

Town Hall Meeting at Western High School

Written Comments

Tuesday
11.18.2008

Topic	Suggestion	Comments
Athletics	Keep	Sports keeps our students out of the streets, drugs for the schools that drug test, & they get good grades in order to play. Parents cannot afford to pay to put their kid through sports. It's killing the dream of going pro. If they can't afford to play even their way to college.
Athletics	Keep	Keep athletic programs.
Block	Keep	We are already 48 in the nation in per pupil spending. What effects will these cuts have on teen pregnancy? Drop out rate currently over 30%. We will need to increase social services and police at jails. Kids in block schedules will not move to next grade level if you cut block. Mining made 5.5 billion and paid no taxes, Why? What about the new room tax? Implement now and direct schools. What type of students will we produce 50 th in the nation in education? How do they compete nationwide?
Block	Keep	I think we should keep block schedule. It is already hard as it is for teachers to cram all our lessons into 90 minutes. So 60 min would really stunt our learning. Also that extra 8 credits or so make or break someone's chances of graduation.
Block	Keep	Block schedule.
Block	Keep	Keep block schedules. Children have worked too hard for their grades. Why should they suffer if you dispose of block schedule? How can children be expected to perform especially if they lose the magnet program? I have a child as a junior and her grades are exceptional thanks to her teachers and her effort.
Block	Keep	Block scheduling – the increase in graduation rates speaks for itself. Should be enough to justify keeping.
Block	Keep	I think we should keep block schedule. It is already hard as it is for teachers to cram all our lessons into 90 min. So 60 min would really stunt our learning. Also that extra 8 credits or so make or break someone's chances to graduate.
Class Size Reduction	Keep	Do not increase class sizes in grades 4-5 or 6-12.
Class Size Reduction	Keep	Keep class sizes in elementary at what they are now.
Extra-curricular	Keep	Co-curricular programs.
Extra-curricular	Keep	Called UCLA ask if they had 2 students to choose from one with involvement in clubs, activities 1 without this experience which would they choose? Clubs teaches leadership, accountability, responsibility.
Extra-curricular	Keep	Colleges look for well-rounded students and to cut clubs like ROTC, orchestra, debate, etc., they won't pick those students.
Fine Arts	Keep	Keep funding in elementary, middle, and secondary schools for art education.
GATE	Keep	I am here in support of GATE. This program is vital to our future. Without programs to assist the gifted end of the Special Ed spectrum, we are dooming the CCSD to mediocrity and a failure of our children.
GATE	Keep	The GATE program should be fully funded because it is for students who excel above and beyond. GATE provides an opportunity for students above to learn more and have fun while learning. GATE students are kids with special talents that can be used in our community and are able to perfect those talents in the GATE program and because of it.
Magnet programs	Keep	Underprivileged schools opportunity to graduate magnet program prepares for college fun with education, electives students need the chance college.
Maintenance & Grounds	Keep	Letting the grounds fall apart is more expensive.
Performing Arts	Keep	Both sons are in band at Clark High School and wants them to be able to continue their commitment and discipline they have attained through this program.
Performing Arts	Keep	I feel the music program is essential. It helps in the education process. It stimulates minds and promotes a better student. My two girls are products of a music education. In fact, one daughter has returned the favor of her education by coming back to this school district to teach orchestra. Her sister is now

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		in college for the same thing.
Performing Arts	Keep	It's a class not strictly extra-curricular elective.
Performing Arts	Keep	The performing arts programs in middle schools and high schools are incredibly beneficial to students. When middle school students have access to music and voice classes, those skills carry over into high school. Secondary students enrolled in performing arts (ie., band, choir, orchestra) are very involved and interested in school activities. The music students I know actively seek information on colleges based on continuing their crafts and skills.
Performing Arts	Keep	Keep choir, orchestra, band. These are the kids 3X more literate and go to college, 11 X more literate to get degree, better prepared students, higher testing scores, be better citizens. Lets not forget colleges look at xtra curricular activities for admission. These are the kids that want to do better and will be better. They are not no child left behind kids.
Shortened School Year	Keep	Historically, in Nevada if something has been cut from education, we rarely get it back. Whatever you choose to cut should be looked at in this light. We currently have one of the shortest school days in the country. The shortened school day was given to techers in lieu of a pay raise when the state was short on funding. We have never gotten this time back for our students.
Specialists	Keep	Libraries are essential for all aspects of education.
Specialists	Keep	A must keep – specialists.
Specialists	Keep	I would like to speak on the importance of school librarians and student achievement.
Specialists	Keep	How can the standards of Section 504, IDEA, and NCLB be met if special education facilitators and literacy specialists are cut?
Transportation	Keep	Keep magnet bussing.
Transportation	Keep	I currently attend Valley High School's magnet program and use busses all the time. If they were cut, that wouldn't be good. What about the students who have to return to their zoned schools? That would overcrowd zoned schools with less materials. What about those who drive the school busses? Since the economy is so bad, this cut would make it much worse.
Transportation	Keep	Magnet busses should be kept due to the far traveling of students. It is very important that we have these buses for the student/parents that can not drive.
Transportation	Keep	Keep magnet bus transportation. Thank you for having magnet schools. My daughter is a product of magnet now attending MIT. One daughter still in magnet. Magnets increase enrollment in less populated schools. Magnet kids are high achievers that bring district scores up.
Transportation	Keep	I would like to discuss about the magnet programs and the bus transportation for the well deserve kids who earned to attend such programs.
Visual Arts	Keep	Attached is a letter addressed to the School Board regarding the importance of the visual arts in the lives of students.
Year Round Schools	Keep	Schools that are on a year-round calendar and/or are overcrowded should not have to participate in budget cuts.
Administration	Cut	Off-ratio admin staffing.
Administration	Cut	CCSD has too much administration. Look and cut here before the classroom. By cut I mean salaries, benefits and positions.
Athletics	Cut	Have parents subsidize athletic programs.
AVID, Block, Empowerment, Magnet Schools	Cut	I would urge you to consider a class of cuts – those that least affect the majority of students. Unless you can find federal or private grant monies to fund those programs that are currently implemented at only a few schools, I feel these programs need to be placed on hold until we can afford them again. These would include AVID, block, empowerment, and magnet. If magnet schools are included then off-ratio staffing, some transportation and the superintendent's region.
Class Size Reduction	Cut	Allow increase in H.S. class size.
Diversity Department	Cut	Eliminate Diversity Dept. Waste of money and totally useless. If we can elect Obama, we don't need it.

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ELL	Cut	Cut ESL or make it "pay to play". Noone forced the families to come here.
Empowerment	Cut	Empowerment schools.
Empowerment	Cut	School empowerment program.
Maintenance & Grounds	Cut	Maintenance and ground keeping.
Professional Development Days for Support Staff	Cut	Cut 4 days off of support staff contracted work year during staff development days. They are not really needed for staff development days. These will be unpaid – they shouldn't report to work at all. Include all district support staff – close their offices, too.
Reductions	Cut	Reduce or combine several things instead of totally doing away with such as permanent subs, region differentiate funding, ELL, ECS, region professional services, AVID/drop-out prevention, and region office.
Reductions	Cut	There are many ways we can streamline programs that need to be kept and reduce amount of waste. Busses are left on for extended amount of times, permanent substitutes can be pooled to save on substitutes. Literacy specialists can be pooled or trained to dual task. Contracted services can be serviced in-house to save money.
Region	Cut	Region structure.
Region Consolidation	Cut	Why aren't consolidation of areas superintendents considered? Wouldn't it be more cost effective to increase the school supervisor ratio?
Retirement	Cut	Cut early retirement incentives. Technology and health has made it easier for us to live longer lives these children work hard and they are our future. Why should the rich retire earlier?
Salaries	Cut	Reduce salary increases. If we have budget constraints why is everyone getting a raise? Private businesses don't give raises in bad times.
Special Education	Cut	Autism after school home programming to be eliminated.
Transportation	Cut	Have parents pay for this – ex. \$100 per child.
Transportation	Cut	Stop bussing to magnet school. My understanding this would save 6 m or allow pay to ride as an option.
Vacation Days	Cut	Cut vacation days for administrators – they can survive with 14-18 vacation days per year – that's what the private sector gets.
Year Round Schools	Cut	Cut 12 month school program.
All Things Considered	Opinion	Any student receiving state or federal aid attending college in Nevada should be required to participate in tutoring and mentoring programs for middle and high school students. No solutions should be off the table including new taxes. We can't cut our way out of this.
Budget Cuts	Opinion	Our state government is cruel in placing its citizens whom they were elected to serve in a position where we are asked to either cut off our feet or cut off our arm. These budget cuts are absolutely ridiculous for a state who ranks in the bottom 5 in the nation on education to cut funding meant to support improvements in education.
Chancellor Rogers	Opinion	Chancellor Rogers spoke about a 3 billion dollar amount he was requesting from the federal government. How can we show support for this proposal?
Legislators	Opinion	We need to continue to pressure our legislative representative to fund our schools properly. When we are in economic good times excess school monies should not be put in our school general fund, it should be put in a fund for education only and used in times like these.
Legislators	Opinion	We need to realize that the money is not there. Cuts will be made. Do we sacrifice GATE, football, music for teachers? We need to hold the legislature accountable for finding revenue to sustain the needs of the state. I say no more cuts.
Lottery	Opinion	Can we push the state legislature to create a state lottery to help fund these programs? Or some other idea to increase funds instead of cutting them?
Lottery	Opinion	Why don't we have a state lottery to pay for education. These cuts are terrible. Our kids don't deserve this!

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Parents	Opinion	With all the information given about budget cut backs, why has there not been information given for how parents can help to fill the gaps that have been created?
Parents	Opinion	Parent volunteers. Daily class volunteers, parent fund raising supply paper towels, toilet paper and most general paper size used.
Questions & Concerns	Opinion	Why was the parent survey not sent out via parentlink? 13,000 surveys sent out of how many families total? Were they evenly distributed between high school, middle school and elementary school? Why are we not giving parents supply lists at the beginning of the school year and or requiring student fees to cover consumables? Are these specific funds that the district receives for each military child in the district? Are these funds given to the school that the child attends or are they put inot a general fund for use anywhere?
Region Based Decisions	Opinion	While there are many items that can be cut from the individual schools to achieve the 3% cut per school budget, it is imperative that we address the issue of diverse needsdistrict wide, and look at the possibility of allowing individual zones decide what (with District Board approval) can/does get cut.
Registration Fees	Opinion	Add a registration fee for every student registered in public schools.
Registration Fees	Opinion	I support having parents pay to enroll their children in school every year. Many districts do this; for example district 646 in Elgin, Illinois charge \$80 to enroll elementary students, \$120 for middle school, and \$200 for high schoolers. This was not clear to anyone who attended tonight. I believe this meeting was not to decide which cuts to make. The sheet of options altogether were \$135 million and you need to cut \$120.
Right Questions	Opinion	Are we asking the right question? Revenue down, but student population remains and continues to grow, even if more slowly. Long term, must diversity economy – we need better educated students and workforce. Intermediate – equity vs. adequacy of funding. Short term – state cuts can alos trigger cuts in federal finding.
School Based Decisions	Opinion	Will the District mandate the cuts each school will make or will each school made the cuts individually?
Separate (verb) Issues	Opinion	Separate elementary and high school issues.
Work Week	Opinion	5 day work week changed to a 4 with extended hours
Work Week	Opinion	We could go to a 4 day work week. We are going into a legislative year so we could send an amendment to change the constitution from 180 days to hours. This would save jobs. You would save transportation fuel and salaries. You would save all cost like power etc. from schools.