

Opinions & Comments To Trustees and Superintendent

Email

Topic	Suggestion	Comments
Administration	Cut	<p>If 50% of the top echelon positions were cut, there would be NO EFFECT on teaching!?! Teachers would still be teaching, the students that want to learn would still be learning, the students that 'want to be left behind' will still be left behind, and we could save hundreds of millions of dollars!</p> <p>When budget cuts reach down to begin having a negative effect on teachers (supplies, materials, books, etc.) including teaching potions, then a push to cut the budget has gone too far and lost sight of its purpose.</p> <p>Just some thoughts from a retired serviceman turned classroom teacher.</p>
Administration, Building, Transportation, and Work Week	Cut	<p>This is ridiculous! We are already down on the bottom of the list for money per student, and being persecuted for not performing miracles. Why don't we stop building new schools, bus the students to existing schools. In addition eliminate this divisions and stay with only one head of the CCSD instead of six different people with their overpaid staff. How about going to a four day week, eliminate the staff days and shorten the summer attendance. Get the money from sources other than taking more away from the students or teachers.</p>
Block	Ideas	<p>Good Morning, I am a teacher at . I have been a proud teacher for 8 years and am now enjoying my new position as a school guidance counselor. I also have almost a decade of business experience before embarking on my career in education. I have an idea that I think could work to save the district monay \$\$\$ while actually impacting kids positively. It is a rough estimate of how much would be saved but I think it is close. I wouldn't normally be so bold but think this could really work and the teaching model is very effective.</p> <p>Goal: Increase the CCSD workforce by 25% An annual savings of approx. \$102,000,000</p> <p>Beginning with the Faiss Model Modified Block Schedule eliminate e-time reduce teacher prep time to 40 min. per day Each teacher goes from teaching three 80 min. blocks and using an 80 prep. per day TO Each teacher teaching four 80 min. blocks and using a 40 min. prep. per day.</p>
Block	Cut	<p>Students at some at-risk schools find pleasure in knowing they can simply choose to fail a class because they know they can take it over. The impact of this causes a strain on creating a master schedule. The number of repeat classes is growing tremendously.</p> <p>The block schedule reduces the total number of minutes students engage with teachers by 125 minutes every two weeks. Over the course of a year, a student in a traditional six period day has 2250 minutes more per class than in a block schedule. Many teachers complain that it is very difficult to cover the expected curriculum especially in AP and honors level courses.</p>
Board of Trustees	Cut	<p>My suggestion is to cut the trips that the school board take every year. To see what other districts are doing.</p>
Close Schools	Cut	<p>Close the schools down that have low enrollment.</p>
Collaboration	Opinion	<p>Dear Superintendent, I think that the real problem with the meetings and the general approach is that it is just cut, cut, cut. We need solutions. With three strong unions...I mean "associations", we should be able to hold our wimpy, malfeasant Governor to the fire, and restructure to put children first. The way the meeting and suggestions are going, it will, and is leading to one group saying cut the other. Admins. against educators, support staff against admins., etc., etc. If we can pull together, I think we can get something positive done and insist that the Governor do the right thing. It was very</p>

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		telling that NONE of our so-called political leaders were at the meeting last evening!! Thank You for your Time,
Copy vs. Purchasing	Cut	Sheila Moulton asked that I include this proposal as a possibility of cut back ideas. I have worked in Middle School Choirs for the past 7 years and have seen filing cabinets filled to the brim with music. Most never to be used again, usually until a new teacher takes over at the school. My suggestion, if it is legal, is to have a clearing house for the music and when a desired piece is requested to set aside the requested amount and allow the teacher to make copies. Destroying them once they are finished. The legal question is if we hold the original music aside, not to be used by another group until it is destroyed, do those held pieces hold the licence in affect to be copied? It would be imposible to pass around the original music from one school to another. Students tear, fold, write on, etc. making the second use or third use even challenging. I know that choir directors are protective of their music but if helps to save the program it should be looked at. \$.20 a copy is a lot more affordable than \$1.95 for the original.
Full-day Kindergarten	Cut unless fee is assessed	This message was sent to Mrs. Mary Beth Scow. Hello Ms. Scow, I know there is a lot of discussion happening with the budget cuts and so forth and while I don't know what will come of our educational system because of this. I was hoping that my children's school would perhaps offer a tuition based full day kindergarten. I realize that in light of these budget cuts full day kindergarten is light years away and it is rather unfortunate that our childrens education is being impacted by these cuts. I know that I would be willing to pay for my child to attend a full day kindergarten session rather than a half day. I am sure that there are many other parents who would be interested as well. I hope you are able to implement such a program and I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you for your time. It is much appreciated.
Grounds & Maintenance	Cut	Some suggestions for cuts might include the excess number of CCSD vehicles and trucks...perhaps each custodial crew could maintain their own grounds. Hope this is helpful.
Ideas From Other Districts in Our Nation	Cuts	Dr. Rulffes, I know that you and your staff have looked at multiple possibilities to cut costs. The subject was discussed two weeks ago at our NASSP task force, in Washington. This is what some other districts are doing: The reduction of Arts/ Performing Arts Festivals. The reduction of administrators at Central offices and building sites. The elimination of sports that do not have contests at the schools. (bowling, swimming, golf) Eliminate the use of buildings on the weekends. (games, practices, outside groups) Put a freeze on textbook purchases. After I hear from colleagues across the country, Clark County does an excellent job with what we have.
Magnet	Keep	This message was sent to Mrs. Shirley Barber. Will the district continue Magnet Schools program? My grand daughter attends LVA high school and a rumor is circulating among students that this school will not be a Visual and Performing Arts Magnet next year
Parent Support	Talk with legislators	I have had several of my parents come to me asking for a way to address this issue and voice their concerns. Besides having them speak to our legislatures is there a more efficient or effective way for us to direct their efforts? When I am asked what can they do, I would like to be able to suggest an approach or line of action similar to our presentation on the budget cuts.

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Pay stubs	Cut	<p>Supt. Ruffes,</p> <p>I just was thinking of a cost cutting measure that might work. I do not know how much the district spends sending out pay stubs every payday, but it seems we have one of the best email systems available. Couldn't pay stubs be emailed to those employees who have access to district interact accounts. This could save about \$300,000 per year. I know this isn't much compared to overall cuts, but it may help a little. Thanks,</p>
Pay to Play	Question	<p>I've been following the financial crisis and know that you have some difficult choices to make. You know all of the arguments for keeping arts programs so I don't need to articulate those, but I am concerned about the concept of instituting a "Pay to Play" option.</p> <p>We looked at "Pay to Play" a number of years ago and discovered that it punishes those who often need arts programs the most -- our at-risk students. AND that's why our Music Program is so well-regarded across the country. It's that ALL of our students have access to quality music programs -- not just those who can afford it.</p> <p>My question is thus two-fold.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is "pay to play" <u>really</u> being considered for music? 2. If so, are you considering a "by student" fee for students who are taking music classes as part of their curriculum (we've ALWAYS been against charging students to take classes) or would fees be charged for schools to participate in festivals, honor groups, etc (the "co-curricular" portion of the program)? <p>I know you've got your hands full. You can count on the fact that I've ALREADY been emailing my legislators about funding for education. If there's anything else I can do, please count on me!</p> <p>Thanks, Walt. To be honest, I feel that the arts are safe with you at the helm.</p>
Performing Arts	Keep	<p>Ms. Scow,</p> <p>Thank you for your nice reply. I am glad that Music is important to you. I believe, as do many in our country, that Music Education is essential to achieving the goal of helping our young people become great students with bright futures. Of the things in CCSD that could be "cut", Music must be KEPT in our schools. CCSD has some of the most accomplished Music Educators in the United States, and they really produce wonderful students. Our Music Educators are responsible for training the children of Clark County to be able to perform at The Monterey Jazz Festival, The Montreux Jazz Festival (in Switzerland), and even Carnegie Hall. We have a Jazz band at The LVA that placed in the top 3 nationwide last year...the TOP 3! CCSD should never let the great Music Programs in our schools die, but rather should do all possible to insure its growth!</p> <p>You may share my views with any and all people that need to hear them, as well as give them my phone number in case they would like to have a more personal discussion with me.</p>
Police Services	Cut	<p>Why not consider doing away with our police force. We already have Metro and it seems redundant. We could even offer Metro space on our High School campuses for sub-stations. We would recieve the benefit of police at our High Schools and lose a non-educational expense. Just a thought.</p>
Police Services	Cut	<p>This message was sent to Mrs. Terri Janison.</p>

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		<p>Another area that needs a hard look at for budgeting is the school police. We need security at schools. But can we get more bang for our tax dollars if school police were moved and made a division of Metro and/or North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, Mesquite Police? Needs a real hard look. Numerous other school districts use local police vs having their own police</p> <p>Thank you for writing. Your email was forwarded to the Chief of Staff for response to your suggestion.</p>
Professional Development Days	Cut	<p>Dear Superintendent Rulfes,</p> <p>In the thought of constructivism regarding budget cuts within the school district, will cutting the 4 staff development days each year thus shortening the school year help effectively in saving with some cuts?</p>
PSAT and Block	Cut	<p>Mr. Rulfes--</p> <p>Forgive me for e-mailing you directly, but I would like to express two thoughts about the budget cuts. Of course, I have lots of thoughts and opinions about many of the prospects on the list, but I have one main question and one main conviction to express:</p> <p>I was wondering how much it costs the district to pay for all the sophomores to take the PSAT (I noticed it was not on the list, so I'm assuming it's not a significant amount). If it is, then I think it is completely unnecessary for the district to absorb that cost. When they become juniors they can pay the \$15 to take it. That's the one that counts toward scholarship anyway, and they take it way more seriously.</p> <p>Also, <i>please</i> highly consider cutting 4 X 4 block schedule for high schools. I know many administrators are pulling for it, but there are many of us on the front lines who see how it's a waste of money and not particularly good for students in the big picture. I can say this, because our school is one that has had it implemented for a significant amount of time. We can clearly see some very negative patterns. Everything has pros and cons, but there are definitely more cons than pros with block scheduling.</p> <p>Thank you for listening. I realize that you have an unbelievable challenge. I just don't understand how we went from being so prosperous to suddenly being in the position we're in. Thank you for all your hard work and support. :)</p>
Revenue Sources	Ideas	<p>Dear Mrs. Scow,</p> <p>Like many parents of children attending public schools in Clark County, I'm concerned about the budget reductions that may be put in place due to the budget situation in the State of Nevada.</p> <p>Thankfully, Nevada public schools benefit from a unique source of funding - the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA). This Federal legislation, passed by the United States Congress in 1998, allows funds generated from the sale of public land in Clark County to be used for various categories of projects. Did you know that the State of Nevada's General Education fund receives 5% of the revenue generated from these land sales? With current land sale revenue approaching \$3 billion dollars, that's quite a bit of money (\$151,227,143.09) through September 30, 2008 to be exact) for the General Education Fund. I've often wondered how this 5% is being utilized by State of Nevada and the Clark County School District. Regardless, in light of the current budget situation, using a portion of SNPLMA funding to offset the proposed 14% budget reductions would certainly lessen the pain the Clark County School District and all the students it serves will feel once budget reductions are put in place.</p> <p>It is my sincere hope that this letter has provided you with useful information that will assist you and the Board of Trustees as you make difficult</p>

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		decisions regarding the budget reductions proposed by the State of Nevada.
Revenue Sources	Ideas	<p>This message was sent to Mrs. Mary Beth Scow.</p> <p>Dear Mrs. Scow,</p> <p>My name is . I am an RN and work in an NICU in a hospital here in Las Vegas. I am truly concerned about all of the budget cuts. I have grandchildren who are school age and granted they attend different schools than the ones which you oversee, I am still concerned. I want all children to have the opportunity to excel in school. They should not have to worry about such things as budget cuts.</p> <p>When you allow me to do these fundraisers, you will find I am fair. I will donate 35% of all that I take in to whatever school that I am doing the fundraiser that day. Right now it is a good time for a fundraiser because Christmas is coming and also Hannukah. Please let me help.</p> <p>I am sincere.</p> <p>Please call me . It is my cell phone.</p> <p>I am an RN so if I do not answer it probably means I am working and my phone is on vibrate.</p> <p>Please leave me a message:</p>
Revenue Sources	Ideas	<p>Hello Superintendent Rulfes</p> <p>I am an art teacher who went to the second town hall meeting. I encourage your board to please consider adding cell towers to the school properties to raise funds for our bleeding school district.</p> <p>I also ask that when you consider cutting the \$200 cards for teachers that you reconsider keeping some of them for the art teachers. Here is why: Art teachers in my department all ordered supplies from the school district. The photo teacher didn't get his supplies until three weeks ago. His \$200 card was a lifesaver to get film and paper into the class for those first 9 weeks of school. This is typical, and a serious problem for art teachers.</p> <p>I didn't get clay for my class (teaching ceramics) until last week. We are forced to order through the district if the amount is over 1,000. My students were required to pay the lab fees within the first two weeks of school, but the district sat on the check for weeks and weeks. My class had no clay for weeks and kids were getting upset over it. Thankfully I have a studio at home, because it is impossible to teach ceramics without clay. I brought in over 500 pounds of clay from my home, spent the \$200 from my card on glazes, plus brought in another 5 gallons of glaze. So far, I am out about \$1,500. The cards aren't much, but they are sure a lot better than having to pay out that \$200 to teach my students. Basically my first paycheck is used to pay for supplies in my classroom that I can never get back.</p>
Revenue Sources and Textbooks	Cut	<p>Suggested Budget Adjustments</p> <p>1 - Any middle/high school related to behavior problems because the student is a "knuckle head," parent refuses to correct a problem, should be 100% funded by the family, student in question, not taxpayers, to include building and administrative fees. The student had a chance for and education, why should the taxpayer pay because they can't discipline themselves.</p> <p>2. Adult education, GED is paid for 100% by those seeking this service. Same reason as 1.</p>

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Salaries	Keep	<p>Dr. Rulfes:</p> <p>It is my sincere wish that you and your salary NOT be cut from this school district. You have consistently demonstrated the high quality of leadership skills necessary to move this district into the competitive arena where, as the fifth largest in the nation, it needs to be. Just because the governor of Nevada suggests that he might take a pay cut to forestall layoffs, should not impact CCSD. I have worked many years for this district and struggled to pay my bills, continue my education (at my own expense) and upgrade my teaching skills. This past spring and summer I completed 18 semester credits from Touro University's (9 units of A and 9 units of A+) Humanities in the Classroom. I am paying for this completed program through payroll deduction and if I am forced to take a pay cut, I may have to sell my home. I am a widow and my teaching salary is the only thing standing between myself and poverty. Teachers and educators always seem to be the last to be compensated at livable levels. In order to repair old plumbing and to keep the air conditioner working over the years my credit card has hit \$14,000.00. I drive a 1996 car with 140,000 miles on it. I would be willing to teach larger classes in order to maintain my present salary. I would be willing to teacher longer hours. I do realize that both options reduce my quality of live, but at least I would still be able to negotiate my bills. Please continue to fight for our collective dignity. Thank you.</p>
SEIF	Cut	<p>Dear Mr. Rulfes,</p> <p>Today in the Review Journal one of the cost cutting proposals in public schools listed a \$12 million dollars in savings by cutting 164 special education facilitators. I couldn't agree more. I wholeheartedly believe that ALL special education facilitators positions should be eliminated. As a special education teacher in CCSD for 12 years, my expertise and experience dictates this position be eliminated. My facilitator has been out for nearly 5 months and I and the other resource room teacher at my school have had the added job responsibility to assure compliance, cover meetings, etc. (Basically do the special education facilitator job while she was out). It was my experience that this special education facilitator job could easily be carried out by the other special education staff members at a school. This position is a total unnecessary drain on CCSD funds. This special education facilitator job does not directly provide instruction and/or services to children in my experience. I agree with this part of the cost cutting proposal that the district is considering and I strongly urge the position of Special Education Instructional Facilitator (SEIF) be eliminated as soon as possible.</p> <p>I thank you for your insightful cost cutting proposal and hard decisions that you have had to make.</p>
Special Programs	Keep	<p>This deeply saddens me. As an educator I stand firm and true to provide what is best for the children. The more they take away, the less opportunity for success these children have. Class sizes grow larger, less time per student. Not enough books, limited paper. Behaviors become negative because children lack the attention they need, at home and now at school. Fine Arts , Performing Arts, GATE Specialist, After School programs, Enrichment classes, Explorations, if they take away these opportunities how and when will students be able to find their talents. When will they explore their horizons? Fine tune their abilities? Are we forgetting our responsibility to these children to help them become life long learners? To be a part of a community, to want to further their education? To teach their children well? This deeply saddens me.</p> <p>I have been a dedicated teacher to the Clark County School District for 13 years. I have a child who is in the 4th grade and I am so scared by what is happening. I feel blessed to work under my supervisor who has helped to protect her staff and lead us through the muddy water. Yet, I am afraid. My child, every child deserves a SPECIAL EDUCATION. I feel like that is being taken away. I believe that there is great learning to come from hard times. We should all become more resourceful, more creative, more dedicated to doing what is best for the children. I hope and I pray that this too shall pass. Thank you for listening, most sincerely.</p>

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Specialists	Keep	<p>Dear Ms. Janison,</p> <p>I am a teacher for CCSD and also a voter in your area. First off I am very happy that you won your election to represent our district!</p> <p>I am very concerned regarding the money the school district has to cut from education. It is a grave concern that cuts may be made to our specialists. It has been a long and continues challenge to bring our school up to date with technology. To cut the ECS's in the schools would be a major set back in education. These people help connect technology to teachers and children. CCSD has spent thousands of dollars to help bring technology up to date and to help prepare our youth for tomorrow. Many teachers are still in the stone age with technology, but they are slowly coming around. I have taught in this school district for 23 years. It's exciting to see so many changes. To take the ECS positions away will end up costing so much from computer repairs to educational set backs.</p> <p>It is also a concern to eliminate the librarians is another crazy idea. Librarians do so much more that check out books. They teach skills to help with our state standards. Our elementary librarian here at _____ teaches skills directly linked to all the tests.</p> <p>Ms. Janison, I think we should look at some of the top positions in the school system. The area superintendents have assistants for assistants. Some over positions need to be eliminated. Another idea that has been suggested is a four day work week. This would cut major money in bussing, utilities, and food services and in areas that I don't even know about. Maybe the schools with extended days should lose some of the work time; this would reduce extra teacher's money and utilities in the schools. Summer school programs cost an extreme amount of money. Maybe they could be streamlined and more cost effective.</p> <p>These are a few suggestions I have and hopefully they can be considered with other ideas people have regarding the crisis we are facing.</p>
Specialists	Keep	<p>Dr. Walt Rulfes</p> <p>As funds become scarce during economic downturns, I understand that difficult choices must be made when balancing budgets. As a decision maker for Clark County School District, it is essential that you lead your administration in this process and you recognize the importance school libraries play in graduating students who are skilled in the multiple literacies needed in the 21st century. Saving funds by eliminating certified school library media specialists reduces student access to strong school library programs and denies equal access for all students to the shared resources and information skills instruction crucial for students to learn and thrive in the 21st century.</p> <p>Please read my attached letter and consider the contributions that school libraries make to the entire school community and to higher academic achievement for every student as you work through the tough decisions ahead.</p> <p>I hope you will take the time to read the research in the School Libraries Work! online document. A link to this document is provided in the attached letter.</p> <p>Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.</p>
Specialists	Keep	<p>I have noticed this for years within the district. A couple months ago my wall needed painted - Six guys came, one guy painted, the others stood around and watched. I was annoyed at the time, especially since it took about 6 months to get them here to do it. Maybe if they only sent a couple guys to each job it would solve 2 problems. The time it takes them get out to complete a job and money would be saved if they didn't have to pay so many guys for standing around watching.</p> <p>I am really confused why they are talking about getting rid of librarians and nothing has been said about art and music. Way back when I was in</p>

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		<p>elementary school here in Clark County (the 70's-----yes I'm dating myself!!!!) we had a librarian but our classroom teachers taught us music, art and P.E. Why have they now decided librarians can go but no mention of the other three specialists? What happens to the library that we've worked so hard to build up??? Just my thoughts and wonderings.</p>
Specialists	Question	<p>Mr. Rulffes, With all the speculation going on about losing my position as a librarian, it occurred to me that no one is giving a specific date as to when these cuts will occur. I would like to know, as I am sure my fellow high school and middle school librarians would, when we will be told whether or not we will be working in a library next year? I would hope that if the district decides to eliminate our positions that we would be informed in a timely enough manner that for those that choose, will have ample time to look in other districts and states for library positions, and the rest find teaching positions in schools of our choosing. What I am getting at is when positions in this District and other states begin to open in March, April and May, we will know our status? The Board will not allow us to go through the summer, show up for work in August only to find that we have been surplusd, with the only options open to us are the classroom in a school not of our choosing or to quit, will you?</p>
Specialists	Keep	<p>I went to the Town Hall meeting last night and I left feeling sad and discouraged. I felt that it was a meeting to show that administration attempted to involve the public, yet had a preset agenda. I felt that cuts were being made randomly without a clear mission and focus. Worse, I felt that high school students were getting the shaft. It seemed that suggested cuts came from their programs and activities i.e. librarians, AVID, sports, drop prevention programs, proficiency testing programs....I also felt that the town hall meeting pitted parent against parent as they vocalized their support for differing programs.</p> <p>I passed out all of the fliers that I was given. Most parents said they supported the library. Then Dr. Ruffles presented a powerpoint with the top requested programs to be saved from the cuts derived from school meetings. Librarians weren't included; however, they weren't in the top five to be eliminated first.</p> <p>What can be done:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two or more people are needed to pass out librarian support flyers. They really need to copied on colored paper that needs to stand out. 2. Two spokespersons are needed-one to speak about the benefits of a school librarian and the other to speak about what can be eliminated in lieu of secondary librarians. I suggested regional offices and superintendants. They don't have direct involvement with students and their offices can be eliminated or consolidated. 3. The president of the CCLSA needs to e-mail or call me. The producer(?) of Kendall Tenney of News 3 would like to set up a possible TV interview. 4. Letters to the R-J. <p>That's all that I can think of for now. In the future, we might need legislation to keep school librarian positions. (See last month's School Library Journal -I think.)</p>
Transportation	Keep	<p>This message was sent to Mrs. Shirley Barber.</p> <p>I am a magnet student at Canyon Springs High School Leadership and Law Preparatory Academy. I received a letter in the mail regarding the schools budget cuts of \$120 million from its budget over the next year. One the suggestions were to cut the magnet student transportation to school. I feel that is not right at all. That is risking a chance of students getting a better education so you all would rather let someone run around with a football or basketball than to have students going to college? so please e-mail me or send a letter in the mail.</p>

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Transportation	Cut	<p>This message was sent to Mrs. Mary Beth Scow.</p> <p>In light of the significant budget shortfalls this community is facing, I would like to bring to your attention a serious matter where the school district will be wasting taxpayer money on unnecessary student busing.</p> <p>The AZAC Committee had a meeting last week where they outlined their proposals to rezone students out of Coronado High School to Liberty. The students they plan on rezoning live in Seven Hills within walking distance to the High School!</p> <p>We moved to our home specifically because it is walking distance to the high school! Out the side walking gate of my neighborhood (Palatine Hill in Seven Hills) to Coronado is a mile. My daughter attended Coronado and walked to and from school every day. I am sick over the thought of having to send my son to a school five (5) miles from where we live --that is how far Liberty is from my home!</p> <p>I find it very disturbing that anyone would consider splitting up a community. The proposed maps have Seven Hills split in half! How can they justify doing that to our community! The proposed map (Option one is the map that they said that they were going to recommend) has people who live over two miles away going to Coronado, but my child will have to take a bus instead of walk home (how will he get home if he has after school activities)? People who live seven or eight miles away (i.e., Wigwam and Valle Verde; Gibson and Horizon Ridge) are bused to Coronado? That does not make any sense. There are homes that are within two miles of Green Valley High and Silverado High going to Coronado? That does not make any sense. We bought our home specifically for Coronado (at the height of the market, so we cannot sell and move since we are hundreds of thousands of dollars upside down); we picked this neighborhood specifically for what Coronado offers, and the distance from the school to our house.</p> <p>Additionally, Coronado has a large number of variances granted (about 150). There are many people using illegal addresses so their children can attend Coronado. The housing market has crashed and enrollment is slowing. Why would they not first attempt to correct the problems with eliminating the variance and false address enrollment?</p> <p>The AZAC Committee stated in the meeting that they are not private detectives and cannot police who is currently attending Coronado. However, would it not be more prudent to verify the facts before rezoning families!</p> <p>The school district has a policy that all students who live within two miles of a school cannot be bused and must walk. Why doesn't the school district then make it its first priority to zone all students within two miles of a school? Why are we busing students right past their neighborhood schools to another school miles away!</p>
Transportation	Keep	<p>This message was sent to Mrs. Mary Beth Scow.</p> <p>My daughter is a 10th grade student in the IB Magnet program at Valley High School. I am concerned with budget cuts which would discontinue the transportation of magnet students throughout the valley.</p> <p>The IB program at Valley is nothing short of outstanding, one of which the district should take great pride in. The courses that she is taking, the instructors who are extremely talented educators, the administrative staff headed by their principal, Mr. Montoya is an educational dream come true. As I'm sure you know, the kids in the IB program thrive on learning, and setting their own personal goals of educational excellence. All of this</p>

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		<p>is threatened to come to an end without transportation support.</p> <p>I would venture to say that at least 50% if not more of the students who participate in the various magnet programs throughout the district rely on the current transportation system. The fact that transportation was provided as part of the magnet program was an important selling point for us to send our daughter to Valley. We live 20.8 miles round trip from Valley and we couldn't provide transportation for her on a daily basis due to our work schedules and I'm sure that other parents have similar reasons. If transportation is discontinued it would greatly impact the magnet programs.</p> <p>I would suggest changing the current mileage for transportation to zoned schools. My son currently is transported to his zoned middle school because we live more than 3 miles away. If the requirement for zoned school transportation is increased to 4 or 5 miles this could possibly give you the funds to continue transportation to the magnet programs. I am well aware that this suggestion could require me to lose the transportation for my son, but it would be a lot easier to get my son 10 miles to and from school, than my daughter almost 21 miles daily. More children might have to walk or bike to school, which could turn out to be an added health benefit..</p> <p>I understand that the CCSD budget must be cut, that there just not enough money to go around, but I implore you to continue transportation to the magnet programs.</p> <p>These programs are much too important to the students who attend them and the parents, teachers and administrators who make their attendance and education possible. Please continue the transportation program to the magnet schools.</p>
Transportation	Keep	<p>This message was sent to Ms. Carolyn Edwards.</p> <p>I am concerned that budget cuts would discontinue the transportation of magnet students throughout the valley.</p> <p>The kids in the magnet programs thrive on learning, and setting their own personal goals of educational excellence. All of this is threatened to come to an end without transportation support. I would venture to say that at least 50% if not more of the students who participate in the various magnet programs throughout the district rely on the current transportation system.</p> <p>transportation to the magnet programs. I understand that the CCSD budget must be cut, that there just not enough money to go around, but I implore you to continue transportation to the magnet programs.</p> <p>These programs are much too important to the students who attend them and the parents, teachers and administrators who make their attendance and education possible. Please continue the transportation program to the magnet schools.</p>
Transportation	Keep	<p>This message was sent to Mrs. Mary Beth Scow.</p> <p>As a grandparent of 7 students in the CCSD, I am adamantly opposed to further cuts in the school budget. The District should look within and work harder and smarter with what they have. We also have a student in the Magnet program at Valley. Please do not eliminate transportation for these students. This program is one of the bright spots in our struggling schools.</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p>

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Various	Cut	<p>This message was sent to all Board Members.</p> <p>Due to prior obligations I am unable to attend this evening. My ideas on the budget cuts are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A moratorium on Standard Student Attire. I am curious as to how much of our budget is spent on clothing, flyers/reminders (we parents receive them regularly), legal and administrative costs, surveys, and the like. No college is going to ask my child if he/she wore a uniform to school. 2. ELL students. As a child of multiple descent (including Spain) I can say without prejudice that it is unfair that children of LEGAL parents are losing out because of the expenses incurred by illegal families. As a military child on Air Bases in foreign countries, our families were required to learn the language at our own expense. No country in the world has school districts that cater to illegals while natural citizen children are undereducated. I think it irresponsible to ask our children to continue to suffer. 3. Mr. Ruffles has an incredibly challenging job, and he makes almost as much money as the President of the United States. As my father would say, let's call the administrators "to the carpet"; in front of the families and media. Are they willing to give a little so our children can gain alot? Cut from the top. 4. The wasteful folders and handouts that go home at the beginning of the school year and continue to go to students who are transferred. Can we not send out just one flyer that lists the availability of free lunch, school insurance, safekey, and other services offered? On that flyer, let the parents know that forms are available in the office or at the specific individual request of the families. 5. Also can we just post the lunch menus online and parents who do not have internet access can request one menu PER FAMILY (not per student, every single month). 6. Get rid of the colored paper handouts that announce everything from fundraisers to Halloween Parties and just use white paper instead. I know it is not as eye-catching, but let's save everywhere we can without stealing valuable education from the students. 7. Please keep sports, fine arts and the like available at little or no expense to our students. My numbers may be slightly amiss, but I believe that I learned that students who participate in music are 80% more likely to attend college. Girls who play sports are 85-90% less likely to engage in drugs and sex, because they don't want to risk losing the sport. (I got that number from UNLV women's soccer players a few years ago who volunteered with needy local soccer teams.) Students who are involved in extra-curricular activities have higher grades, test scores, self-esteem, and scholarship rates. We know this and more to be true. I myself turned my grades around when I was in High School because of extra-curricular opportunities and I went on to college because of those doors being opened to me. Our students need to be well-rounded to be healthy in mind and body. The truth is that without opportunities in athletics, fine arts, or science and humanities, graduating seniors don't stand much of a chance for scholarship or admission opportunities to high quality colleges and universities. Because of the music department, my child who was failing in middle school has decided to go to Julliard School of Music or Northwestern. There are so many other students just like here It is the responsibility of this district to provide a quality education AND the opportunity for continuing educational success for EVERY student...not just the ones who can afford it. <p>None of us wants to see employees lose their jobs. But the fact is that this school district and your positions, as well as the employees, exist ONLY because of our children. You all owe them; We all owe them, an opportunity for success.</p> <p>Thank You</p>
Various	Cuts	<p>This message was sent to Mrs. Ruth L. Johnson.</p> <p>Greetings, I am writing because I cannot make it to the town meeting concerning budget cuts. I wanted to pass on to you my thoughts. I have 3 children 1 has graduated. The others are soon to be graduating Arbor View and the other in C.M.S.. The question I have is How much does it cost the school district to publish letters home in 2 languages? How much it cost the school district to have illegal students in the system and I don't know if there is really anything we can do about them. Also How much does it cost to run a school like Lundy Elementary school that only has 8-</p>

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		<p>10 children and how many employees 4? Can't they be bused to the 3 elementary schools that are within the boundaries of Mt. Charleston. What does it cost to take the older kids to Indian Springs from Mt. Charleston isn't Arbor View closer? Also how transportation of kids to sporting events ie football, baseball etc. what does that cost? Does the school system pay for that or boosters? I am concerned that some programs ! that are going to be cut shouldn't. What a hard decision. How about cutting hrs of grounds keepers, Janitors, secretarial staff in both schools and headquarters. I am sure you could find parents more than willing to pick up the slack. Thank you for letting me voice my concern to you. I am trusting that you have the children in mind when making these very hard choices. Good Luck!</p>
Various	Ideas	<p>Dear Mr. Rulffes, My name is _____ and I am the librarian at _____. I would like to voice my concerns on the way the staff cuts are being handled. Whoever is involved in this process has indicated publicly that we are to suggest that one person's position is more valuable than another's. I don't understand what the thought process was behind this, but this has caused a lot of hard feelings in and around the district.</p> <p>These are very trying times - for some of us more than others, and to pit one section of an organization against another is not the wisest thing to do. It is a time when we need to work together for a solution. My neck, it appears, is high on the chopping block list, and I am terribly stressed out about the situation, but even on my worst day I would not say that I am a better service or do more work than another section of this organization.</p> <p>I opened a new library in the fall of 2007, and was privy to the amount of waist that the district buys into. My library is a very small library in comparison to the average high school library, so there was not the need for all the furniture that was ordered. The person who is contracted by the District implied to me that the tables and chairs and everything else I had no room for or need for would be destroyed because the district had purchased them for this location and they would not be allowed at any other location. I had previously worked at Clark High School and some of the furniture would have been well served there. When I asked about that possibility the answer was that it was appropriated for this school.</p> <p>Text books - a French teacher a Clark wanted to use the existing books because they were better like than any of the new "adopted" books. There were enough books on hand for every student. We had to box them up and order new books off the "adopted" list. Unfortunately there was only enough money in the budget for class sets.</p> <p>Please stop this insanity of making people feel that their position is more valuable than anyone else's - this pitting one group of employees against another is not a viable solution.</p>
Various	Opinion	<p>Dear Walt,</p> <p>I'm sure that your office has been inundated with angry parents, faculty and staff regarding the budget cuts. I am concerned that there has been no effort by the district to address this issue directly with CCSD faculty & staff to get any meaningful feedback. How do I know that my views were represented by our principal when he filled out a survey 'summarizing' the feedback that he got from the building? At the mass meetings at Cheyenne and Chaparral there was no way that everyone's opinion could be heard unless you count the angry yelling as 'feedback'. This is yet another example of a disconnect between the district, teachers, community and staff.</p> <p>After reading yet another article in the paper regarding the budget cuts I am horrified that the district would even consider cutting teacher prep times. These are not 'break times' as I suspect the general public believes. I already work on average 10 hours a week minimum just to keep my head above water BEYOND my contract hours. If you now cut that just under an hour a day from me AND give me another class to teach, then</p>

		<p>you are effectively adding not only 5 hours of prep time to my week, but now an additional 40+ students to prepare for and assess and call parents, etc.</p> <p>Without a prep period I will leave the teaching profession. There is no way that I could effectively do my job without being given the time to prepare and to assess and I am unwilling to do a subpar job. I do not understand how people do not understand that prep time is not free time. I would like to also have time to be a parent and spend time with my own school-age children and by eliminating my prep period the district would be further infringing on that time with my family.</p> <p>I am also a Department Chair. If you cut DC preps I would not be a DC any longer. There is no way that I would do all of this for free. I suspect that it would be very difficult to find teachers who would be willing to be DCs with no compensation. Per Conditions & Learning surveys at our school more teachers indicated that they receive instructional leadership from the DCs than from the administration - indicating their importance in a building.</p> <p>I will gladly hand over my \$200 supply card (and was surprised that we even got them this year given the economic climate that already existed at the beginning of this school year). I would forgo a raise and a step move.</p> <p>This district is top-heavy and has far more people being paid to be out of the classroom than almost any other district in this country that I'm familiar with. You trim a tree from the top. While I personally know many people who work at CPD who are fabulous, that building should be shut down and those employees returned to school buildings. Pay teachers an hourly wage to present effective teaching strategies to other teachers. Other school districts pay me \$2500 a day to present on effective teaching strategies for World Languages. I recently did a workshop for CPD and received \$44 for the 2 hr workshop and a little beyond that for prep time. I am willing to do that because I believe that it's important to support those in my own district. I have presented 4-5 other times for similar rates for this district. I'm sure that I'm not the only teacher in the district capable of teaching something to other classroom teachers of value. The CCSD does a very poor job of using the resources that it employs.</p> <p>Reduce the number of administrators at each building and reduce the number of non-building admin and staff. Good administrators train their staff and don't need expensive outside consultants. We have very few instructional leaders in administrative positions in this district. There are some, but not as many as we need. And if they can't be instructional leaders? They shouldn't be administrators.</p> <p>Librarians are NEEDED. Just read the research by Dr. Stephen D. Krashen on the effect of librarians and well-stocked libraries on literacy rates.</p> <p>I have always supported athletics and understand that many students stay in school and are better motivated when they participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities. But that's exactly it - they are EXTRA-curricular and thus should not be as important as academic areas when it comes to budget cuts. The community loves their sports. I guarantee if the district cuts free sports that the community will come up with ways to pay for it faster than they will be willing to ante-up for smaller class sizes, more teachers or paper for copies.</p> <p>The research does indicate that it's smaller school sizes and not class sizes that make a difference when it comes to academics. We already have gargantuan schools and at the secondary level the norm is 40 students in a class. There is no way in a 50 minute period that a teacher can do what s/he needs to do for every student with slightly over a minute per student each day. The secondary level cannot take larger class sizes and still manage to be effective. We all know that "1 student" in the ratio does not equal only 1 extra student per class because there are so many</p>
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		<p>courses (Special Ed and others) that will never have that many students in them.</p> <p>Allow schools more control over heating and cooling. We FROZE for the last 3 weeks with blasting a/c when there was no need at all for a/c. In the winter the buildings are so warm that you can't wear a sweater, in the warmer months you have to wear a sweater which is beyond ridiculous. I imagine that the district could save millions by just looking at all of our areas of waste and implementing a recycling program on their own that would easily pay for itself and possibly more. Another area is district bids. Often I can walk across the street to Walmart, shop online at buy.com or Office Max and buy something on sale that is cheaper than the district bid price and yet we have to adhere to purchasing from those companies whose bids we've accepted. The district should also not take back money from a school unspent. This causes schools to hurry and buy things that they don't need just to not 'lose' their money. I truly believe that this is a waste. Schools should be applauded for staying under budget and allowed to 'save' money for larger purchases or as a 'rainy-day fund'.</p> <p>Textbooks is honestly another area of thousands of dollars of waste. There are subject areas where textbooks are necessary there are others where they are not. In World Languages for example I can prove that I can teach my course more effectively and better ensure that my students acquire what is listed in the syllabus on my own than with costly textbooks. But yet every 7 years when we are up for adoption I am forced to place an order for thousands of dollars of textbooks that are unnecessary when that money would have been better used say in a math class. And if you really want to keep your CPD personnel, get them to work writing materials that would provide teachers with the necessary information to teach a syllabus and quit spending the outrageous textbook prices that the publishing companies are making millions of dollars off of our purchases. In 2003 I co-wrote a teaching manual for Foreign Languages used in other districts and I'm sure that there are capable teachers in every subject area able to do the same.</p> <p>And it's nice that the Governor would be willing to take a pay cut. He makes 3x as much as I do and did not go into the Governor's office poor. Taking a day off without pay honestly is insulting. I already work more than a day free every week. I have been in the district for 12 years and many of those years received a 0% salary increase in the years that there did exist budget support for those increases. So it's pretty hard to take putting that on our laps and out of the mouths of our children. I already donate hundreds of dollars worth of supplies a year not only to my own classroom but to both of my children's classrooms giving back a huge chunk of change to the organization that paid me in the first place.</p> <p>The CCSD at the very least should put out a survey to all faculty just like you did to the administrators for honest feedback from as many people as possible for ideas to save money.</p>
Work Week	Cut	Whatever happened to the proposed 4-day work week? Other school districts around the country have gone to this schedule and have save significantly.
Work Week	Cut	Have we considered changing our work schedule to a four-day week? We would need to work longer days to ensure we have the appropriate amount of instructional time, but the savings on utilities and transportation would be significant, perhaps enough to spend money in areas that were cut previously (textbooks and supplies, for example). Cutting back to a four-day week would allow us to cut costs without compromising our primary goal of educating our students.
Work Week	Cut	Have they thought of going to a four day work week to cut money? I know other states who have done this and it saved them millions of dollars.
Work Week	Cut	It's finally time to consider moving the middle & high schools to a 4 day school week & make all activities sports etc. a complete fee to play program or a club activity. With the four day week. Heating/cooling & transportation should be cut almost 20% at this level...we might even have to consider the elementary schools as well.

Opinions & Comments To Trustees and Superintendent

Email

Work Week	Cut	Has the district ever considered adding extra time to a four-day school week? Some schools in the East are doing this, with amazing savings. Gas savings on buses alone are great.
Work Week	Cut	<p>Dear Mrs. Johnson,</p> <p>I am writing you today as a concerned parent of a student attending Marshall Darnell Elementary School. First of all I would like to begin by congratulating the staff and teachers at Darnell. My family has only lived in Las Vegas for two years and all the education horror stories we heard before and after becoming residents have not materialized in this school. Even though my son is only in second grade, the teachers he has had have been absolutely marvelous. I believe he is getting a better education than I would have ever hoped.</p> <p>As you are well aware the state, country and world is currently facing an insurmountable financial crisis on all levels. Unfortunately, I believe the problem we are facing will be long and drawn out. In an article released today there was discussion on how the parents have been reacting to the open forums held in regards to the needed budget cut of \$120 million dollars district wide. In this article it was briefly mentioned the adamant refusal by some parents to entertain a possible four day week for schools.</p> <p>A plan for a four day school schedule will drastically affect how some people manage their time and budgets with additional child care needs as well as possible time off from jobs. These concerns are shared by many families across the Las Vegas Valley, however I encourage the Board of Trustee's to seriously consider this schedule change. The reduction in overall expenditures ranging from fleet vehicle fuel costs, office supplies and utility usage costs by 20% will save the district a substantial amount of money, thus limiting the effect on many educational programs. I for one will be willing to make an additional sacrifice of an added day of care and a few minutes extra per day to ensure my children receive the best education the public school system can offer. We, as residents and parents, would be doing our youth a great disservice by removing growth opportunities such as music, athletics or art from their current curriculum.</p> <p>I realize this issue reaches much further than what is discussed in this letter but it is believed that this change will help the district as well as the community in respect to educating our youth. I applaud the board for holding these town hall meetings and encouraging open communication. I am confident the board members will use their sound judgment and experience to make the right decisions.</p> <p>Thank you for your time in this matter.</p>
Work Week, Travel, Freeze Teacher Hiring, and Admin teach	Cut	Think seriously about 4 day work weeks, and reducing bus travel for all extracurricular activities, no more traveling out of your city. Freeze all teacher hiring and have administrators and deans teach 1 or 2 periods a day.
Year-round School	Cut	One of the consistent ideas from my community is to revert to a 9 month schedule. This can work if we can keep 3 of our rehab portable buildings. We seem to have become very landlocked now with the slowdown of new construction at Boulder and Equestrian.
Year-round Schools	Cut	Mrs. Johnson, I appreciate your service on the School Board. I am unable to attend the Budget Input Meetings and have sent the following to you as my Representative and the Superintendent's office.

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		<p>In the budget cut analysis, I would appreciate you examining the year round schools. My children have attended 3 year round schools in Las Vegas and I do not believe they are being utilized as intended as there have never been any roaming classrooms and all students are able to benefit from the lunch room at the same time. There are elementary schools right now that have all students in the school at the same time (all students are on the same track), yet are classified as "year round" so that administration and specialists maintain their year round contract status and higher salary. During track breaks, "Enrichment Camps" are being held at no cost to the students, and staff is paid from tax dollars. Since these students do not get out until mid-July, the busses are still running for only these few students and the air conditioning bills are still being paid. I would urge you to seriously consider putting all elementary schools on 9-month calendar as this would (1)reduce! need for busses during summer months-utilize them for elementary, middle and high school on 9-month; (2)eliminate "Enrichment Camps" at particular schools so that increased specialist salaries (9 month vs. 12 month contract) and costs of having a school open to a few students during a track break are eliminated; (3)reduce cooling costs during peak summer usage by having the building closed. This would put administration and teachers on a 9-month contract, further reducing costs. Zoning has had a real problem with doing this in years past as each school is "technically" only able to hold a certain number of students; however, we are in a crisis and the time to be realistic is now. Elementary schools have portables throughout the valley. We can accomodate the students. PLEASE, put the elementary schools on 9-month calendar, modify specialist and administration contracts to reflect this and reduce excessive cooling costs during the summer.</p> <p>Also, in the elementary schools, specialists (art, music, drama, PE) are not crucial. Let's put these teachers back in the standard classrooms and have the individual teachers incorporate these areas into their classroom curriculum. By doing this we will find the extra teachers we are short each year as well.</p> <p>Athletic and music programs, books and supplies are not where we need to cut.</p> <p>I appreciate your time in reading my input into such a very important decision.</p>
Year-round Schools	Cut	<p>Mr. Ruffles, I was not sure how to send this budget cut suggestion as I did not think of it until after completing the survey for teachers. I am not associated with a school so I was not involved with those discussions. Here is a suggestion that I think may help with budget cuts. At least in the southwest zone, there are many special education classes at the elementary school level and early childhood classes that are on year round schedules. It is common to have a special education student receive many related and support services including vision services, OT, PT, Adapted PE, Speech and perhaps others I have not thought of yet. If the special education students were all on nine month schedules this would eliminate the cost of extending all the contracts of the therapists and consulting specialty teachers serving these children and therefore saving money. Additionally, there would be a consistency of services for these children as during the summers they may get other therapists serving them. While I cannot speak for all schools, the classrooms I visit basically remain empty during track breaks. These classrooms are not used by other people during track breaks.</p>
Year-round Schools	Cut	<p>Last night nobody made this suggestion so I wanted to tell you personally. There are a lot of schools out there that are year round. When they talk about cutting the fat, year round schools are part of the fat. I work in an elementary school that is year round and don't see the reason for the school being year round. I love making the extra money that I do working in a year round school but when looking at making cuts, making cuts to year round school would be in the best interest of all. We do not have roving teachers in our school so why are we year round? Year round schools are costing the district a lot of money for administration, electricity, and support staff and for no reason. I don't like the thought of taking a cut in pay myself but this is for the greater good. There is no reason that we should continue to keep these schools open in the summer unless</p>

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		they can provide proof they have roving teachers.
Specialists	Cut	Cut literacy specialist. – Phone call to superintendent's office.
Parent Support	Opinion	Suggests that CCSD make it mandatory for parents to volunteer during the school year; this would allow for certain positions to be eliminated and for parents to contribute to those duties; the caller added that if parents are not able to volunteer they should pay a fee, similar to the policies in private schools. – Phone call to superintendent's office.
Year-round Schools	Cut	Return to 9 month schools. If there are no roving classes and rooms are empty when tracks go out, there is no reason to be year-round. 30 year-round schools?
Specialists	Cut	All TOSAS (except special education) back to classrooms.
Full-day Kindergarten	Cut	All kindergarten back to half days.
Administration	Cut	I am willing to take a day off without pay or even five, as long as PERS is not affected.