

## **BOE Budget Forum #3**

### **Input from Participants**

*Main District Library Conference Room 4/16/13*

*Attendance ~50*

*Compiled by Deb Mexicotte*

#### **Input from participants (not verbatim, but as scribed for content and spirit):**

- What are the impacts of Robert Allen leaving and the subsequent proposed reorganization of Balas? **(Administrative Reorganization)**
- Concerned about Superintendent longevity and a commitment to local candidates. **(Supt. Longevity, Local Candidates)**
- How much will the search cost? **(Search Cost)**
- Worried about Superintendent longevity and what the history of Superintendents in the district is traditionally versus now. **(Supt. Longevity)**
- Longevity important, as is the support of our educators. The media savaging, Board priorities and alienation of teachers and administrators are problems. **(Supt. Longevity, Teacher Support, Media, Board Priorities, Teacher/Admin Morale)**
- Frustrated with the Budget, Roberto Clemente. It may be too late to enact fundamental changes. **(Budget, Roberto Clemente, Fundamental Change)**
- 1 mil cut for Reading Intervention Specialists - this is not being talked about. What happens if this cut is implemented? **(Reading Intervention Specialists)**

- Principal sharing, concerned about its thoughtful implementation. **(Principal Sharing)**
- Athletics, staff was told to cut a million dollars in just a few days, bad practice. Maybe need to get Ross School to do analysis for sustainability through MAP program. Creation of an athletics business plan. Why not athletics in the strategic plan? **(Building Budget Pressure, University Consulting, Athletics)**
- Lansing school district cutting arts, athletics and expecting classroom teachers to implement. Are we considering that here? **( Extracurricular Cuts)**
- Have we done benchmarking of salaries, esp. teachers statewide, or other districts? We can't simply keep reducing salaries and keep up recruiting good people. **(Teacher Support, Quality Staff, Benchmarking)**
- Length of contract, why is it a 5 year contract if people leave anyway. What are we doing about succession planning, considering the revolving door? **(Supt. Longvity, Succession Planning)**
- Equity among students in the district, concern about Pioneer, the Roberto Clement move and large class sizes. **(Building Equity, Pioneer Overcrowding, Roberto Clemente Move, Class Size)**
- Should focus on Revenue, things under our control. In fundraising, it may be a lack of vision holding us back. Maybe focus on Arts or Science. Use Development at UM for advisory services. Should work to keep more funds here rather than exporting taxes. Have building operations fund set up at Foundation, or another specific thing. Need a stronger policy on fundraising. **(Revenue, Fundraising, University Consulting, Targeted Giving, Fundraising Policy))**
- Have we considered other administration models, not principals but head teachers? **(Alternate Building Administration Models)**
- Need alternative schools like Roberto and Community. Cut bureaucratic jobs. **(Alternative Schools, Decrease Administration)**

- Should we look to other economic models, barter economies? Reframe non-financial participation; create easy ways community can participate. **(Alternate Economic Funding Models, Volunteers, Community Involvement)**
- Do not move Roberto Clement to Pioneer – it is already too crowded with Rec and Ed there. This population needs to go someplace else. **(Roberto Clemente, Move to Pioneer, Pioneer Overcrowding)**
- There is a lack of targeted giving. **(Targeted Giving)**
- Need to address PR aspect of the issue – in the past there was waste. Is there still waste in the system? **(Marketing, Waste/Efficiencies)**
- Class size needs to be smaller, end NWEA – what does that cost? (follow-up completed). **(Class Size, NWEA)**
- Need the ability, like in business, to identify fixed and incremental costs. 7<sup>th</sup> hour is an example of an apparent fixed cost with far reaching auxiliary costs. Need to encourage dual enrollment possibilities. **(Understanding Real Costs, Dual Enrollment)**
- How can we do better long term planning. Can we coordinate budget planning with other districts? **(Long-Term Budget Planning)**
- Important that Roberto Clemente and A2Tech be independent programs. **(Alternative Programs Separate)**
- Asked about moving deficit number and the Quad A list of cuts – are they being considered? **(Budget Detail, Quad A List)**
- Keep class sizes down, and to do that principal sharing might be okay. **(Class Sizes, Principal Sharing Okay)**
- Does there have to be a Superintendent? Can't we just distribute those duties to the administration and the Board? **(Superintendent, Administrative Reorganization)**

- Media Centers – libraries are already closed at times during the school day. Our new tech staff won't work or be inaccessible. No tech teachers in elementary schools. **(Media Specialists)**
- High School students learn in different ways, so alternative settings are important. Open High Schools up during redistricting. **(Alternative Schools, Redistricting, Cross Campus Enrollment)**
- If we pay the next Superintendent less they might be working for the job not the money. **Supt. Compensation)**
- The Board needs to make a clear statement that these cuts are not acceptable – they haven't done that. Maybe have a posted one page statement to the public about this. **(Financial Crisis Statement from BOE)**
- Transportation, parents aren't really informed about what the cuts and the move to the WISD has meant. Everyone is starting to feel the cuts, loss of stable caring staff and good drivers. **(Transportation, Better Budget Cut Communication, Staff Quality)**