

Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 5:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Budget cuts

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Ms. Hanczar,

Good afternoon. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the kindergarten program and special education before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

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From: Wendy Hanczar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 1:05 PM
To: Board
Subject: Budget cuts

Dear Board members,

After reading the proposed cuts, I find it important to voice my views on a few of those cuts. I am COMPLETELY against any cuts to special education. Special needs children are the first in this nation to feel any kind of cut backs. It always seems easy to make cuts for people that have difficulty fighting for themselves. If the special education department has these positions in place, there is a reason for it. Looking at special education for cuts should be the last place you look. These children need all of the support they can get to help them become the best they can be.

I am also against any cuts in music and physical education. These are important parts of the school day and I believe help make well rounded children, who should be given every opportunity to experience all areas of the curriculum.

Thank you for your time.

Wendy Hanczar
 [REDACTED]

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Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 5:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Budget cuts
Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Ms. Gatenby,

Good afternoon. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

Please allow me to provide more information in response to a couple of your comments.

Even though we would reduce custodial "services" by reducing staff, we will not lower our standard for sanitation. Bathrooms, kitchens, cafeterias, drinking fountains, and high-traffic hardware (such as handrails and door push-plates) will receive the same high level of attention that they currently receive. What will be diminished is the frequency of "housekeeping" functions, such as vacuuming, floor mopping, window washing. We would rotate housekeeping procedures to accommodate staffing levels.

You wrote, "Maybe the high ranking people of the board could take a paycut." The District 300 School Board members are all volunteers. They are not compensated for their service to D300.

You asked why you were paying a "higher tax rate but sending my kids to a Kane county highschool." D300's tax rate is among the lowest among all school districts in the region. You also asked where your taxes are going. I will be glad to mail you a copy of the D300 Annual Report. It indicates that we have balanced our budget for the past 3 years and have the highest credit rating in the District's history. For more detailed information, you could review our Financial Information webpage, <http://www.d300.org/about-us/financial-information>.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and feedback with the Board. They will be considered.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

From: Trisha Gatenby [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 12:11 PM
To: Board
Subject: Budget cuts

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to comment on the various budget cuts that have been propped for D300.

I am opposed to reducing the PE and music classes for kindergarten- I currently have a 5 yr old in kindergarten @ Eastview and [REDACTED] enjoys both classes and children need the exercise and early education about healthy habits and lifestyle choices.

Also opposed to eliminating a literacy leader position, reading is fundamental and for those kids who struggle

with reading, these people are key to helping them.

Also opposed to reducing special ed staff, these kids need quality teachers who have the skills, patience and education to handle and help these sometimes helpless children.

No to reducing custodial/cleaning supplies-the kids need to go to a safe, healthy and clean environment. As a mother I shouldn't have to worry that my tax dollars aren't enough to keep our kids schools clean and safe.

And no to limiting teacher's advancement, good teachers are fundamental to our children's educations and development/self-esteem. The district starts making it unappealing to be a teacher in this district than we won't have good enough teachers for our district. Some of the schools in this district (ie, Carpentersville) are tough enough to attend and teach in let's not make it harder for these teachers and kids who truly do want and need a good education.

I think there are plenty of other unnecessary expenses that can be eliminated w/o eliminating jobs. Maybe the high ranking people of the board could take a paycut and being a McHenry county/Algonquin taxpayer who will have to send my [redacted] to Dundee Crown HS (instead of the Algonquin HS), I'm not quite sure where all our property tax money is going? And since I don't get to send my [redacted] the hs I want them to go to, why am I paying a higher tax rate but sending my kids to a Kane county highschool.

Let's not make the parents who care have more to worry about.

Sincerely,
Trisha Gatenby

[redacted signature block]

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Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 5:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Proposed budget cuts

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kuphal,

Good afternoon. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and support before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

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From: Melody Kuphal [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 9:09 PM
To: Board
Subject: Proposed budget cuts

I am VERY impressed with the structure of these budget cuts. No one wants to see cuts of any kind but we am amazed at the creative ways you are proposing to face this budget challenge with as little student impact as possible. I am hard pressed to offer a better solution. One cut that directly affects our family are the changes in gifted education. The once a week pull out program at the elementary level has been less than impressive. You have our support in trying a new program and clustering kids.

Dr. Arndt & school board, thank you for offering this well thought out plan to solve a problem you did not create. You have our encouragement and prayers as you move forward.

Kevin & Melody Kuphal

[REDACTED]

Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 5:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: District 300 Budget Cuts

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Poulin,

Good afternoon. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts on kindergarten music/PE before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

As for the food purchases, please note that the food is often for student events, parent meetings, and community events as well as staff meetings. But your suggestion to cut it altogether is duly noted.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and feedback with the Board. They will be considered.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

From: Dennis Poulin [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 7:53 PM
To: Board
Subject: District 300 Budget Cuts

I am contacting you regarding your proposed budget cuts for District 300. I think eliminating the kindergarten physical education program and music program is a HUGE mistake! My oldest just started kindergarten at Westfield this year and loves both classes. The teachers for these 2 classes have made a huge impact on my [REDACTED]. And next year, I will have 2 more children entering into kindergarten at Westfield After looking through the proposed budget cuts - one huge one I see is cutting food and refreshments from meetings by 75% - just by doing this you say that it will save the district over \$40,000 - why not cut this completely? When I was in the work force, when cuts were made it was regarding work parties and food that was supplied for the staff. Staff just brought in their own food when and if they wanted too. Why couldn't this be done? How could you cut out phys ed? When they have stated that over 75% of Americans are overweight? How can you cut music? I do not understand how it seems the first place that budget cuts are made has to affect our children's daily lives. There has to be another way.

I really hope that you reconsider these 2 cuts before voting on Feb 22nd. This is a vital part to our children's education and getting them involved in school.

Sincerely,

Dennis & Kim Poulin
 Parent of children attending Westfield Community
 [REDACTED]

Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 11:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Please don't ruin my dreams.

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Emily,

Good morning. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

At the School Board meeting this Monday, an important issue was clarified regarding the proposed cuts to high school courses such as this. In summary, the high school principals will do whatever they can to staff classes that have sufficient numbers of students signing up for them, across all subject areas. In other words, the proposal calls for 4.1 teaching positions to be cut (in total, district-wide) in the areas of art, CTE, and advanced foreign languages. The principals would reduce their total staff count for ALL subjects based on the level of student interest in each course. If they can keep all advanced languages classes, they will. If they can keep all art classes, they will. If they can keep all CTE classes, they will. The final decision would likely rest on whether enough students signed up for the courses. If plenty of students do sign up, then the principals would focus on other courses that received little student interest.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and feedback with the Board. They will be considered.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

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From: emily o'neill [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 6:22 PM
To: Board
Subject: Please don't ruin my dreams.

Hello,

My name is Emily O'Neill. I am a junior at HDJ. When I grow up, I want to teach art; I plan on going to college to get my degree in k-12 art education. I hope to go to SAIC or any other art institute in the nation. Today, January 31, I reviewed the recommended budget cuts. I was very upset about what the board has chosen to cut. Especially the art. The art teachers at Jacobs High School are fantastic people. Each and every one of the art teachers have inspire me to do well and they all have help me in many ways. So far in my art education I have taken Art Fund, Jewelry 1 and 2, ceramics and computer art. I plan on taking AP art next year along with drawing, painting, independent study for Jewelry, and Ceramics 2. If you fire the art teachers at HDJ, I cannot achieve my dream. I need these classes for my future. I need this experience. I need these scholarships. I need to achieve my dreams. Please don't kill my dream. [REDACTED] is probably one of the best teachers I've ever had. She has helped me in many ways. I have made great pieces of art in her class, some of which were put in different art shows. [REDACTED] inspires me in many ways. She is very talented. [REDACTED] is the ceramics teacher. She too inspires me and helps every student out. She has a 1 on 1 relationship with every

student. [REDACTED] whom i haven't experienced yet, is also a wonderful teacher. All of my friends have had a class with her^{P7} and they all say she is the best. [REDACTED] also has a 1 on 1 relationship with every student. Every teacher at HDJ is fantastic, well the art teachers that is. If you don't believe me, look at their work. Look at their students work. HDJ has produced amazing artists who will go far in life with their talent. Look at their art. Go to the HDJ save the art page on Facebook and look at the art. I'm amazed by it, my parents are amazed by it, everyone is amazed by it. Go to the art shows. Just look at what young people can produce in just a couple weeks, even days. All of these kids have extreme talent. Why would you want to take that away from them?

Thank you for your time,
Please take what I said into consideration.

Art is my life.

Sincerely,
Emily O'Neill

Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 11:57 AM
To: 'Audrey Minogue'
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Our Future

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Audrey,

Good morning. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

At the School Board meeting this Monday, an important issue was clarified regarding the proposed cuts to high school courses such as this. In summary, the high school principals will do whatever they can to staff classes that have sufficient numbers of students signing up for them, across all subject areas. In other words, the proposal calls for 4,1 teaching positions to be cut (in total, district-wide) in the areas of art, CTE, and advanced foreign languages. The principals would reduce their total staff count for ALL subjects based on the level of student interest in each course. If they can keep all advanced languages classes, they will. If they can keep all art classes, they will. If they can keep all CTE classes, they will. The final decision would likely rest on whether enough students signed up for the courses. If plenty of students do sign up, then the principals would focus on other courses that received little student interest.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and feedback with the Board. They will be considered.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

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From: Audrey Minogue [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 7:04 PM
To: Board
Subject: Our Future

To whom it may concern,

I am a graduating senior this year, so this budget cut does not directly affect me. I am one person, one voice, so I have very little power in this decision.

However, I feel I must do something, say something, to persuade the board to see this issue the way my peers and I do: Cutting the D300 arts programs will prove ignorance.

Why is it when the district considers budget cuts, the arts are the first considered? Because the board believes that it is important but not "necessary"?

The arts, whether that be music, painting, or acting, invigorate students' minds and permit expressive opportunity. In this age, where responsive sadness and stressful student lives exist, art allows us to experience a productive outlet. If the board cuts these programs, the district will experience a decline in creative drive and

moral imagination, in core classes too. With out the arts, eventually we will have nothing to motivate us, and nothing to read or write about.

Truthfully,
Audrey Lillian Minogue
Senior of Harry D. Jacobs
Vice President of Jacobs Drama Club

My address is 

Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Comments on Proposed Budget Cuts

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Mr. Clark,

Good afternoon. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

We work extremely aggressively to collect unpaid fees from families who owe. If you have a concern about the law which we must strictly follow in being able to verify only a random 3% of those who apply for free/reduced lunch status, we urge you to take this concern to your elected federal representatives. We don't care for this law in terms of its potential for abuse by some families. But it is the law, and we can't break it. If you have a concern about a particular family who you believe is committing fraud in reporting its income to D300, you can "blow the whistle" by calling the U.S. Department of Agriculture's fraud hotline: 800-424-9121.

As for the food purchases, please note that the food is often for student events, parent meetings, and community events as well as staff meetings. But your suggestion to cut it altogether is duly noted.

RE: Drivers' Ed. It's entirely possible that D300 could face the horror of cutting an additional \$18 million a year from now – if the state leaders choose to cut education funding by 50% to balance the state budget, as some have proposed. If that occurs, you can be assured we would seriously consider whether to continue programs/operations that are state mandated but not state funded, such as: transportation, certain preschool programs, our Oak Ridge alternative school that keeps students in a structured educational setting rather than expelling them to roam the streets, etc.

You mentioned, *"It is unacceptable and unfair to ask employees to take pay freezes and furlough days and then ask them to pay a larger share of their health insurance premiums."* Respectfully, I would encourage you to read the comments on our website from community members who have strongly demanded the Board to freeze/cut D300 employees' pay and also to reduce their benefits. From many community members' perspective, a pay freeze/cut and reduction of benefits is a reasonable and appropriate response to the recession, especially with so many of D300 taxpayers in the private sector having to do the same thing. Please keep in mind the great pressure that the School Board is under to be sensitive to the plight faced by the private sector in our area since we are funded by those very same taxpayers.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and feedback with the Board. They will be considered.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

From: Dale Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 6:56 PM
To: Board
Subject: Fw: Comments on Proposed Budget Cuts

To whom it may concern,


I have read over your proposed budget cuts and have several comments regarding them. First of all, I would like to say that I understand the reasons for having to make these cuts necessary. We have lived in this school district and both of our children graduated from district 300 schools. We have also supported the many referendums that have been passed over the years, regardless of how they caused our taxes to be raised. Here are my comments:

1. Salary Freeze - Great idea if it is applied across the board to "ALL" district employees, including administration and teachers, without exception. Anything that does not apply to all employees is unacceptable. Any bonus money must also be frozen.
2. Furlough days - Again, a good solution to avoid layoffs, but again it must be applied to all district employees. I know that you cannot ask teachers to take furlough days during the school year, but as most teachers are on the 12 month pay plan, their furlough days can be deducted during the summer non-school days. Again, all or none here. Everyone must make sacrifices together.
3. Eliminate overtime - Excellent suggestion. Companies all over the country have eliminated overtime to avoid layoffs. These cuts should also include teacher "extra pay". Extra pay for "Bus Duty" is double dipping as the teachers perform this task during their normal work hours. Cut out extra pay during this budget crunch and re-look at after things get back on track.
4. Drivers Education - Not only should you not buy a new vehicle, but if the state is not going to pay their fair share you should cancel this program entirely. There are private drivers education companies in this area and even more would start up if the high schools do not offer this to their students. You would also save a lot of money in not having to pay teachers extra pay for teaching drivers education.
5. Cut sports programs or make them privately funded. I realize that the March 2006 referendum protected the sports programs for at least 5 years, but that was based on the assumption that the State of Illinois would continue to pay their fair share of funding to school districts across the state. If the state does not pay, then all bets are off. It is impossible for me to believe that anyone on the school board can condone cutting classroom teachers and keeping sports programs alive. Bad trade !!!
6. 75% cut in food and refreshments for meetings - Great idea, but not enough. Cut out refreshments 100% and let people bring their own. Businesses around the country did this years ago to cut costs.
7. Direct deposit of paychecks and electronic W-2 forms - Great idea. Should have been done years ago. Welcome to the 21st century.
8. Eliminate perks like Administrative gas allowances, mileage payments, etc. You can re-look at these when the district is back in the black.
9. Collect unpaid fees from families that do not have their fees waived and/or on free or reduced lunch. I know there are a lot of fees owed to the district right now. Also, find a way to verify need before approving fee waivers and / or free lunches. (The 3 % rule is unacceptable. People are ripping off the taxpayers of this district).
10. There are many "One on One" aides in the district because the parents do not want their children put in special needs classrooms, even when the student has an "IDP" that concludes they should be in a special needs classroom with a teacher trained to teach these students. You should not let parents bully you into putting their children in regular classrooms when you have classes designed to handle their special needs. This is budget money spent that could be used for other necessary district needs.
11. Do not wait for the 2010 - 2011 school year to cut the budget. Start making cuts now. Look at the individual school budgets and eliminate expenditures for items not required this school year. You can start saving money now.
12. Increasing health insurance premiums for employees - It is unacceptable and unfair to ask employees to take pay freezes and furlough days and then ask them to pay a larger share of their health insurance premiums. 7 furlough days is about a 2.7% pay cut and a pay freeze adds to this cut in salary. Increased insurance premiums will only create more hardship.

Finally, budget cuts are never easy and any reasonable person knows that sacrifices will have to be made to keep the educational standards in place during these tough economic times. Lets just make sure that the cuts are fair across the board and that our elected officials in Springfield will make the promised funds available soon. P12

Thanks for listening. I know that you have a hard job to do and I believe that you do a good job in a very tough situation.

Best Regards,

Dale Clark


Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 3:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: 2010 budget

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Ms. Hodges,

Good afternoon. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

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From: Amy Hodges [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 9:07 AM
To: Board
Subject: 2010 budget

Dear Board Members,

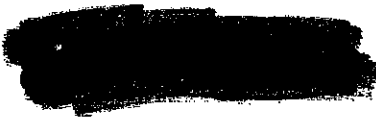
I am concerned about this portion of the proposed budget:

| | |
|---|--|
| Reduce long-term substitute teacher rates | Currently, D300 long-term substitutes are paid what a first-year new teacher makes per day (\$208). The recommendation is to reduce the rate to \$108/day. |
|---|--|

As a parent, I am concerned about the impact this will have on select classes. A long-term substitute needs to function as a partner with the regular teacher to ensure that students continue their learning progress during their extended absence. This requires additional time and effort on the part of the substitute, for which needs to be compensated. As a current substitute, I am also concerned about the impact this has on jobs plus potential earnings. When a substitute comes in for a day or two, plans are completed by the teacher. The substitute is finished shortly after students leave for the day. The reality for long-term substitute is different. They need to plan lessons, prepare for next day and complete administrative tasks normally done by the teacher. A long-term substitute teacher does function as a teacher and therefore should be paid as such.

I recognize that this may be an "easy" cut since it does not require approval from the unions; however, I feel strongly that it will negatively impact D300 students. Please reconsider this cut or at least reconsider the amount of the reduction in pay.

Thank you,
Amy Hodges



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Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 8:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Response from State Senator

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Ms. Maulson,

On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your email for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for your support before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

Regarding State Senator Lauzen: It is one thing for someone to be "sympathetic" to the impact of the state's bankruptcy on our students. It is another thing altogether for our state leaders to actually take urgent action and produce a viable, long-term solution to their revenue/budget crisis – not next year, or the year after, or the decade after, but NOW. I am curious; what did Senator Lauzen tell you about whether the state will pay D300 what it is owed this year? Did he indicate what the General Assembly is doing to ensure that education funding isn't cut 50% next year as some have proposed? If that did occur, D300 would be looking at cutting another \$18 million from our 2011-2012 budget this time next year. That would decimate programs and services far, far more than we're already facing for this next school year. Please let us know any additional information you found out in your discussion.

Thank you so much for contacting your state legislators. We set the date for our annual Legislative Update meeting based on all of the local legislators telling us they would be available to attend February 1. Some cancelled a couple of days before the meeting, noting that they were busy with their re-election campaigns. We strongly urged them all to please reconsider and make time for us. We noted that several parents had rearranged their schedules (even taking off of work or getting babysitters) and would be disappointed not to see them at the meeting. I am so glad that, with your support, we were able to secure more interest from and attendance by the legislators than we would have otherwise. Thanks again.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

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From: APRIL MAULSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 4:31 PM
To: Board
Subject: Response from State Senator

All,

Thought you would also like to know that Christopher Lauzen (R) Illinois State Senator for Dist. 25R called me to personally respond to the below email I sent him. He was very sympathetic to my plea for action and accountability from our state government. Further, he said that it was my email that made him decide to drive the hour each way to attend the meeting this past Monday night.

April D. Maulson

From: APRIL MAULSON
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 5:03 PM
To: 'chrislauzen@lauzen.com'
Subject: D300 Purposed Budget Cuts for School Year 2010/2011

Honorable Christopher Lauzen:

Due to the state of Illinois owing school district 300 \$6 million and counting with no state solution in sight; our school district is proposing to cut their budget by \$6.4 million in an effort to maintain a balanced budget. Following are some of the proposed cuts:

Eliminate overtime: Employees would receive compensatory time instead of being paid overtime. Savings of \$150,000

Aramark provides all lunchroom supervision at all D300 schools: Currently, D300 pays Aramark to provide lunchroom supervision in all of our elementary schools except Hampshire Elementary. We have been paying D300 teachers/staff a more costly stipend to do this work in our secondary schools and Hampshire Elementary. However, some school administrators are concerned that Aramark workers won't have the necessary relationships with our students, especially teen students, to supervise the crowds as effectively as school staff can do now. Savings of \$270,000

Eliminate kindergarten music: Kindergarten music is taught 40 minutes per week these teachers work in multiple schools. This recommendation will eliminate 1.6 teaching positions. The resulting loss of planning time for general education kindergarten teachers would have to be addressed through negotiations. Savings of \$80,000

Eliminate kindergarten physical education: Kindergarten physical ed. is taught 40 minutes per week. These teachers work in multiple schools. This recommendation will eliminate 1.6 teaching positions. The resulting loss of planning time for general education kindergarten teachers would have to be addressed through negotiations. Savings of \$80,000

Reduce Career & Technical Education (CTE) staff and supplies: The reduction of 1.5 CTE teaching positions will result in a quarterly loss of 15 courses that could be offered. The resulting estimated loss of \$40,000 for tuition to Elgin Community College will require parents to pay their students' tuition. Limiting CTE supplies, purchased services, and equipment maintenance may compromise the quality of the program. \$214,261

Reduce counseling staff: The reduction of 3 counselors will increase caseloads as well as reduce time available for organizing evening activities and implementation of AVID / RtI / PBIS. It will also reduce the counselors' ability to provide guidance lessons and small-group counseling to students. Savings of \$159,000

Reduce special education support staff: The reduction 3 special education support staff positions will impact the timely completion of case study evaluations, the implementation of RtI /PBIS, and daily crisis management. Savings of \$251,000

Reduce media staff and supplies: A reduction of 1.2 media teachers would mean no release time for kindergarten classroom teachers for library services. Students would still be able to check out books. Loss of paraeducator hours (from 8 hours to 6.5 at the elementary level) would mean less help in the media centers. Fewer supplies will mean fewer books ordered annually and other supply limitations. Savings of \$164,829

Adjust temperature setting in all buildings by 2 degrees: Narrowing all buildings' automated temperature 2 degrees will lead to a less comfortable learning and working environment. Savings of \$418,124

Reduce long-term substitute teacher rates: Currently, D300 long-term substitutes are paid what a first-year new teacher makes per day (\$208). The recommendation is to reduce the rate to \$108/day. Savings of \$429,785

Do not fill the Gilberts Elem. Assistant Principal position: Gilberts Elementary currently exceeds the District's parameters (including enrollment size, student needs, and program offerings such as preschool) for creating an Assistant Principal position. Gilberts is expected to grow by more than 60 additional students in 2010-2011. D300 established the parameters for adding an Assistant Principal to ensure that larger, more dynamic schools can continue to run efficiently and effectively. The 2010-2011 budget had included adding an assistant to Gilberts, but the recommendation is not to do so. Savings of \$100,000

Do not fill the Hampshire High divisional position: The current model of gifted education in D300 costs \$496,810 a year. The recommended restructuring of the program will actually cost \$272,995 less, which still allows \$223,822 for the new and improved program. Under the new structure, gifted students in grades 3-5 identified for the program will receive special daily services (30 minutes/day) that will be provided during the RtI time. Where there are enough students (3-4 per classroom), they will be clustered in one grade-level classroom to receive services for higher-level thinking skills provided directly by the classroom teacher during the regular school day. Training and curriculum materials will be purchased to support the new program. Savings of \$272,995

Eliminate one literacy leader position: This reduction would impact professional development for teachers at all grade levels and support for struggling readers. It will decrease membership on several D300 committees. It will also reduce support to RtI initiatives. Savings of \$71,225

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Restructure summer school program: This would decrease transportation for summer school among other changes. Savings of \$20,000

And to make matter worse there are more cuts planned for the 2011/2012 year as well.

The above proposals are programs and services that CANNOT be cut! Our children's future's are at stake. We pay our taxes; we keep a roof over our children's heads, clothes on their backs and food in their stomachs. We barely see our children because both parents (are lucky enough to) have jobs. We do not have to depend on unemployment, food stamps, Medicare or any other government hand-out. We pay our bills, we sacrifice every day. We send our children to school, so that they can receive a good education with the hope that they will have a better future than we, their parents can provide them. And now the state of Illinois refuses to pay its bills. The state owes our school money – bottom line – yet our school is cutting funding and services from programs our children need. Programs and services that we, the tax payers, have already paid for. All because the state refuses to cut their budget?!?

CUT YOUR BUDGET! GIVE US THE MONEY OWED TO US! WE REFUSE TO HAVE OUR CHILDREN SUFFER BECAUSE OF YOUR GREED AND MISMANAGEMENT! I AM SCREAMING FROM THE ROOF TOPS AND I WILL BE HEARD! WE DEMAND ACTION NOW!!!! IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR AND I AM A REGISTERED VOTER. WE THE PEOPLE DO HAVE POWER – OUR VOICES!

April D. Maulson

Please save trees. Print only when necessary.

E-MAIL CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: Illinois has a very broad public records law. Most written communications (including email) to or from school district officials and staff are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 11:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: Divisionals

Categories: Yellow Category

Good morning. On behalf of the District 300 Board of Education, I wanted to assure you that the Board members have received your feedback for their consideration on the proposed budget cuts to deal with the state's massive fiscal crisis. Thank you for sharing your thoughts before the Board makes its decision on Feb. 22, 2010.

The vast majority of D300 high school division heads are part-time administrators. On top of their divisional duties, all but three D300 divisionals either teach or fill a position that is normally filled by a certified teacher, which may including some teaching – such as in the Jacobs tutoring center.

The PE/Health/Driver's Education divisional is shared between all three D300 high schools. The special education divisional head where you teach (Jacobs) and the one at Dundee-Crown do not teach, but instead they are in charge of a very large staff group and support the IEP's of several hundred special needs students. For example, the Jacobs special education divisional oversees the programming and effectiveness of 27 teachers and 38 paraprofessionals. In addition to their duties as division heads, all other Jacobs divisionals either teach a course or have an assignment that is normally filled by a full-time certified teacher. None of the Jacobs divisionals has a conference block off.

The following is a *partial* list of Chicagoland districts that employ high school division heads as well as deans/assistant principals & principals to support student success, just as we do here in D300:

- Crystal Lake D155
- Arlington Heights-based D214
- Lyons Township High School
- Winnetka D36
- North Shore D113
- Elgin U-46
- DeKalb School District 428
- Lake Zurich High School
- Grayslake D46
- Harvard High School
- Oak Park and River Forest High School
- Stevenson District 125

The employment of division heads represented a major change of practice in D300 high schools. As with any culture change, the transition is not always comfortable for all colleagues. But the Board is acutely aware that the achievement of our high school students must improve. Division heads are content-experts dedicated to supporting both effective instruction and teacher accountability. The community has told the Board that there needs to be more of *both*, to help ensure our high school students are ready for college and work. Division heads partner with teachers to help produce the best possible outcome for students, which is everyone's goal.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and feedback with the Board. They will be considered.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

From: dave15wa [mailto:dave15wa@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2010 4:39 PM
To: Board
Subject: Divisionals

After reading numerous [REDACTED] regarding the division heads, I question the accuracy [REDACTED]. Numerous times [REDACTED] has stated that division heads are both teachers and administrators and there would be an added expense to hire teachers if the division heads did not teach. At Jacobs High School, there are currently 8 division heads. Only the English, Social Studies and Foreign Language Heads actually teach for 1 Block a day. Two division heads have no teaching responsibilities at all. One division head supervises the media center for one block while two others share a Tutoring Center supervision for 1 block. Please give the public the correct facts. On March 11, 2009, I questioned the hiring of division heads. [REDACTED] responded to my email at that time and told me that they were "hybrid" positions-part teacher, part administrator. At that time I replied and told [REDACTED] that the Special Education Division Head at Jacobs was a full time administrator. [REDACTED] did not respond to my email. Jacobs has 16 administrators for 2,400 students, the only other high school I could find that had that many administrators was Stevenson High which has 4,800 students. In a time of financial crisis, is this a necessary expense?

Paula Anderson
D300 Teacher
D300 Taxpayer

Strupeck, Allison

From: Strupeck, Allison
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 6:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Board
Subject: RE: D300 Purposed Budget Cuts for School Year 2010/2011

Categories: Yellow Category

Thank you. His reply was extremely disheartening, to say the least. It is also borderline misleading. By law, we can't spend construction funding on general educational purposes. The issue of construction reimbursement has NOTHING to do with the \$5.8 million the state currently owes us for transportation, special education, and other categorical expenses. Construction money also have nothing to do with the proposal by some politicians to cut GENERAL education funding by 50 percent next year. That would mean D300 having to cut roughly another \$1.8 million a year from now.

Back to construction: Ask him to tell you where the funding is going to come from to pay districts like ours who applied in 2004 or after for reimbursement of our classroom construction projects. Just because they put us on a "list" to reimburse us for the new classrooms we've built doesn't mean they have the money to do so.

Absolutely, we can live within our budget. We have balanced our budget for 3 years, and we will do so again in 2010-2011 – thus the cuts we're working to make now. Can the state say the same? Hardly. They are billions of dollars in debt and bankrupt. We need a long-term viable solution to the state budget process, or D300 will be in much worse shape a year from now. The people must demand an overhaul of the state system or it's only going to get worse and worse.

Allison Strupeck
D300 Supervisor of Communication Services

From: Arndt, Kenneth
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 9:41 PM
To: Strupeck, Allison
Subject: FW: D300 Purposed Budget Cuts for School Year 2010/2011

From: APRIL MAULSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 4:17 PM
To: Board
Subject: FW: D300 Purposed Budget Cuts for School Year 2010/2011

All,

I thought you might like to know what Michael Tryon (R), Illinois State Representative for Dist. 64R had to say in response to the email I sent him.

April D. Maulson
 [REDACTED]

From: Mike Tryon [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 4:15 PM
To: APRIL MAULSON
Subject: RE: D300 Purposed Budget Cuts for School Year 2010/2011

Dear Ms. Maulson:

I am in receipt of your recent email regarding the plight of District 300. Because the capital plan passed, District 300 is on the list to receive their construction monies for the newest school. Did you know that the state has given the schools more money every single year including \$400M last year? Each District has to manage their funds to the best of their ability including programmatic and contractually. Because of the State's dire fiscal condition right now, I don't believe the schools can rely on a continued increased funding source. We are all going to have to work together to solve this problem.

I appreciate your input and for taking the time to share your concerns with me. If I may be of further assistance to you, please contact me.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL W. TRYON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
64TH DISTRICT

1 N. VIRGINIA STREET
CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS 60014
815-459-MIKE (6453)
815-455-8284 FAX



From: APRIL MAULSON [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 9:09 AM
To: mike@miketryon.com
Subject: D300 Purposed Budget Cuts for School Year 2010/2011

Honorable Michael Tryon:

Due to the state of Illinois owing school district 300 \$6 million and counting with no state solution in sight; our school district is proposing to cut their budget by \$6.4 million in an effort to maintain a balanced budget. Following are some of the proposed cuts:

Eliminate overtime: Employees would receive compensatory time instead of being paid overtime. Savings of \$150,000

Aramark provides all lunchroom supervision at all D300 schools: Currently, D300 pays Aramark to provide lunchroom supervision in all of our elementary schools except Hampshire Elementary. We have been paying D300 teachers/staff a more costly stipend to do this work in our secondary schools and Hampshire Elementary. However, some school administrators are concerned that Aramark workers won't have the necessary relationships with our students, especially teen students, to supervise the crowds as effectively as school staff can do now. Savings of \$270,000

Eliminate kindergarten music: Kindergarten music is taught 40 minutes per week these teachers work in multiple schools. This recommendation will eliminate 1.6 teaching positions. The resulting loss of planning time for general education kindergarten teachers would have to be addressed through negotiations. Savings of \$80,000

Eliminate kindergarten physical education: Kindergarten physical ed. is taught 40 minutes per week. These teachers work in multiple schools. This recommendation will eliminate 1.6 teaching positions. The resulting loss of planning time for general education kindergarten teachers would have to be addressed through negotiations. Savings of \$80,000

Reduce Career & Technical Education (CTE) staff and supplies: The reduction of 1.5 CTE teaching positions will result in a quarterly loss of 15 courses that could be offered. The resulting estimated loss of \$40,000 for tuition to Elgin

Community College will require parents to pay their students' tuition. Limiting CTE supplies, purchased services, and equipment maintenance may compromise the quality of the program. \$214,261

Reduce counseling staff: The reduction of 3 counselors will increase caseloads as well as reduce time available for organizing evening activities and implementation of AVID / Rtl / PBIS. It will also reduce the counselors' ability to provide guidance lessons and small-group counseling to students. Savings of \$159,000

Reduce special education support staff: The reduction 3 special education support staff positions will impact the timely completion of case study evaluations, the implementation of Rtl /PBIS, and daily crisis management. Savings of \$251,000

Reduce media staff and supplies: A reduction of 1.2 media teachers would mean no release time for kindergarten classroom teachers for library services. Students would still be able to check out books. Loss of paraeducator hours (from 8 hours to 6.5 at the elementary level) would mean less help in the media centers. Fewer supplies will mean fewer books ordered annually and other supply limitations. Savings of \$164,829

Adjust temperature setting in all buildings by 2 degrees: Narrowing all buildings' automated temperature 2 degrees will lead to a less comfortable learning and working environment. Savings of \$418,124

Reduce long-term substitute teacher rates: Currently, D300 long-term substitutes are paid what a first-year new teacher makes per day (\$208). The recommendation is to reduce the rate to \$108/day. Savings of \$429,785

Do not fill the Gilberts Elem. Assistant Principal position: Gilberts Elementary currently exceeds the District's parameters (including enrollment size, student needs, and program offerings such as preschool) for creating an Assistant Principal position. Gilberts is expected to grow by more than 60 additional students in 2010-2011. D300 established the parameters for adding an Assistant Principal to ensure that larger, more dynamic schools can continue to run efficiently and effectively. The 2010-2011 budget had included adding an assistant to Gilberts, but the recommendation is not to do so. Savings of \$100,000

Do not fill the Hampshire High divisional position: The current model of gifted education in D300 costs \$496,810 a year. The recommended restructuring of the program will actually cost \$272,995 less, which still allows \$223,822 for the new and improved program. Under the new structure, gifted students in grades 3-5 identified for the program will receive special daily services (30 minutes/day) that will be provided during the Rtl time. Where there are enough students (3-4 per classroom), they will be clustered in one grade-level classroom to receive services for higher-level thinking skills provided directly by the classroom teacher during the regular school day. Training and curriculum materials will be purchased to support the new program. Savings of \$272,995

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