

Questions/Comments
Meridian CUSD #223 Community Meeting
District Finance
April 13, 2010

1. What is the effect of declining assessed value property on the District's revenue?
2. Would the District consider wage freezes?
3. Would the District consider raising fees and/or taxes?
4. What will be the impact of special education programming due lack of funding?
5. Why are property tax bills increasing?
6. Can cuts be made across the board at a certain percent?
7. Ask the community for ways to cut.
8. Are there alternative ways to fund the pre-k program?
9. Use the web page to cut down on expenses and provided e-mails of board members
10. What is happening to districts who are not in good financial situation and what impact might that have on our school district?
11. Have we looked at outsourcing transportation?
12. What will be the impact on class size?
13. Utilize assets of the community, particularly employers and parents who offer grants (i.e. U.S. Cellular)
14. Why is a human resource position in the District office currently advertised?
15. What about reducing administrative position?
16. Have pay cuts been considered?
17. Are there any special education cuts for next year?
18. What programs or subjects being considered?
19. Are department budget line items able to be looked at?
20. How many cuts have been made at each building?
21. What programs/or subjects are being looked at?
22. Can we see budget line items?
23. What is the long term pre-kindergarten cost versus benefit?
24. Are we going above and beyond in special education?
25. What is the timeline to look at cuts for 2011-2012?
26. Do you have an open door policy?
27. What should we write to our representatives?
28. Cutting/reducing salary throughout the organization is better than cuts

Written Comments from Community Meeting April 13, 2010

- If you consider not filling retired teaching positions, why not consider not filling administrative positions? Use current admin staff to pick up responsibilities they have picked up while position has been vacant.
- About raising fees. I do think our fees are too low, however, we need to be sensitive to the current economic situation of families who may have had to take a pay cut to keep their job.
- Before cutting teaching positions, reduce the amount of absences the teachers take requiring substitutes, just so they can have planning sessions. Let them make these planning sessions on their own time to save money and positions.
- I feel there is significant pressure to teach to the test (Prairie State Exams) at the cost of education. As a parent of high end kids (A honor roll) they have less emphasis placed on them as low level kids are focused on by no kid left behind.
- PLC team meetings should be once a quarter – **NOT** monthly. Too many substitutes in building each day.
- I am very concerned with the tech and operations/maintenance. reductions. I believe the buildings have been neglected for years. Many items are a safety issue. This does not promote a good example to our kids. Technology can reduce expenses if used properly-teaching the teachers-taking care of the equipment-and support staff that promotes technology.
- In the past 2 years, I have been forced to 75% of my previous income. Teachers and admin need to keep that reality in mind.
- Another concern is having a wide variety of people involved in building conditions. John is doing better than previous, but the district is still far behind my expectations.

**Written Questions from Community Meeting
April 13, 2010**

- Does the district fund the teachers' contribution to the TRS fund? If so, why?
- Has the teacher association (union) made any suggestions regarding this financial situation? If so, what do they have to offer?
- Can anything be gained by extending the school day?
- What percent of school salary expenses accounts for extra-curricular activities and athletics?
- Would a 4-day a week school schedule or year-round school schedule help in any way or would the budget pretty much remain similar in those schedules as well?
- Would board members be willing to add email address contacts to the website, similar to teacher and administrator email, so that constituents are able to reach them with questions and concerns?
- How has no kid left behind impacted the budget?
- Can the transportation cost be reduced? Ex. Why can't children living in SV village walk? Formerly, buses never picked up kids in a certain proximity to school. (this would help the obesity problem too)
- How much is spent in the district on substitutes per building?