



Message

Mar 18, 2010 8:07 PM

From:



To:



DMUSD Financial Task Force

Subject: Public Input

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From: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address:  
Phone:

Cost Saving Recommendation: First, ask the experts - the district personnel.

Second, adjust enrollment and staffing ratios at small vs. large schools.

Third, review vendors who supply materials and services: office supplies, vehicle maintenance, landscaping, copier leases, etc.

Fourth, reign in spiraling special education and energy costs.

Rationale for this Recommendation: First, ask the district personnel with experience and background for cost saving measures and priorities.

Second, when costs are divided across a smaller number of students, the cost ratio is higher. Collecting students maximizes resources for everyone while cutting annual costs.

Third, capture potential savings in lower bids.

Fourth, evaluate which programs and employees are effective and essential. Develop and implement an energy efficiency plan: focus on weekends, holidays, and summers (lights and a/c off unless a specific area is occupied, unplug most computers) and then outline a day to day plan that is student and teacher friendly. Return the balance of the dollars to the general pool for student expenses.

Revenue Enhancement:

Additional Comments: Do not eliminate the ESC program that educates the whole child. Teachers are educated professionals and their training and expertise can't be replaced at \$15/hr. Remember? We've been there and done that - no need to go backward! The extremely dedicated staff go above and beyond to donate time and money. Have you ever noticed the cars in the parking lot in the evening and all weekend?

DMUSD Staff:  
Parent: Yes  
Student:  
Community Member:

Do not publish:



Message

Mar 18, 2010 7:47 PM

From:



To:



DMUSD Financial Task Force

Subject: Public Input

From:  
Address:  
Phone:

- Cost Saving Recommendation:
1. Stop trying to fire the Superintendent.
  2. Make cuts farthest from students and classrooms.
  3. Adjust the neighborhood schools for incoming students.
  4. Honor existing district transfers, but do not grant future requests to fill under enrolled schools so parents can claim populations within a mile can't be combined.
  5. Merge under capacity schools by phasing out future enrollments. Begin with kindergarten for 2010.
  6. Do not waste general fund money on a lease for the district office.

- Rationale for this Recommendation:
1. Put legal fees and "buy out" dollars in the general fund for students, where it belongs. The dispute is a distraction.
  2. Consider additional "dark" days in the district office this summer, including potential furlough for administrators and support staff one day/week. Savings to be determined.
  3. Annually saves \$100,000 in administrative costs.
  4. More equitably distributes students and resources.
  5. Potential to save \$400,000 - 600,000 annually. That makes a considerable dent in concerns over our "qualified" budget.
  5. Every dollar spent on a building is a dollar that isn't spent on the education of our students.

Revenue Enhancement: -Teachers have already saved the district \$1.6 million this year and volunteered more than 15,000 hours since September, a total that is more than \$605,000. TEACHERS TOOK A PAY CUT THIS YEAR, increased class sizes, and eliminated professional development to help save money and preserve the standard of education that our students deserve.

-Investigate utility alternatives than may save 40% of our current usage of \$600,000.

-Use child care profits to offset general fund expenses and use \$1 million from the Shores to provide the last school aged childcare facility

Additional Comments: ESC is not a perk; it provides KIDS with specialists similar to other outstanding schools. Do parents really want a generalist providing instruction in specialized fields? Do you know adults who excel in sports, nurture a fine arts background, regularly play an instrument, sing, & read music, keep up with evolving technology, AND are planning to enroll in school for a science degree?

Do we want teachers focusing on rigorous academics that every student deserves and every parent expects or pretending to be masters of all trades? I DON'T WANT MY INTERNIST PRETENDING TO BE MY DENTIST!

DMUSD Staff: Yes

Parent:

Student:

Community Member:



Message

Mar 18, 2010 6:18 PM

From: Mailer-Daemon,Internet  
To: DMUSD Financial Task Force  
Subject: Public Input

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From: ()  
Address:  
Phone:

- Cost Saving Recommendation: 1. Let's have optional second conferences. My grade level had no less than 6 parents bring up that topic to us....if we have optional spring conferences, none of the upper grade teachers need subs. That would save some money.
2. Conserve on water and electricity. I worked for a school district that had a committee working on this and saved the district \$100,000 in one year (granted, the district was huge).
  3. Offer early retirement to allow higher paid teachers to retire so we can hire new ones that cost less.
  4. Do not reimburse teachers \$81 for supplies each year. No other districts do this. Just a small idea. :)
  5. Freeze administration salaries at the DO.
  6. Do not pay teachers for 4 prep days before school starts.
  7. Start new hires on step 3, not 5 of the teacher salary schedule.

Rationale for this Recommendation: Try to find several small ways to save money that do not involve cutting teachers' jobs, salaries, and planning time.

Revenue Enhancement: No idea...not my area of expertise.

Additional Comments: The community seems to be uneducated regarding the current teacher salaries. This is evident based on reading other submissions to the task force. Why do people think ESC teachers salaries are \$100,000? They also do not know teachers already took pay cuts, one was in the form of non-paid inservices, one in the form of higher insurance premiums. I have not received a 4% raise as mentioned by one parent. I am making LESS now than I was in 2008-2009 school year. Bottom line: stop cutting teachers and their salaries. This is the worst thing you can do and it has the largest impact to the students. And, if you take my planning time away, you are going to get a lot less out of me. I will plan paper-pencil assignments, avoid thought-provoking projects, and I will grade papers when I find time to grade them. If it takes me 3 months to grade something, so be it. I know lots of teachers feel this way. Please figure out a way to avoid taking away our income and our planning time. If you don't, our district will no longer be the high caliber district that we are. We just can't put up with more and more being taken away from us. Something will have to give, and it will unfortunately be the students' education.

DMUSD Staff: Yes  
Parent:  
Student:  
Community Member:

Do not publish:



Message

Mar 17, 2010 11:19 AM

From: Mailer-Daemon,Internet  
To: DMUSD Financial Task Force  
Subject: Public Input

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From: ()  
Address:  
Phone:

Cost Saving Recommendation: Stop hiring fully credentialed teachers for the ESC programs. We can find well qualified instructors that are not credentialed.

Having the ESC teachers in the mix as "teachers" really affects the kids when the classroom teachers are laid off because ESC teachers have more tenure - not acceptable, and not necessary. I would rather spend our money to have lower class size in the regular classrooms than on fully credentialed ESC teachers.

Rationale for this Recommendation: This is what Solana Beach District does and it is common knowledge that SB is MUCH Better at managing it's finances than DMUSD. Let's learn from our neighbors. Ask them how they do it before the next meeting and use best practices. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. In fact, if we come out and say we are changing the program to be more similar to SB to save money, this would be EXTREMELY well regarded by the community. Finally the DMUSD board will do something the community would agree with. AND this will have a minimal impact on the kids - the reason we are all here in the first place. Keep class size low and fix this issue.

Revenue Enhancement: Estimate \$30k savings for each ESC teacher

Very rough estimate - \$500k

Additional Comments: The ESC program is a PERK for our kids which we love. We want to keep Art, Music, PE, Technology but do not need to be paying exhorbitantly for those classes. NOW is the time to fix this issue. And you WILL have community support on this!

DMUSD Staff:  
Parent: Yes  
Student:  
Community Member: Yes

Do not publish: Yes