainy day" fund

Not providing services across all students in an equitable way

Administrators making poor assumptions on large budget issues...and do not add... to start to balance the budget.

Worries:

Lose para support

Loss of any staff member

Classified staff

Supervision

Student behaviors

Opportunities for students

Workload on staff

That there would be a drop in resources for students.

The students would miss out on services or supports that they need.

Not going to have enough money to support students, especially extra-curriculars

Students missing out - lack of resources

Staffing

Social & Emotional disconnect

That we could lose experienced paras in special education.

Transportation services

Meeting the needs of students with high needs

Loss of security and managing students behaviors and learning

I would worry if they wouldn't have a nurse because they wouldn't have a nurse.

Cutting things that affect student safety that may not be apparent - Grounds, custodial

Student learning environment being affected - maintenance

Worries:

Behavioral and social emotional concerns brought up more than once.

It is expensive.

What is the money being used for?

RIF affecting kids negatively

Staff losing their jobs

SEL loss with less staff nurse, counselor, para, health room assistants

Larger class sizes

Reduction in force

Budget cuts affecting kids - education, safety

Already feel short-staffed in some areas (nursing, paras)

Large class sizes

Being able to continue to support academic, career and social emotional development. We are facing unprecedented mental health challenges. School counseling must continue to be supported and their caseloads reduced to remain effective in the services provided to students.

Cutting funding for students in ASSIST program

Social behavior in classroom have a high impact on learning

Large classrooms

Not enough support to maintain our district vehicles, including school buses

Not having enough courage to deal with behavior issues in schools/buses

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Values/Priorities:

Needs of students

Safety of students/staff in all schools

Provide all schools with improvements, not just AHS w/new football fields and updated track

Support in schools - full time custodial staff the entire day students/staff are present. Weston only has 1/2 day coverage - event last year when we had AM coverage, he was pulled to other schools leaving us no coverage.

Making sure the kids get the best education possible.

STUDENTS: Classroom impacts, emotional support, Special Ed, safety

Kids are being challenged and learning

Social/emotional

Kids being held accountable for their behavior

Kids learning how to advocate for themselves in what they need

Safety for students and staff

Education first

Creating environments where all can learn

More buy-in - better value

Summer school - extra credits

Safe transportation

Students achieving grade level - expectations according to ability

Rigorous curriculum accessible to all

Support for teachers and considering deeply what this may mean

Values/Priorities:

Student safety - para support at recess

Student success

Small class sizes

Arts and electives

Maintaining support for students and families who are speakers of languages other than English

Mental health and behavioral support

Advanced courses and opportunities for gifted students

Student success

Student safety - SRO's, security/campus monitors/mental health staff

Continuing programs, maintaining quality staff. I want to keep my girls in ASD (we just moved here a year and a half ago) so I want to maintain stability and structure. I don't want to uproot them again.

Not every student learns the same way. Diversify learning models

Parents involved on all levels - EL, MS & HS

Be fiscally responsible

Provide a quality education for all students

Safety for all staff

Student safety

Education in small groups not loss.

Nursing, counselors, special needs help, paras

Healthy food w/lower cost

Appropriate class sizes

Values/Priorities:

Students, high quality education - removing barriers

Building community - school staff

Enjoyable and safe working environment

Students and staff safety

Getting our mojo back

Working toward making APS how it was

Safe environment

Students education

School staffing

Lack of supplies

Student development/social emotional

Student safety

Avoiding teacher burn-out

Loss of resource room and their related services for students with the vulnerable populations

Lack of adequate supplies for students

I would want them to keep music programs.

Student development and growth & social-emotional needs

Hi-Cap program resources

Student safety

Building infrastructure

Values/Priorities:

Meeting SEL needs of children

Learning needs of vulnerable students

Safety & supervision

Meeting kids' SEL needs

Class sizes - keep things at McCleary requirements

Bring our counselor-to-student ratio down from 350+ to 1 counselor to meet the ASCA model of 250:1 meeting the state legislature SSB5030 requirement for all school districts to implement a comprehensive school counselor program. This is a mandate for all schools in Washington State.

High quality academic education

Safety for students and staff

Education and social emotional skills

Provide safe transportation for our students

Enough staff to inspect and maintain our buses

Being able to serve the high needs students

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Hopes/Ideas:

True equity between classified & certificated

Certificated needs are met. Classified gets what is left, which is not much.

Tonight was focused at PSE cuts. AEA not even worried enough to show up.

Post needs improvement

Weston needs regular heat/ceiling leaks fixed vs. AHS.

Improvements not important such as renewed track, football field and larger theater space

Show budget by ACTIVITY - Teaching & Non-Teaching aka principals are certificated admin but are

Prioritize teaching over other categories

Use cuts to inspire yes votes on levy Feb 24 & Bond (Post)

Advertise things not cut here to attract out-of-district transfers here. As others have cut fall

School supplies - sports - parents pay?

Cut admin jobs, not teachers

State needs to assist districts more for funding - has huge surplus, why isn't it going to schools?

Don't take on more until we can handle what we have (tons of new roles)

Levy would pass - but right now it wouldn't get my or a lot of other's votes

Dip into funds (emergency) if it helps students/schools. Is saving the best idea when our students are hurting?

The Amazon warehouse in Smokey Point is almost done. Influx of students coming?

Community rallying together to support gaps. Can we start a committee to review how families in

Also: Possible to connect with families that didn't enroll their students to find out why and predict future behavior/enrollment?

Hopes/Ideas:

We have a very supportive community. While we currently provide all supplies at elementary, I think we could save quite a bit of time and \$ if we went back to families buying supplies. If families aren't able to, we have sets of supplies at school.

Reduce administrator salaries/number of support staff at DO

Make sure we are receiving all possible tax revenues from home and other construction and Amazon

Stop providing school supplies, and rely on communities

Hope: State legislature make changes to school funding standards

Enrollment to increase

Ideas: Advertising for 23-24 Kinder and benefits

Families buy supplies (basics) instead of APS buying, and use community groups to help fill gaps.

Continue to allow out-of-district students, especially for those families who volunteer & invest time and money to the schools and programs

Maintain quality staff, programs, resources, etc. while still staying in budget, if possible

Continue high learning quality, despite budget shortfall

Safety for all staff and students at school

Parents cover costs for supplies or other programs

PTA involvement to cover costs via parents

Students have the skill set to be functional adults in the world

Quality education for all kids

Less district office administrators

Parents pay for school supplies and sports

Hopes/Ideas:

Less staffing with higher salaries

Less spending for misc/non-essentials: mailings, retreats, foods, supplies

Stop out-of-district transfer that increase cost

Leave chromebooks in classes - stop theft/breaks - students don't care

Lower cert stipends

Self-pay athletics

Legislative, state and federal government support

Trustworthy task force, sound financial advice and solutions

Hope to see change if not next year, within the next two years

Leg, state, fed gov support

Financial advice and solutions

Good, reliable transportation

Trained staff

That all students will have access to transportation through the district for field trips

That the district will be able to have trained staff with knowledge regarding behavioral support and intervention.

I hope that my teacher can keep her job.

Families pay for:

Middle/high school sports

Collect a small fee for school supplies, but buy in bulk

Charge for summer school

Hopes/Ideas:

Keep as many support staff as possible - Para, SpEd, janitorial, office staff

Ask for sports fee from students

Stop providing school supplies

Stop purchasing school supplies for students

Require kids to pay for sports

Hope: Legislative budget increases for schools

Hope: Levy passes in 2024

Charge for summer school - offer scholarships for free/reduced lunch kids

Transparency - include a clear outline of district office overhead/Administrative expenses

Hope funding for extra-curricular activities is maintained, as these activities support social, emotional health for students

Maintain low classroom #

Have at least 2 T.A. per class grade

Have a program in place for students coming in with no social-emotional skills to learn

Improve our processes and efficiency of transportation, including routing and shop productivity

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Questions:

How do we get back to those higher funding levels?

Can we break out certificated into teaching & non-teaching aka principals are certificated admin, but are impacts?

What is wrong with a \$2M fund balance? vs \$4M vs \$7M - For example risk goes up?

What dollar amount do we need to cut?

When will we get RIF estimated based on 5373 enrollment adopted by the Board?

Breakdown of budget for staffing - clarity(?)

New roles versus roles being let go?

Difference in spending on supplies pre-ESSER vs. current spending on supplies?

Who is advocating for the office staff and other classified? - Need holistic view of staff tie to supporting education in this process?

Can we start a committee to review how families in the district with capacity can help more in 2023-

On the slide with info about where the \$ is going it was divided into categories, where are admins?

What % of our budget is admin salary?

What is the percentage being spent on administrators specifically?

What percentage of total staffing is at the district office only? - Classified & Admin

Is there still a freeze on funds coming from construction of housing in our area?

Does enrollment include SVLC, and do we receive full funds for those students?

Questions:

What happens to out-of-district students?

Building improvements on pause?

Is consolidation of students under consideration?

What is on the list to cut?

How to get more \$?

How do we (?) more revenue?

What happens when you have a high teacher to student ratio?

Does the quality actually get better? If so, how is that measured?

How do we leverage parents in schools, like the Watch Dog Program - Dads in Schools!?

(?) teacher/student ratio?

Need breakdown of all spending detailed

Need start balance and end balance

Why are so many details hidden?

How can we start solving the problem?

How will this budget impact special education and related services?

How will this possibly impact classroom (?) and student support?

Why are we increasing staff with emergency funds (108), when enrollment decreases?

Why are we using emergency/rany day funds to keep that going?

Will admin reduce their salary to help reduce budget?

What is the 1st category (?) of staff to be cut?

What are the 1st programs to be cut?

COMMUNITY FORUM 2023 03 08

Worries:

Community feels the blunt of out of work staff and other impacts. We are the largest employer here in Arlington and this makes the community feel unsafe.

More reductions next year if enrollment doesn't recover as predicted.

Family, staff, student impacts

Safety for staff and students

S/E needs being met

Large classes and already not enough staff

Resources/services

Our students that missed critical learning during the COVID years are now going to be in over

Sports and other outside of the classroom activities will be cut. Students need more than books to

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Values/Priorities:

Classroom experience

Social emotional support

How is it possible that only 25 parents out of 2500 possible people that could be here?

Ensuring support for student learning

Program retention

Access to high quality education

Focus on math, reading, writing, history and science

No - CRT and woke? Policies

Equality in education not equity!

Safety of students and education levels provided

Student learning

Low class size

Help for at risk students (emotional)

Family involvement needs an upgrade - We have new problems and challenges - we have to come up with new solutions

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Hopes/Ideas:

State fixes proto typical model

Levy wins and bond wins for Post in 2024

Regionalization reduction is halted by lobbying legislature

Hope for students to return.

For educators to find safety in employment

Ways families can be involved in supporting achievement and appropriate behavior in the kids

Fund Special Ed

S/E supports

Post-COVID recovery

Push Kindergarten recovery for new families

All levels and departments are cut at the same percentage as classroom teachers

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Questions:

How can we make recovery as fast as possible when the students/revenue returns?

Which programs are over budget and why?

How do we recover?

How do we better educate the average community members?

How do we get more info to community - social media, PTSA, mailers?

Are we waiting for additional information from the state?

When will the final budget and decisions be made?

When is final enrollment?