

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

It is very important to continue to offer kids with advanced abilities the opportunity to develop their abilities. Also it is vital to offer those students who are falling behind and need special services those opportunities. We must fund the classrooms and our kids' educations first.

AP classes are a requirement, not an enhanced offering, for the brightest and most motivated students in Camas to get into competitive colleges. I would not equate AP classes to other "enhanced offerings" such as library services or elementary music.

Unfortunately, parents at different stages of their child's career will see different priorities so each parent comes into this survey with their own biases. Coming from an elementary school bias, the extra activities and class size in my mind are the most critical aspects of keeping these kids competitive in this world and giving them the best opportunities to succeed. I think Parents of elementary school kids would be happy to contribute time to safety and supervision or other things that could be done with volunteer time, in order to keep the kids with PE, Music, and Library. These are three things that have enhanced my kids' school life immensely. I am sure administration and professional development is important, but it is almost invisible to most parents, so it is difficult for them to judge where they should be on the list. I would rather drive my kids to school each day, and man the playground a couple of times a month, than not have the opportunity to watch them grow and perform at the school music events, or read a book they heard about from the Librarian.

As a parent of a high school student and middle school (soon to be high school) student, I know the importance of maintaining extra-curricular activities and sports. These are one of the main things that keeps kids more involved in their education and more interested in school! They really enhance their educational experience and make them well-rounded students. I would rather see a charge for these activities rather than have them eliminated or reduced.

I am all for Professional Development; however, maybe for go it the next two years.

It is important at the high school level, obviously, that students are able to complete courses required for graduation and not find in their junior and senior years that the courses they need are not available or don't fit into their schedules. In addition, course work must be available, at least to fill minimum requirements, for college admission. It isn't necessary to offer AP classes in every subject or 4th year language classes, for example, in times of budget shortfalls. However, some upper level coursework, such as

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

in math and science should be maintained if our kids are going to be able to compete in today's world.

I believe programs like the Magnet program at CHS are critical to the school board, our children and our community to provide future leadership in science and technology. If you reduce these classes or AP classes, you take away any growth potential our students have for college and careers. This is anti-education and should have the highest budget priority.

Nerland - thank you for setting a positive example and taking a pay cut..it would be an even more positive example if you started April 1st. Focus on teaching the basics during these times - math, sciences, english. Stop spending money on athletics over basic education.

You absolutely MUST put the health and well being of our students as a top priority! CSD has worked very hard to coordinate a team of health professionals with training above and beyond those of a mere classified employee. With the increased number of students attending school with life-threatening conditions such as diabetes, anaphylactic food allergies, and asthma to name a few it would seem counter productive and irresponsible to reduce trained personnel in each of our schools! Can Camas afford such a liability? NO! Is it fair to our students to neglect their health needs, and jeopardize their education? No! How could you even consider cut backs in providing health services to our children while they are in your care during the school day?

The Camas schools exist to educate students. Therefore, maximum resources should be placed on classroom resources and teachers. Time and time again we learn that one of the best things we can do for our students is to have a smaller class sizes, especially at the elementary level. Disclaimer - my spouse is an elementary teacher in the Camas SD, but I make this statement without any prejudice. It is fact. I object to the category of "special needs" as Special Ed, drug counseling and autism. Our brightest students also have "special needs" - they, who are our future leaders, should also have their own category for consideration. I have never lived in a school district that addresses their needs adequately. Please do not lose sight of these students. I have served on budget committees in other districts. I know it is possible and legal to steer certain funds from the capital bond to help make ends meet, i.e., to pay salaries related to the bond work out of the bond money. You should consider all options on this front. Joe Rakoski, parent

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

The concentration should be on getting children graduated and finishing school - through High School. Magnet programs effect a select few. Private resources can be used for this purpose. Class size, Safety, and Planning should be the most important issues.

Maintaining small class size and retaining teachers is the most important thing. Everything else could be put on hold until the financial situation turns around.

Academics/learning for the general school population should be the priority.

It seems that libraries are often one of the first items hit by budget cuts. Since a good part of our district covers a rural area, access the public library is difficult, if not almost impossible, for many of our children. School libraries and their staff provide the books, environment, and support to encourage continued development of reading skills. Hook a child on the love of reading and you will have a reader for life. Thank you

The need for para professionals in the classroom is necessary! Our students with special needs interrupt the regular teacher too much, causing the children that have no disabilities to be cheated out of an education they would receive should they not have these students in their class.

I absolutely believe that our number one priority is the classroom. We need to keep class sizes small and give teachers the tools they need to facilitate the development of our children. Other aspects are wonderful and important, but do not nearly hold the priority that the classroom does. I know that this is incredibly difficult for you. We all thank you so much for the work that you are providing and know that our "baby's" educations are in good hands.

1. pay to play for extra-curricular activities
2. marginally increase cost of season pass for sports
3. a small fee for bus usage
4. increase charge for use of sport fields
5. renegotiate with union in regard to bus drivers and para professions.
6. eliminate usage of bus within a 1 mile radius of schools

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

I am sure it must be frustrating to work on such a limited budget. Thank you for your service and commitment to our children. Our family ranked our priorities based solely on the information above. STUDENTS FIRST:

1. Regular classroom offerings and class size: Especially, at the elementary level!! Our teachers need the opportunity to establish a firm foundation of learning for our students and to evaluate the learning needs of students. Otherwise, we will have learning disabled students falling through the cracks at the elementary level and gifted children not being challenged. As you know, this leads to an increase in our drop out rate.
2. Enhanced Classroom Offerings, Services and course Variety: These course offerings allow the opportunity to reach some of the students we are neglecting within the regular classroom setting and it gives those students a place to succeed. Success builds success!
3. Support for children with Special Needs: This one is summed up easily. "Except for the Grace of God, there go I." What if it were your child?
4. Extra and Co-Curricular Programs: Once again, I am approaching this from the viewpoint of STUDENTS FIRST.
5. Nursing and Other Health Services: Could these needs be addressed through "floating positions"? Example: One nurse serves more than one campus.
6. Operations and Transportation: Would it be beneficial to go to full day kindergarten like so many other states have done? What about dropping "Wacky Wednesday" and having a district wide set schedule for all campuses? Buses run once in the am and once in the pm.
7. Safety and Supervision: I taught at the elementary level for many years. We had "teacher duty" in which we were periodically assigned to additional duties insuring the safety of our students.
8. Professional Development/Teacher Leadership: Can this be achieved by sending one to return and teach many?
9. Administration, Planning, and Management: Sorry, this is just the way it turned out when we focused on the needs of STUDENTS FIRST. We know you are in a very tough position and have to make some really hard decisions. Please know that you have our total support! Thank you for soliciting our input. It means a lot and shows that you care!  
God bless, The Stokes Family

Thanks for asking for our input. Equality between sports is also important, and funding should be more even between sports. Football should not receive special priorities. Also very important to maintain AP and Magnet programs or risk more funding being lost to Running Start or private schools.

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

As a parent of a special needs child, it is imperative that you maintain more of a 1 to 2 ratio, if ONLY for safety of the staff and students. If you increase that ratio (one to 2.5 is okay but 1 to 3 gets to be UNSAFE), you risk other children's safety and the quality of this district's education. I really think you need to reduce the number of kids who live OUTSIDE of the school district boundary from getting exemptions to attend Camas schools. That would help.

Cut all salaries by 30%. Sad to say, but many people are out of work and facing serious financial difficulties. The money has to come from somewhere.

I believe athletics is a vital part of education and would hate to see cuts in any of that area. The Magnet program is a great addition, but at this time could be a cost effective cut, since it only benefits few students.

I don't envy the decisions facing the district. I hope for the best possible outcome.

I think the cuts should start from the very top- Meaning that the superintendent and down should all take a paycut, that is what most big companies are doing, didn't you see that in the paper- look at the Oregonian for an example. The publisher and editor in chief are taking the highest pay cut of 15%. I think you could cut back in the main office admin staff look at ways you can cut out the waste. I am sure you have several office assistants that could do more if you shift the work loads around. How many administrators(not teaching staff) do you really need at the schools? Where is some of the waste there?? I just think that those areas should be looked at before we go and take from the kids. Do we really need early release Wed? Why don't they go full days on Wed and cut the year shorter? Or better yet why don't we have a four day week of school and go full day on Wed. Then think how much you could save by everyone working a four day week?? Wed's are a joke by the time they get to school, have lunch and recess it takes up half the time for learning. What do you really think they get accomplished in such a short amount of time. Really it would be like you going to work for an hour and a half. The next thing you know you have to leave to go home. It's pointless, something really should be changed for all this early release/late start I am most certain that this is time wasted- for staff members that you are paying them to use...So why don't you cut that out and just make the year shorter, or shorter weeks. I am sure there would be some savings there. Also, you would then have some savings of lights, electricity, utilities...I don't know there

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

are no easy answers to this dilemma but first and foremost it has to start at the top and then work it's way down. I think the Superintendent needs to take the lead on this one with a paycut an set an example to rest of the staff. Try to keep as many jobs as possible with out loosing the integrity of the whole school system.

I have a child in the magnet program. Such a wonderful program for him in challenging his mind. Please do not cut this program. Is there a way to maybe have each family of a magnet student contribute a certain amount of extra funds to keep this program going, maybe pay extra for the field trips anything to keep this program alive in our school district. This program is such an investment in our childrens future! Thank you, Elayne Barlas

i assume that most students would have support for their health needs elsewhere, which is why I rated that as a lower priority.

As the parent of a 6th grader we LOVE The team concept at Skyridge Middle School and would hate to see it go away. It has made middle-school a easy, low-stress place to go every day and is a great way to transition to high school. Please don't cut the TEAMS at middle schools!!

Camas should go to a 4 day week. It would save money on utilities and transportation. Kids need sports and extra curricular programs to keep them engaged and fit.

Teachers are the foundation for our childrens future. Classroom size and offerings of regular, needed classes are mandatory and the need for children with learning disabilities is much needed. The rest can be limited without great detriment to the children if you hire the most qualified people for the jobs of admin, planning and management. As for the extra-curricular programs sports and PE is a must. Our country is plagued with being the most obese country in the world. Phys. Ed has been on the chopping block for ever and statistics show that 40 mins of exercise daily not only helps the fight with obestiy but is proven to help children focus in the classroom resulting in better behavior as well as concentration equaling higher grade performance. I am all for cutting out "C" team anything. Its time to get back to basics and having children not make a team is not the end of the world. It actually is the "REAL" world. It teaches children that not everything is given to them and they must work and perform in order to succeed. It sounds harsh but it is how this world works. In addition, if we cannot find enough teachers to fill coaching positions or we do not have the funds to hire them why not see if qualified parents will

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

volunteer for the spot at least in the assistant coaching positions. It is also necessary to have drug and alcohol prevention in every level of education as it seems to be a major problem in our area let alone the entire country. It is mandatory in high schools across the country that athletes are required to agree to random drug testing. It is supported by law and legislation and should be by the Camas School district. It has been a well known fact that many athletes at the high school are either dealing or using as well as selling on campus to the student body. Its time to enforce the law and protect the children who are already subject to some horrible behavior outside of drugs at this level. Sorry about rambling. The children are important to me and I would like to see Camas rise above the pressures of parents who want to sweep their children's the problem under the rug rather than face it and rectify mistakes before it is too late.

These are certainly tough choices. Since music is currently the only "arts" program at the elementary level (other than occasional Artist in Residence programs funded by PTAs), it would be a shame if it were cut. Camas seems to invest a lot of money in sports. I'd like to see any money that is available for extracurricular activities (if any at this point!) more evenly divided among a range of activities that appeal to a variety of kids (i.e. music, art, theater, sports, etc.). Right now it seems imbalanced in favor of sports. We pay for music lessons for our kids--kids that do sports should have to pay for the cost of doing them too. This is not to say that sports aren't important, it is just that they shouldn't be prioritized over other activities. Camas should do away with bussing within the 1/2 mile walk zone and help neighborhoods find ways of encouraging walking (so that everyone doesn't just drive their kids to school!). Camas should do more to encourage an ethic of volunteerism in schools.

Please, do not change Kindergarten to every other day. It is like shooting ourselves in the foot. Honestly, kindergarten is where strong literacy foundations are built. This foundation follows each one of our students throughout their educational careers. The five year old attention span is limited to just a few hours of purposeful learning a day. The rest of the academic day will be kin to babysitting. To cut that valuable time to just two or three days a week will impact future test scores severely; think of the future. Camas school district will no longer be a leader in education with concepts and policies such as this. Furthermore, to hide this possible MAJOR change in policy under operations and transportation is a disgrace.

Mr. Nerland:

Thanks for taking the time to produce a well-written survey that nicely summarizes the

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

alternatives in your difficult decisions that affect how we used our limited budget. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

Best regards,

Craig Whittle

Good Luck!! I don't know how you prioritize these. Although I took a stab I firmly believe they are all important.

I am disappointed the Libraries are wrapped up with arts programs, etc. I would prefer they be listed separately so they can have a higher rating. If cuts are made to this class of items, the Libraries would be last to be cut. I am a firm believer in the lowest class size possible offering the greatest benefit to our children.

Our children's education is very important. Increasing classroom size and decreasing the course options would be detrimental to our children's learning environment. While extra-curricular activities are valuable and also help to shape our children's lives the focus does need to be on their primary education. Children cannot receive a proper education if their safety is compromised though, which is also another factor to be considered in budget cuts. While it already seems there is a constant stream of fundraising activities are there other options to explore that either produce more funds in one activity or additional fundraising activities that would help to offset the budget cuts?

Cuts must come first at the administrative level, and last at levels that affect the exposure of our kids to educational stimuli.

One suggestion is busing after an athletic/school event, both Vancouver and Evergreen school districts bus the kids only to the event and they have to get a ride home afterwards. From experience most kids ride home with their parents now and you only have a few kids left on the bus to go back to the HS.

The school district may have to ask for parent/community help to maintain some programs. Can we get parent volunteers to help with playground and library supervision. Can we raise the charge for afterschool sports and have families cover more of the cost? Can community members teach art and music classes as volunteers? With so many people out of work can we use their talents to our benefit and allow them to use the experience on their resumes?

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

I feel the district would be better served if the tax payers didn't have to babysit kids that are constantly in trouble and not at school to learn. It should be the parents responsibility to make sure their child behaves in school not the adminstration. My tax dollars are wasted on TR rooms and after school suspension. If a child chooses to be disrespectful and disruptive then they need to go home!

Empathy is given to special needs children, however, I am not sure a greater emphasis of the budget can be placed on the few, rather than the many.

I understand the hard decisions you will be making in the next few months. I do not envy any of you. I do wonder why the district chose to bus students to Helen Ballar from Sunnydale Gardens and Lake Pt. when they have a school (Grass Valley) in walking distance. It seems foolish to be spending the money to have buses coming through these neighborhoods when the kids could walk to school. And gas prices are on the rise once again. It seems like you are trying to please everyone, yet sometimes you just can't. I do not like the idea of Kindergarten being every-other-day. I believe children learn better by being taught everyday and not a little her this day and more two days later. I believe it is harder for them to retain their learning. And for the little ones even more so. Schooling everyday is much easier for them to learn the school process for the next year when they go everyday all day long. Kindergarteners need a great start for school, not one of hit and miss.

I came from a SD in Canada that opted to go to a full day JK and K program in 1994 due to budget cut-backs. Although alot of parents had concerns, it actually saved our school over \$50,000 in transportaion costs (gas, repairs, income) since over 90% of the children were bused. The budget savings to the entire schol District was almost \$1,000,000. (it was a very large SD) The teachers also felt the children were able to learn and retain more information with a longer day and fewer breaks. Working parents were able to adjust easier to daycare options with the full day program. For the few parents that feel their children are too young for a full day, our school also had Jr. K where some of the children were only 4 when school started. In Ontario, Canada you are NOT allowed to hold your child back. So any child here should easily adapt to the full day program since most of them are 6 when they start K.

Our priorities reflect having only HS students next year:

- 1-We would not like to see dramatically different class sizes.
- 2-We would not like to see the MS Magnet program or AP classes cut.
- 3-We would not like to see non-athletic extracurricular programs eliminated & would prefer to participate on a fee basis with donations encouraged to provide scholarships to

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

those would cannot afford the fees. Same for non-varsity athletic options. Remember that students who participate in these programs do better in school.

4-We would not like to see fewer health services than currently offered.

5-My children observed yesterday that their MS has fewer drug/alcohol/behavioral problems than the Vancouver MSs they are familiar with. That is a program that is not broken.

6-It seems we will need more planning and communication to get through this tough time period--not less. Any chance some tasks could be handled by volunteers? Many parents who spend a lot of time volunteering at the elementary level have time on their hands when their children reach secondary levels.

7-Since Magnet and AP classes are a priority for us, I would prefer to see minimal cuts in this area.

8-While this seems to apply primarily to elementary schools, reducing supervision of "free" time sounds like a recipe for disaster.

9-Changing the Kindergarten schedule & reducing bussing sound like reasonable changes. Buildings need to be maintained. Perhaps volunteers could be helpful with grounds?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I think priority should be given to a wide variety of classroom offerings, to class sizes and to extra/co-curricular programs. My lowest priority would be administrative costs. I'm sorry that we have to make these decisions. If this country didn't spend so much on military expenses and bank bailouts, we would have enough money.

My family and I love the idea and opportunities that the magnet program offers its students. However, we cannot justify the expense for such a small percentage of students, some of whom are involved in the program simply because it looks attractive on a college application and not for the academic and experiential potential it is providing.

As a parent and educator, I know athletics, music and extra-curriculars are the predominant reason some students stay in school. We support SPED students as well as Gifted, I would hope we can find ways to support the student who is not "exceptional" perhaps academically yet has other strengths and interests to offer the community.

Cut things that don't have a direct impact on students first. Cuts should come from the top down, not from down to up.

I consider Camas schools to be of high quality. I would hate to see that quality

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

compromised, particularly in the classroom, with budget cuts.

This information is mis-leading. Is safety really less important than professional development. In somecases yes and in some case no. Is transportation really important "no" However, you have wrapped in there putting the academic future of my kindergartner at risk by going to a few day a week kindergarten vs week long kindergarten.

Would like to see the Middle School Team concept as a priority

The cuts should come from the top down. Reduction in pay is preferable to loss of position.

I can understand less bussing in walk zones, but the all-day every other day Kindergarten makes no sense to me. I've never been supportive of all day Kindergarten, every other day does not help prepare them for all day every day, the schedule switching everyweek with holidays and snow days sounds confusing and difficult for parents (working, daycare etc.) If that hadn't been a component Operations and Transportaion would have got a 9 from me. Thank you for asking for input.

Like everyone, we are all going through cuts in our lives. I do think the biggest prority is keeping our staff and classes as low as possible. If we have to pay for outside activities I think this would be better than cutting staff. I know you have a hard job, I trust in the Camas school district to keep its edge

I'd really hope that instead of cutting sports positions, coaching positions that there is instead a pay to play option put in place, and better screening of coaches ESPECIALLY at the middle school level. Many middle school level positions could be volunteer instead of a stipend. Liberty especially has many moms dads that would volunteer for coaching, but there is no support from the athletic administrator there for that scenario. I would also suppose that a lot of parents would purchase uniforms for their student athletes at the secondary level as well, since they do it for club sports already. To cut bus costs for sporting activities, I would be willing to transport players home/back to hs, ms, because often there are very few players on the bus back home unless required. Just a few suggestions. Thanks for taking the time to ask for our opinions!

Schools need to educate, first the basics with quality and class-size realistic. Buses can be reduced and kids can walk to many schools from their home, saving operational

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

dollars in fuel & labor & maintenance. Safety needs to be maintained.

We should consider cutting first those areas that have least impact on student academic learning and achievement.

To help fill some non essential needs, a recruitment drive among parent volunteers for recess supervision and other positions.

If we need to reduce cost, we should start with additional programs besides our basic classes. Cutting nursing, health support and special education should not even be considered. A learning environment can do with the sports after school activities, music programs.

My daughter is in Kindergarten this year. I am truly amazed at how much is expected of them. The thought of every-other day/full day Kindergarten scares me. So much research shows how much more children retain in year round school. Many schools are going to 5 day a week FULL day Kindergarten, so only going 2 days during 1 week doesn't seem like they will gain much if anything. Has anyone asked the teachers what they think? I can't imagine this is in the best interest of anyone. I have another daughter who will be entering Kindergarten soon and will more than likely send her to a private school if this is one of the cuts. I believe alot of parents will feel this way and you need to think of the funding you will lose if this happens. Kindergarten is so very important I hope you reconsider this idea.

What a horrible set of choices; I don't envy those who have to make the final decisions. One thing that isn't on the table that should be is initiating fees for HS sports teams; if it is a matter of cutting non-sports programs (music, counseling, etc.) vs. initiating fees, I don't see how anyone can justify not initiating fees. Initiating fees for other extracurricular activities mentioned above (science Olympiad, music) should also be considered first in lieu of reductions/eliminations. If such programs are cut too much, some folk such as ourselves will give serious consideration to pulling our kids out of the school system.

I feel that it is vital we maintain the extracurricular and Co-curricular activities. Many Families in this district can not afford to send their child to private sports teams/clubs, to provide private Drama/music enhancement, or to seek outlets for advanced exploration in sciences (ie olympiad). The only possible means is through the schools. Further this train of thought with the fact it is statistically proven children involved in extracurricular activities have a reduced risk of abusing drugs/alcohol, have increased self-esteem, and do better on test scores. I know Sylvia Manzo has done an AWESOME job at Skyridge

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

working with the kids to turn out 2 very wonderful shows a year. If even one show was allowed, with the parents paying a fee, just like athletics, a lot of kids would be receiving an excellent opportunity, as well as instruction from one EXTREMELY talented woman, and the community could catch a wonderful evening of entertainment!! Also when you look at class sizes, by making classrooms larg, it would drastically impact kids at either end of the spectrum--those working at, or below, grade level will "get lost in the shuffle", and those kids at the AP/PreAp level will get lost as well; not being able to go above and beyond because instruction will need to focus at the largest number of kids--those right in the middle. It would seem a logical out come would be increases in in-school suspension, discipline issues, and general apathy. Lastly, to impact kids with special needs would be a grave mistake. These kids need to have constancy. They need smaller classes, and in some cases, they need one to two paras to help them along. To take away what they have come to know would set so many of them backward socially as well as academically. This is one population that needs to allow for top-notch training and as many staff as possible. To take away is to take a giant leap backward. Our district does an awesome job of serving these kids, I have seen the other side--not pretty.

Mike and Tanis thank you for making the decision to cut your own pay. It speaks to both your character and desire to see the school district lose as little as possible. I am all for kids walking to school rather than everyone getting bused. Let's turn this into a positive and have the healthiest student body in the state!!

You should put the money towards teaching the kids rather than running the school. You are after all supposed to be a teaching institution rather than a beauracracy. You should spend less money expanding the construction of facilities which the school system obviously can't afford to operate. Again spend more on classroom instruction and less on where the kids are taught.

Do everything you can to avoid cutting a single teaching position, they are the front lines and the most important piece of the puzzle in education. You cannot education children without teachers, period.

The most important thing is maintaining the highest level of education in our district. I believe this is done the best through minimizing class sizes and maximizing choice for the students to learn subjects that interest them.

Camas is creating a strong, district wide Science Olympiad program. Let's keep it going.

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

School classroom offerings and extracurricular activities should be maintained as much as possible. We have a problem with drug abuse in the Camas School District and a reduction in extracurricular activities would especially put youth at risk for further problems.

Cut administrative costs further, please.

Thank-you for asking the general public. Hopefully this survey will help to add value to the tough decisions you face going forward. Good luck.

As do most parents, I'm sure, we feel that all these areas are very important to our children's development. We moved to the area two years ago strictly because of this school district and firmly believe that we wouldn't have the daughter we have today if we had stayed in Oregon. Liberty Middle School is amazing and anything you can do to keep the middle school team concept would be appreciated as we still have 3 other children that we would like to see get the same education and opportunities as our oldest. Thank you to everyone, on every level, directly or indirectly, who is involved in our children's education. You are doing an amazing job!

It is important to have a well rounded experience.

When programs need to be cut, the "extras", the nice programs to have, should be reduced first. There are often options outside of school for sports teams, extracurriculars, etc. We could cut out freshman teams at the high school and stick with just JV and Varsity teams. We should eliminate bussing where children can walk to school and perhaps combine some bus routes. Perhaps we should reduce busses for high school and middle school students which are often not full anyway. We need to set priorities for regular classrooms and supports. It's easy to target children with special needs, because only a few families are impacted. However, the district receives regular funding for each special ed child and extra 40% special ed funding for each child. I hope that all of the special ed funding is used for special education and also some of the general ed funding for those students when a student is in special education all day. The state also has an extra account that can be tapped when a special ed student requires very expensive help. Special ed students are really helped by the services they receive and can make great progress.

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

Exciting as they may be, small programs such as the technology magnet program that serve only 30 students perhaps should be modified or re-absorbed into the regular system. The cost per student is difficult to justify when other more far-reaching programs are at risk.

I would really like to see walking school buses implemented throughout the district.

In the middle schools, I would prefer to reduce fringe classes like African Civil Wars, Beatlemania, and Barney Fife, in favor of learning more classical subjects which apparently are no longer available. Our children are soon entering a very competitive world and instead of giving them a foundation to deal with an unfair world, they are staying ignorant of very important topics that their contemporaries are learning elsewhere in the world. Please see this article

[http://www.city-journal.org/2008/18\\_4\\_classical\\_education.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2008/18_4_classical_education.html). Thanks, Phil Wheeler

Usually most of the waste in budgets can be found at the top:(administrators, administrator travel meetings)- Also, there are multiple teachers that take "sick days" when they are not sick...it's happened in many of my son's classes all the way thru elementary to his current high school in Camas; and the teachers blatantly tell the students that they weren't sick...or they are "planning to be sick on Friday and go mountain-climbing" or whatever. These "mandatory" sick days that they are given and then abuse cost money because replacement teachers must be used to cover them. And the replacement teachers are basically "babysitters"- they don't know anything about the assignments, so then no work gets done or assigned. Some teachers do this multiple days in 1 week. In the regular working world, you better be sick if you're not going to show up for work, and if someone does do your job for you, at least they know what they're doing and can get something done! But the children's educations suffer because of the abuses of the adults...

Cutting AP classes would not be fair to those wishing to challenge themselves academically

I would like to see the district cut out the half days on Wednesday and go to a four day a week program. Other districts have been able to do this and have found that it saves a lot of money on transportation. Children would go 4 full days and have friday off. For those who need child care the school would be open for school hours and would have limited staff to supervise students. Parent's would have to pay a fee just as they would for after

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

school care. Also there is no need to bus everyone. It would be fine for children to walk to school. I would not like to see music, art and phys. ed. to cut. I understand that cuts need to be made but perhaps they can be made in the "extras" that we have gained when we had the extra money coming in. Keep all the basics that children need to be able to have a well rounded education.

I do not see why SPED would be cut? Isn't that funded through IDEA and not general fund? Again, couldn't some of the Professional development be funded under Title IIA?

I think the grouping of AP offerings and Magnet program with the programs such as elementary music is misleading. AP offering and Magnet program should be grouped as College Prep. They are not just enrichment.

We moved to Camas from Washougal, because the Camas School District had far superior class offerings (Magnet Program, AP classes, etc.) and better prepared students for college and future careers. It would be a great shame to delete all of the things that make Camas superior to most school districts in the county. If we wanted sub-standard education for our children, we would have stayed in Washougal!

Please do not increase class sizes!

I would rather see a leaner, better paid/qualified staff than a larger, poorer paid/qualified staff.

I think we should keep as much funding in the classroom as possible. As a parent, my thought is that it is the school's job is to educate our children. This year, I am aware that the SD (school district) will have to make many cuts to balance the budget. Hopefully, Camas SD can cut funds, but still keep the education our children receive exceptional. Ranking Extra Curricular Programs 9 ~ This was not an easy ranking. I was a HS and college athlete and involved in drama, math olympics, and a variety of other after school programs. These activities are necessary and help the students learn about themselves, develop skills that last a lifetime, and bring a sense of community to our city. BUT I had to rank it a 9 because I know that these are easier programs to fund through fee to play or fundraisers.

As an educator who has recently moved to the area, I have worked in two different states, and I have never known a district to have so many days/half days off of school.

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

This being said, the inconsistency that is already occurring for kindergarteners, is concerning. For example, my child goes to school on Wednesday for 1 hour and 40 minutes. Personally, I feel like the state should follow the national trend and move to full-day kindergarten. We are already requiring so much from the kids at this young age, I don't know how the kindergarten teachers do it! In addition to full-day kindergarten, if we are expecting kids to be reading by the end of kindergarten, there should be some state run preschools to better prepare those children who are less fortunate, and cannot afford the private preschools. The bottom line is that as the government increases its expectations of children and educators, they take away the resources that make these expectations possible.

Camas' AP, Hi-Cap, and "CHS Math/Science" magnet offerings are fewer and less developed than other districts. If you cut these already uncompetitive programs further, you will lose more money to: boundary exceptions to leave the district, more running start students, and an erosion of your tax base as fewer hi-earners (currently attracted by the schools) move into Camas and some move out.

I think we should cut back on money for sports such as football. Education doesn't need sports it needs teachers who will help students, not people running back and forth down a field. I have felt this way about Camas for awhile now, that sports is always on the top of the list for things Camas has to keep.

Please give parents and students the option to pay a fee before you cut sports. Thank-You

I prioritized Operations & Transportation last because I think this is a great opportunity for creative thinking for folks that live close to their schools. Walking groups & biking groups could be formed by families with PTA's helping facilitate the conversation. We can have more parent volunteers in the schools covering lunch duties (Safety & Supervision #8) where as we couldn't before because those were paid jobs. Absolutely the top priority is to keep those class sizes small, so any other jobs that we can ask for family volunteers & create community, is a welcomed brainstorm. I don't envy your positions in fielding the frustration & coming up with the solutions, but I do appreciate the fact that you are asking for our thoughts in helping to come to conclusions. I know you will do your best with this information & work with the priorities that have been expressed.

Thank you,  
Erika Cox  
Parent of Prune Hill Elementary Students (2 & one on the way)

It was very difficult to prioritize these options for the district as a whole. I've had 3

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

students graduate from CHS, and my 4th is in middle school. Some programs, i.e. safety and bussing, have a higher priority at the elementary level. Enhanced classroom offerings more middle/high school. I hope budget decisions take this into account when weighing survey results because depending on the grade level of one's children, answers will vary significantly. Ellen Scott.

What a horrible position to be faced with- all are priorities to someone and no one wants cuts that directly impact our children. That being said, I am surprised that money is being spent to bus children that live within walking distance... seems like a waste and that there would be a better alternative; then those funds could go elsewhere.

I believe that keeping class sizes at their current levels along with maintaining enhanced classroom offerings should be at the core of school's budget programming.

I hope the high school AP courses won't be cut. If they are cut, my kids will likely end up doing Running Start. Doesn't that reduce state funds to CHS?

I feel it is vital to save/maintain the level of instruction within the classroom, and that other programs and positions should be cut first before increasing numbers in the classroom, or taking away variety of course options. I also feel that some of the admin. positions that have the least impact on the students in the classroom, ie: math coaches, mentor teachers, etc. should be the first positions to be cut...trust the classroom teachers to do their jobs well...this is what they have been trained to do.

I think before the district talks about staff cuts, that the administration should be cut to bare bones.

Priorities in my mind:

Keeping the elem class sizes as small as you can.

Keeping MS and HS classes as small as you can. It is a safety issue.

Continuing and expanding AP classes in the high school.

Having Paras supervise playground and lunch rooms.

We have had full day Kindergarten in the past, it works.

We should cut back on bussing. That seems easy to do and cost effective.

We could eliminate C teams in the MS and HS levels.

The Administration needs to be cut. Remember, you are a school and the needs of the

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

students supersede the needs and wants of the Administration!

In these days of economic difficulties we need to eliminate teacher comp for Curriculum development. Again I will say the needs of the students supersede the needs of the teachers for the extras that they do. When I started teaching in 1976 we did not have paras for playground and lunch supervision. Everyone needs to "step up to the table" and compromise. We do the extras because we want the students to have everything they need to be successful, not because we can make more money doing the extra tasks. We need to continue nursing help. Our student population have health concerns that the teachers are not trained to do. It is a safety issue and an issue that could put the district in the position of being sued in the event something happens to a medically compromised student.

Make sports and club teams ( mock trial, debate, etc) a "pay to play". The community always has the option of scholarships for those students who have trouble paying. I would hate to see library and music be cut from the elem schools but I feel strongly that we must keep the class size as low as possible....that is critical! Thank you for asking! I care for Camas School and the students who attend our schools.

How are library and counseling services the same? Librarians and the educational services provided from the school libraries are not a frill... they are necessary to the educational process and critical to instruction and they should have a licensed teacher/librarian, not para coverage. Athletics should be reduced and the administration staffing. Ineffective principals and other staff members who do not effectively support classroom instruction or who are not doing their jobs.

As difficult as it is to make these kinds of budget cuts, I would hope the board would hold to the ideal of keeping the impact to the student to a minimum. Also, please take into account the impact of additional fees to families who might already be struggling.

There are only a handful of nurses, not "Health Room Assistants" for the Camas School District already, how will you all plan on making cuts when the nurses are only a few? How will life-threatening problems like seizures and diabetes be taken care of even with one less nurse ( R.N. or LPN)? If cuts are to be made in elementary music how will music be taught? Or will it not be taught at all which is a disgrace and dis-service to these young children. Why not have the assistant coaches be volunteer and not a paid position? Lacamas Little League coaches are all volunteer along with the Lacamas Little League board.

If instructional programs need to be cut, start with classroom offerings that affect the least amount of students, such as the Magnet program or special AP classes. Don't

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

make cuts that would affect a majority of students' instructional days. A few parents will be quite vocal if they don't get what they want for their own child and they will try to influence you or the administration. It is possible that their income level, community influence, or political power will be used to achieve their own goals. Please think about what would be best for a majority of the students, teachers, and families.

Your job is not easy. All decisions will affect families and your neighbors through loss of income and services. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

I think it is important to maintain support of our middle school structure and really look at the cost/benefit of the magnetic school program during these tough economic times.

There are components within each category that should be prioritized, and this simple ranking system can hardly be helpful. It is likely to have an inflammatory effect on the community. Changing bus routes/service certainly has a different impact than all-day kindergarten, and it is unfair to lump all of these items together and ask us for ranking. One of our biggest concerns is losing AP classes at the high school. Without advanced classes, some students will have very limited options for learning at the high school and will be forced into Running Start. A few AP classes could be combined with some of the science magnet classes, which would also even out the student/teacher ratio enjoyed in the magnet program. It would be beneficial to have all staff education hours - whether reduced or not - condensed into full days. Weekly early release and late starts are difficult for many parents and students, and the number of student classroom hours is significantly lower compared to other districts. Many believe that the way the Camas calculated the hours for this barely meets the letter of the state law (counting passing time in halls as educational time, for instance). It is not used by staff in a way that truly benefits students.

As a parent of three school aged students in the Camas School District, and an educator myself, I feel it is imperative that students learning needs - at both ends of the spectrum as well as "average" be met without change. Special programs outside of school hours (ie science olympiad etc) often provide learning opportunities otherwise unavailable during a regular class session. These programs are vital for the future. When moving to the Vancouver area, we purposely looked for property in the Camas district because of the opportunities for our children. It would be extremely disappointing to have these opportunities disappear.

(1) Without question, the top area of change needs to be in our transportation policy. Properly incentivizing kids/families to walk to school (>1 mile AND safe route) will pay

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

huge benefits to student health and learning as well as freeing up general funds to use on education programs.

(2) Every other day full-day kindergarten could serve a community need as well as bring about some budget saving. Many members of the community are looking for a full-day option and would prefer to split their kids between two full day programs (CSD and private) vs. figuring out what to do with a 5-day a week 1/2 day public program. Key here is to have the district communicate early with the local private programs so that they can set up their schedules accordingly.

(3) Before extra-curricular programs are cut outright, I would prefer to see a pay-to-play model implemented.

Thanks for asking. Please retain the magnet program. The opportunities offered for kids who learn at accelerated rates are so limited within Camas compared to Evergreen and Vancouver, please retain this program.

Safety and supervision - for the elementary schools, recruit a cadre of volunteers for playground and lunchroom supervision.

Transportation - reassess bus routes to ensure most effective routing. Pick up kids within the 1/2 mile when the route is potentially unsafe, not as a matter of course.

Snow days - base the decision to close schools on the impact of the snow to 90% of the students, not those living at higher elevations.

Administrative services - look for opportunities to partner and centralize services with other districts and ESD similar to the print services arrangement with Washougal.

Cost savings - centralize and standardize processes, services, and curriculum where ever possible. Eliminate duplication within and across the schools.

Consider out-sourcing routine work to lower cost providers even in other countries, e.g., administrative processing such as the creation of class enrollment and forecasting packages, application processing. The internet enables us to do this. There are local experts in the community that do this for business.

Please either adapt full day kindergarten five days a week or leave five half days. Do not adapt a 2/3 full day program. I have a kindergartener that I have enrolled in another half day program in order to provide a full day of instruction outside the current Camas half day program. Other programs do not work with the 2/3 program which would force me to consider removing my child from CSD to attend private full day kindergarten.

Administrative cuts should be first, in my opinion, since these are more likely to be invisible to students. We can also postpone training/ staff development during a budget crisis. Please keep the arts and other so-called extras! Kids need something that will

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

engage their passion (like music, drama, sports, etc) and these programs are an essential partner to academic subjects.

Overall the priorities should be on education programs-everything else is secondary. For Operations & Transportation is there any way to use volunteer services like Key Club or for students that have misbehaved can they do work and not just sit in detention?

I believe that having a police officer at CHS full time is a huge cost to CSD. With all the cuts from businesses being made there are a lot of well trained security guards looking for work that would be much more cost effective to the district.

When budget cuts hit the school district where I attended in the early 80's they imposed fees for all student activities including sports and clubs. I paid \$4.00 to serve on the student council. I also paid to obtain credit for AP classes. Football players paid more than \$100 due to high insurance costs etc. Kids still wanted to play and people still bought tickets. Thus, the stadium was filled for every home game.

Any of these cuts will be difficult. It is very difficult to prioritize. Maybe more use of volunteers would help?

The AP programs are vital to the reputation and integrity of this school district. They are not a luxury. Busing and other services will not impact the district's reputation. I know the cuts are deep but please do not eliminate what makes the district unique and special. Please also look at additional funding before cuts are made in the educational integrity of the district. What may take a minute to cut will take years to rebuild. The magnet program is a prime example.

Taking this survey was very difficult as my opinions and needs are different from others. For example support for children with special needs. I don't have a child with special needs but feel that this is important. Most people I feel will rank this very low....Making this survey irrelevant! Most important I feel is a good quality basic education followed by a safe atmosphere.

Is it possible to look at parents paying for running start?

I rank Extra and Co-Curricular Programs 2nd to last because, just like with a home budget, you cut the frills until you can afford them again. I rank Professional

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

Development/Teacher Leadership last because I believe they should seek training on their own time like the rest of us; i.e. night school, classes on weekends, or how about during the summer when they're off? Continuing education to maintain or improve a teacher's skill level is rightfully expected, but shouldn't necessarily be paid for with dollars that could be better used for direct services to our students.

This is so general it is totally bogus. Look at the detail Evergreen gives its citizens in their survey. At worst, this survey could be divisive for the community, a zero sum game where I make sure my child gets what he/she needs at the expense of other students. How can we evaluate programs with no information? Are we talking class sizes like 20 or 35? Will it save us \$10,000 or \$1,000,000? The only thing this survey will tell you is which programs are most political and most vocal, not what is best for Camas.

Even though my family will not be effected by possibly offering kindergarten as an every-other day/full day option I am VERY surprised the board chose to "lump" this with Operations & Transportation. Yes, a pro of this is cutting back on bussing but the con of this far outweighs saving money on transportation. The foundation of what makes Camas schools great is our kindergarteners who start in our school district and move upwards in grades. Lastly, a lot of kindergarteners do not have the attention span for an all day curriculum. This should have been a seperate program priority to be ranked in your survey.

re: Operations & Transportation...I think "no bussing" within 1/2 mile is a GREAT idea. Changing Kindergarten schedule to all day, every other day is a TERRIBLE idea...this would be extremely hard on the teachers as well as the students (how could they maintain the flow of learning and remembering things?). I have a child entering Kindergarten next year and will gladly walk/drive him both ways to keep the regular, every day schedule...this is what these little 5 year olds need!

The priority listed does not mean that all programs and staffs are not important but that during this time of economic shortfall the primary focus of student education should remain the top priority for our district. Facilities and Campuses can be placed on hold for a period of time...the minds of our youth can not. Professional Development/Teacher Leadership would rank higher than indicated if lost for more than 1 year. When the economy stabilizes all programs should again be evaluated and reinstated accordingly.

Please do not sacrifice the quality of education and the teaching staff if possible. We would rather have people walk or get their own children to school if it means saving a teacher.

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

What is needed to fill the holes is a culture of community, especially parent- obligatory(!) involvement/volunteerism.

Please do not change the kindergarten schedule. The change to an all day program a few days a week does not meet the needs of this age group at all! Kids at this developmental age need to attend school consistently to retain the skills taught - they can not have long breaks in between instructional days. Also, kids at this developmental age will tire more easily and not engage as well when working all day. Please consider this for our little sweet sponges that want to learn each day!

Thank you,  
Jessica Meyer

Going through Camas schools, they are amazing, if you cut activities that the district offers that would only hold back the kids. They need to have fun after school in sports so they stay away from drugs & alcohol. Also, why did you group libraries with magnet schools d/t libraries are a basic need and magnet schools are something that we can do without, a library you can't. It offers kids so much more to learn about, why would you ever think about taking away help they can get from that. I am sorry but I have a strong opinion for libraries because they helped me, along with other extra classes choose where and why I should go to college. If they didn't have the books that lead me to a career, with the libraries amazing help I think I would still be clueless on what I want to do when I grow up. Overall, the focus needs to be on the kids and what is best and cutting extra activities, library help, or even offering less classes is not a good idea. If anywhere it should be cut is with people in the district who don't do much, or offerings for kids who get into trouble and are on suspension. Thank you for listening to my opinion.

There are serious concerns about issues regarding kindergarten schedules. Rumors are spreading everywhere. Parents are extremely frustrated with the lack of communication at this point. Parents who don't have children already in the Camas School system are not being communicated to. Information should be shared with all local preschools at the very least. Many parents are looking to private schools for kindergarten. Please get information out to incoming students about places parents can go to voice concerns and hear proposals because so far we haven't seen or heard anything, ie:move to every other day/full day kindergarten in survey above is the first I've heard of this.

It is time for the school board to realize that we are very top heavy at the Camas School district. Administrators are important, but grossly over paid with too many perks and benefits. I was embarrassed for the board when they thought that not having the superintendent and his staff going to a leadership retreat was their way of helping a budget crisis last year. If the Board thinks that they can get a levy passed next year

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

without making some major personnel and salary reductions at the top end of the administration they are wrong. Mike Nerland for example, may be a great guy and good at his job, but did he deserve over \$35,000 increase in the last 5 years? Not to mention the other "necessary" increases the Board felt they had to allow to keep qualified people in the district. Budget cuts are hard, but they should be spread out across the staff not just they little people.

When the reality of limited resources is active we must be very clear on "CORE" versus "CONTEXT". Both are essential but you must do the core excellently and the context adequately. Always improve core and be diligent to know and limit context to good enough. Always be moving resources from context to core. The core of our education system is in the classroom where the essential life knowledge skills are developed in our children.

Thanks

Jeff Forsythe

I don't have the experience to know how some of the programs are running at this time, but I do think that there are many parent volunteers that could be used to help in the M.S\H.S. levels to offset some of the staffing needs.

Cuts must start at the top. If you cut the foundation, the structure topples. Preserve the core. Trim the excess.

Too much administrative and school board decision making leniency. It's time to get back to listening to parents/tax payers and put the needs of our students and teachers first!

We value Extra and Co-Curricular Programs in art, music, math, and science. We are supportive of sports but recommend additional fees for participation.

these are hard choices, but most of all the schools are for our community members who are children and we should do our best to serve all the students.

I feel that class size should not be touched as high teacher/student ratios are critical for learning. I feel that health and safety (supervision) is also very important.

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

I think that we need to allow our youngest children to have as much as possible in the way of staff and supervision. I would pay to have my older child in sports and drama. The 1/2 mile walk zone is GREAT!

Very difficult to rate these as I would choose to look at eliminating certain things out of each group but not everything that would be under that particular category. For extracurricular activities it would be appropriate to offer the possibility of having a club or team if the parents would pay for their child to participate.

WE ALL SUFFER in this economy situation.....Why can't we all WORK together? From top to bottom!!!! If everyone, I mean EVERYONE willing cut little bit on their job/salary, instead of only few people been cut all, WE ALL CAN SURVIVE.....IN ANY ECONOMY SITUATION. AGREE??!!

Elimination of busing w/i the 1/2 mile walking zone will be healthy for the kids. Frankly, I'm dumbfounded that this service is even offered. A complete waste of money. Emphasis should be on maintaining strong, basic academic curriculum during the recession (and for the future). There should be opportunities for advanced students to work at their own pace and reasonable support for children who have difficulties in certain areas. Children must have opportunity for physical exercise during recess. All else is icing on the cake.

School sports and other co-curricular programs are important! Please consider charging a fee for these rather than cutting them.

I do not see cutting special education support as an option. I also do not see cutting the budget on health and safety as an option. It is important to continue to maintain the basic needs of a child's education. Please consider our children with special needs and their right to an equal and fair education. Please consider the safety of our children as well.

I am concerned that we are spending so much money to bus students to schools that aren't in their neighborhoods. I feel that it would be a better use of our money to send all kids to their neighborhood schools and let the parents provide transportation. I would much rather organize carpools for my kids to get to school and use the budget money to fund activities at school than use the budget money to bus them to a school across town.

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

I realize that the school buses are funded through the state budget, but the state budget is going to be deeply cut as well. With the huge deficit we are facing it is unwise, in my opinion, to spend so much money on unnecessary transportation.

I think it is imparitive to keep class sizes as they are, I also don't think it is a good idea to move kindergarten children to full days. Studies show they learn best on a half day schedule. Try not to cut teaching positions, we need all our teachers, we have the best school district in Clark county and they are the reason!

If it turns out that some programs need to be cut, I would strongly urge you to consider having some of these programs be for a fee. The computer teacher was already cut at Prune Hill this year and it is no seceret we are a technology society. Our kids deserve adequate class size and a variety of course offerings that challenge them and prepare them for higher ed. I appreciate your wanting citizens' input.

Cutting special programs, AP courses, etc, would hurt the kids right away reduced chances for college) and the district in the long-run (reputation of Camas school suffers=fewer parents willing to move here).

I do feel that the High school has enough High educated programs (AP)that the Magnet is a waste of our school funds. The kids in the program tend to do more field trips/exploring but get the same education at AP course kids. So why fund a separate program?

Do not increase the student to teacher ratio. Cut admin jobs, bus service, special ed, technology, support services, athletics or anything but regular teachers.

I believe there are many areas that parents can fill in. Remember the "good ol' days" when that used to happen? Parents will step up when there is a pinch. In many cases, they WANT to help, but have been told they can't because it takes a job away from a union member. Also, many of our kids should be walking to school, it's healthy! We have faith in your ability to make the right choices with this large decision. We'll be praying for you all.

I can't put an order to this! These are all super important things that need to be kept in the schools!!!

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

Preserving AP classes in MS & HS and the magnet program in H.S. is critical. When a school district makes cuts they often look toward cutting the AP or gifted class offerings. If we want to stand out as a district of excellence in education, we need to encourage programs that help kids learn and grow to fully utilize what they are capable of. If "smart" kids aren't challenged, they can lose interest and be in as much danger as a child who has fallen behind in learning. Extra curricular programs are much more important to the development of a child than they may seem at first glance. A child with no interests or direction is statistically more likely to get involved in bad behavior, drugs and alcohol. Don't cut programs that encourage kids to be involved. If you must, charge a participation fee rather than cut the program...work something out for those families who truly cannot pay the fee.

Magnet and music. These are a must, not only for the kids, but for the well being of our entire community.

Academics first. Please keep AP and magnet programs for MS & HS students. Keep sports but apply extra equipment charges to make up for shortcomings in income.

I have a daughter with special needs and I am concerned that she will not get the extra help that she needs to succeed.

Enhanced classroom offerings such as APs and Science olympiad and Extra Curricular such as Science Olympiad and Knowledge Ball are crucial for our HS students when applying to University.

Please keep the science and math magnet at the high school

Safety and Education are the top priorities and I'm in hopes these will be a main focus for the district. The Camas District is known for it's top education and I am in hopes we don't lose this status. Thank you for us to weigh in on our priorities.

I would ask all of the stakeholders and decision-makers to remember that the quality of

# Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

## Community Budget Survey

---

**Question:** Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share with the board in the space below.

Camas schools is probably the most important community asset to the city of Camas. I don't think that it's exaggerating to say that the recent economic and physical growth of Camas can be mostly attributed to people in-migrating because of a desire to have the best schools for their children. I would hope that there is continued recognition that the "marketability" of the school system will directly effect the continued economic health of the city/region.