

Budget Reduction Feedback
Updated December 6, 2011

Below you will find comments which were sent to the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, District Office Staff or Board Members ending on December 6, 2011. Additionally, we have a binder in the District Office (see Lissa Juricich) with feedback forms from: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students at Adele Harrison (11), The English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) from Sassarini (31), Adult School Students (7), the students at the General Assembly at Sonoma Valley High School (85).

Comments received after December 6, 2011 will be added to this Feedback form and the entire Budget Reduction Feedback Form will be updated on the District website at www.svusdca.org.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Radloff, Administrative Assistant, Fiscal Services at 935-4249.

- I truly believe more attention needs to be given to reducing special ed. costs. A simple 30% reduction to special ed. would solve the district's financial woes. No other student programs would have to be cut. As a twenty-year employee of SDC, I've attended a few IEPs. Services and promises are made to satisfy parents and conservators, without regard to cost. Given today's budgetary crisis, costs need to be considered. We can no longer spend freely for one particular group of students. I also believe there is an inherent conflict of interest having service providers recommend the need for or continuation of services that keeps them employed.
- I am writing to express my support for the continued operation of Sonoma Valley Adult School (SVAS). Although I understand the difficulties school districts face in these challenging economic times, SVAS offers an educational opportunity to many Sonoma County residents who would be unlikely to attend any other institution.

Job Link clients and CalWORKs clients are in training for entry-level jobs, while others are enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. Many of clients find larger institutions, such as SRJC, confusing and intimidating, but respond well to the smaller setting and more individualized attention of SVAS. Many are beset with transportation issues. Having SVAS in their local community allows easier access to education and training.

Employment & Training clients make up only a small portion of those served by SVAS. In 2010-2011, the school served 175 students in Adult Secondary Education Program (ASE), 270 students in its ESL Program, and 77 students through Career & Technical Education (CTE). Based on enrollment numbers recorded the past 3 years, between 700 and 800 students per year are served by Community Education. With only two adult schools now in Sonoma County, these educational and training programs are vital resources and opportunities for our entire community during this tough and challenging economy.

I understand that once funding is discontinued for adult education, it is extremely difficult to reinstate. Given employment figures are at unprecedented levels, it seems shortsighted, at best, to close a program that helps so many of our residents grow and prosper. I urge you to keep Sonoma Valley Adult School open so that those who attend may continue to work towards becoming productive, tax-paying members of the community.

- We have three children in Sonoma public schools - one at Adele and two at Flowery. I was very sad to read about all the proposed cuts, and I'm sorry about the daunting job the school board has to try and make everything work.

One thing I didn't see on the list was a change to the "free lunch" program for low income families. It has always surprised me that the cost of a lunch is \$2.75 ... or free. It seems to me that food should be full price or *discounted*, but not free. Perhaps \$1, or even just \$.50 ... but in these difficult financial times, I am surprised that it falls to the district to feed these children at no cost to the parents.

If you send a representative to any of the public schools during lunchtime, you will see a shameful amount of wasted food. Milk being thrown away untouched, whole apples or bananas thrown out ... it breaks your heart. It is especially hard to teach children not to waste food if it comes to them without cost to their family. They simply cannot see the value in something that is "free".

For our part, our children are quite aware of the cost of lunch. We put \$20 into their accounts each year, and they have to choose the school lunches they get very carefully because they know that at \$2.75/lunch the money goes very quickly. They tell me every day about the waste they see from the kids who eat school lunch. It confuses them to see perfectly good food thrown in the trash.

At any rate, I was hoping to bring light to something I have noticed. Perhaps a few tweaks to the lunch program would help the district.

- I think is good to have English adult school because we need to learn English to speak and write to help our kids with their homework so is really important to us to improve and communicate with people in USA. Please don't close our school. It would be nice if you can find a way to continue ESL school. (sic)

• **CUTS:**

Feel strongly:

Eliminate adult education 100%

Reduce school days (I don't want to have staff reduce their income...I support the teachers, but everyone I know in every industry has taken pay cuts or taken second jobs in order to make ends meet...unfortunately more of the same for our all important teachers and staff).

Eliminate AVID – all kids are going to have trouble with college

Eliminate GATE – I feel unbiased in my vote because my son tested GATE and we decided not to participate and he is not worse off because of it!

Eliminate Gateway – absorb the kids into the HS.

Reduce Transportation for the older kids

Discontinue SLIP

On the fence:

CSR

TO KEEP:

Feel strongly:

KEEP senior projects

KEEP sports (for some kids this is the only reason they are out of trouble...for high achieving kids, sports keeps them focused to work harder, for kids with lower self esteem, it boosts them up!)

KEEP Co Curricular activities

I don't know enough about the administration to comment on other programs. I'm sorry you have this awful burden. Thank you for all you do

- Respondent's support the following cuts: 3 buy back days, eliminate 5 school days, eliminate mid-day "core" intervention at elementary sites, suggests using Senior Projects as "optional/honors", eliminate high school independent study, eliminate SV Adult School, eliminate all Summer School (not jumpstart K), eliminate senior credit recovery, eliminate K-12 intervention programs, eliminate middle school sports, eliminate K- 5 counselors, eliminate academic coordinators/ELL Mgrs. , reduce transportation, District Office reductions (what does this mean?), reduce salaries for top employees
- I moved to Sonoma about two months ago. I come from Nevada, to work. Now my family stays in Nevada, but I want to move to Sonoma. I have 3 kids; two are in school at this time. I'm in the English class at SVAS at Altimira (ESL). I want to learn more English. The reason I moved to California is to give better life to my family and get a better job. I want to learn more English, get my GED and I want to get citizenship of this country. Adult classes help me and a lot of families, too. Learning is very important to us. That's why is important to keep the schools open. (sic)
- We have the necessity to keep English Classes, we really need them, because every year is like the State is growing if the community get instructed, our possibilities of education for our children are going to be better, we need the tools to help them; those tools are our English classes which help us to learn and at the same time we help our children.

There is a proverb that says: like mother like daughter, MEANS if the parents are ignorant children are going to be the same, to improve our country we need to prepare ourselves to get better work skills. We would like to continue with the English classes. We hope we will be able to help our community in the future, so please keep us learning with these English classes. (SIC)

- If at all possible, please make every attempt to avoid eliminating class size reduction in grades K-2. It is much more effective to build academic skills/and "foundation" to insure future academic success.....in the "early" years especially. We would like to suggest 2 furlough days on the Mon & Tues before Thanksgiving. Note: we would rather eliminate Jump Start and maintain our smaller class sizes.
- Very helpful meeting tonight, thanks for putting that together - Have you considered any possible ways to generate revenue that might help off-set a cut to a "complementary" program? For example . . . Running Summer Classes for a fee at the High School . . . sort of like the Junior College or the many camps around town? I have heard a number of parents express that they would pay for the "living skills class" so the academic type kids won't have to take it during the school year.

OR using the awesome SVHS kitchen facility and / or video / photography facility to run "camps" or personal interest classes for kids . . . if you don't promise school credits you probably don't even need to worry about hiring credentialed teachers . . . if you look at the camps around town, parents are paying \$ 350.00 to \$ 500.00 per week for kids to go to these "camps" from 9 to 3:00 or 4:00

If this is something that could even be considered, you'd need to get things lined up and the info to the community in March my guess is you could perhaps generate some cash that could help offset a cut to the Summer School funding.

Another idea is what about renting/ leasing an otherwise unused school facility to a place like Steve and Kate's (they started in Marin and now run camps at school sites all over the Bay area <http://www.steveandkatescamp.com/>) or that gal Sarah Duran who used to have the Sonoma Academy of Dance and Arts until she lost her space where she ran Summer camps? You could reach out to Steve and Kate's and ask them about it.

- How as parents can we help to reduce the deficit? Please do not cut more on sports...kids don't exercise enough due to parents schedules and reducing the sports at schools will be sores. (sic) If there are more cuts on transportation, we are facing more absent students. Adult School (ESL) needs to stay, please. Thank you for all the hard work and we have faith.
- Why are the "academic coordinators" at each site not being discussed as a possible cut? We would have a lot of money and they are a position not as important as a counselor...or librarian...or office staff (secretaries). This position is at every school (I think) is not a top priority. It should be considered a "possible" cut at least!!!
- Respondent suggests the following budget reduction: Eliminate CSR Grades K, 2 and 1, eliminate 3 buy back days, eliminate 1 school day, eliminate mid-day "core" intervention at elementary sites, complete elimination of senior projects, eliminate one section of AVID at SVHS, Altimira and AHMS, recapture GATE funding for general fund use, 100% reduction in SVHS Independent Study funding, Restructure Creekside Admin position, Eliminate Gateway School, eliminate funding for Teen Parent Program, Close Sonoma Valley Adult School, 100% elimination of Summer School funding, eliminate funding for K-12 intervention programs, eliminate funding for high school and middle school co-curr stipends, 20% reduction to MS and HS counseling, Reduce .6FTE Vice Principal at SVHS, 60% reduction in funding for School Resource Officer, 60% reduction in funding for Student Welfare & Student Attendance Officer., Eliminate .1FTE District funded Academic Coordinators/ ELL Managers, eliminate one district-wide technology support position, reduce \$100,000 general fund contribution to Transportation, cut 3.0FTE custodians district-wide, cut 1FTE grounds, cut 1st \$100,000 M&O, \$100,000 reduction to district Office, discontinue SLIP, 30% reduction in categorical allocation of all sites.
- When considering our huge monetary shortfall, one thing seems certain...*everyone* needs to share in the "fix"...parents, teachers and *all* our employees. So...as much as possible, furlough days seem fair. Twenty or more days when no one gets paid should take us at least half-way to the millions we need to save.

Personally, many teachers I've talked to would be willing to take a 5-10% payout for the coming year. I realize that there are huge union issues with that proposal, but how much would it take to save some of the jobs of our young teachers? Could payouts be on the table?

Again, thanks for all you do to keep us floating. Our appreciation abounds!

- As a school district parent, I would encourage the following cuts to the budget:

All adult education...it has nothing to do with educating our children and could be self-supporting if user fees were increased.

Reduce home to school transportation....parents can organize carpools better, or walk or bike.

Eliminate buy back days and school days, especially those two lone days of Thanksgiving week. In eliminating school days, if you also eliminated conference week, you would have no net loss of instructional time. Has anyone asked parents if they think conference week is of value? As a middle school parent, my daughter's conference teacher didn't even have my daughter as a student, and so, had nothing to add to our conference. We learned nothing about our student that we didn't already know or couldn't ask her at the dinner table. Don't most parents contact their child's teacher anyway when there is a concern or problem? All the parents I know do.

Eliminate senior project. I have already sent Louann and Dino an earlier email in which I expressed my concerns that senior project deadlines were in direct conflict with college applications and an unnecessary stress to high performing students. I've lived through two college application processes with two seniors and I do not recall any colleges asking about their senior project.

Before cuts to sports or high school co-curricular stipends are made (forensics, ag, CSF, drama, leadership, marching band, newspaper, yearbook etc.), I would ask the following question; How many students do these programs serve? Then ask, how many students do other programs serve, like the teen parent program, gateway school, or "core" intervention at the elementary sites? In my opinion, whichever programs serve the most students should be the ones to suffer the least in cutbacks. Also, those co-curricular programs at the high school make your graduates competitive in the college application process.

- My first and foremost concern is X (sic) being in a class of 30. Knowing how the standards and curriculum are pretty intense in kinder the thoughts of 30 little ones in a class scares me to death. The second concern of mine of course is my career. Losing CSR puts me at the risk of being cut too. I have had many parents approach me concerned with the elimination of CSR, so the question to you is what is the next step for parents to do to try and save CSR. Another concern is if we are wanting these children to be college and career ready and reading by the third grade, having 30 students is going to have a negative effect on obtaining this goal. (sic)
- Thank you for presenting the information on the state of the budget to the community the other evening. It was very informative.

Unfortunately the format was not necessarily the best to promote authentic forum for effective dialogue which would lead to deeper understanding on the issues facing the education of students in our schools which is the primary issue.

My concern is that I am unfamiliar with many of the programs being proposed as potential cuts and my guess is that most parents would feel the same way. I know there is only so much time but I think small "round table discussions" with teachers or parents or administrators who can really explain how the individual cuts will impact the students might helpful, possibly at the individual PTO level or school.

Also based on comments made in your presentation it sounded like you were leaning towards items 1, 2, and 3 on the "unprioritized budget cut list" Class size reduction, Buy back days and Reduce school days all of which I think should be last resort. I see they are "Big ticketed items" but the impact would be greatly felt in the classroom and by the teachers who already work so hard. None of the cuts are desirable- and the priority depends on who you ask but the first three negatively impact almost everyone.

- After attending this Monday's budget meeting, I am very concerned with the cuts that are being considered. I feel that CSR would be detrimental to not only the K-3 classes but our whole district and beyond. Adding more students to classes that are already struggling, due to student to teacher ratio, will just expand our need for extra support for struggling students in the future therefore actually costing us more money. In addition, we will suffer due to teacher burn out. Being a preschool teacher myself, I understand the impact even four extra students can have on a classroom of young children. We cannot afford to lose CSR. The number of ways it will negatively affect our schools and our future community far outweigh the savings it will give us in the immediate future. Please consider this when making the final decision on where we will make unfortunate, unwanted cuts.
- I believe the pain should be felt by everyone that is an employee of SVUSD. Unfortunately, that means the children will be hurt because the employees would take furlough days. Any way, we look at these cuts the students get hurt; loss of programs, 30:1 in K-2, intervention, counseling. I feel that all employees should feel the pain from the D.O. to the teachers to classified, to bus drivers, kitchen staff, maintenance, etc. Start by cutting 5 days from the calendar.

- First, great job on a complex and challenging topic.

No easy choices, but for me it is easier to focus on what shouldn't be cut versus what could be. With my limited interaction with daily operations, my list of don't cuts are:

Summer school for at risk students
Senior projects
High school counseling

Class size reduction is a hard choice and if it needs to be done keep kindergarten classes as small as possible.

Thanks for your dedication to our kids!!

- I want to thank you for soliciting our input on the budget during these difficult times.

Looking over the list of options for cuts, I see no superfluous spending that would make a choice obvious. Given that cuts need to be made, I would like to see the district prioritize cuts that affect the community across the board- for example, furlough days. Furlough days affect all departments at all levels, and even affect the community as parents will need to make daycare arrangements for their children. Let's share the outrage.

I would not advocate eliminating entire programs, especially K-5 counseling, or the alternative school programs. The "across the board cuts" seem easier to reinstate if funds become available in the future.

- We are pleased with the English Class in SVAS. This class is very helpful for limited English speakers like us to improve our English. This skill is very necessary for us – especially: to get more community involvement, to help prepare for advanced studies and move to next step in education (junior college or training school), to open doors to better job opportunities, to feel more empowered, etc. If this program closes, we will lose the opportunity to improve our life. For example: the people may avoid going to the doctor because they have difficulty in their communication; the parents can't help their children if their children have difficulty with their homework; The people can't apply for better job because it requires fluent oral and written English in a lot of areas; the people can't get good preparation before they move to next step in education, etc.
- Respondent suggests the following budget reductions: close Gateway, 5 furlough days, 1 buyback day, Read 180 (if it's not proven to help kids, eliminate summer school, except for credit recovery, CSR, Creekside High Admin., Adult School, SVHS Admin., Transportation – look @ increasing distance from school for bus and or reroute stops.
- Respondent suggests the following budget reductions: CSR Grades K & 2, eliminate 3 buyback days, eliminate 5 school days, eliminate core replacement teachers, senior projects, AVID at Altimira and AHMS, SVHS Independent Study, Creekside, Teen Parent Program, Close Adult School, Eliminate K-12 intervention programs, Reduce .6 FTE Vice Principal at SVHS, Eliminate .1 FTE District Funded Academic Coordinators/ELL Managers, Eliminate home-to-school transportation, \$100,000 reduction to District Office, discontinue SLIP allocation in lump sum, 10% reduction to categorical allocations to all sites.
- I am ESL's student in altimira Middle School. I have been in U.S. since August 2010. I come from Mexico and as a non English Speaker is very important to speak English in the community and in this country. I am coming to study English to obtain trust with the people; I believe that my classmates and me need the ESL classes for development in this country. I work, I pay my taxes, if you need more money, I will give more money for ESL classes. To be in United States and not speak English is like to be mute. Give me the chance to learn English. Please. Thank you. (sic)
- Sonoma Valley Adult School: improves students' English; more community involvement; good communication between workers and employers; helps parents to interpret children's prescriptions and teachers' notes; parents can help with children's homework; helps students get better jobs understand rules and benefits; feel more empowered; helps students prepare for advanced studies and move to next step in education; create intercultural harmony/
- I am sending my feedback regarding the impending budget cuts to all the school board members, as well as Louann and Justin as suggested in the recent community forum.

I would just like to start out by stating that it's upsetting to be having this conversation at all. I know we all agree on this, but it seems necessary to add it in, so I don't seem cold-hearted as I give my opinion on my perspective of potential cuts.

First, as I see it, some big ticket items will need to be included. It seems hard to get to 2.5 million without them.

I would support reducing as many school days as the teachers would agree to. I know that this is a complicated one, and I hate to reduce staff salaries at all, but I could see tacking on one more day to already scheduled vacations (start of school – winter – spring- end of school, etc –) All parents I have talked to have few reservations about the lost days of school. We of course mourn the effects on staff, but the school days themselves do not seem a huge hurdle to cross. Could total \$542,000

Class size reduction – another hot topic – it should be looked at – but I’ll leave specific suggestions to the experts – up to 800,000

Second, my next set of cuts stem from the observations that these services are not essential programs in a bare-bones operation (which I think we are moving towards), and could be obtained from other sources. Together they total \$687,000 in cuts. That is significant.

High School Independent Study – students can do independent study through other districts or many on-line options

Gateway School – I believe there is a school in Santa Rosa to accommodate these students

Teen Parent Program – families and local non-profits a possibility in filling this need

Sonoma Valley Adult School – JC programs, and other adult schools offer affordable classes – we are a K12 district and need to focus on that

Summer School – For those high school students who did not pass a class, and need to in order to graduate, perhaps there are ways through other districts, on-line, JC to do this? All other cases seem to be either supplemental or intervention motivated, and can try to be addressed by other sources.

So, these represent over 2 million in cuts. Still, some hard cuts to make. If only partial furlough days and class-size reduction can be agreed upon, even more.

I look forward to hearing staff recommendations about further cuts. I know I value the opinions of the teachers and staff who work day to day with our children. I will list the additional cuts I think could be considered to bring us to 2.5 million – but don’t really know which ones would be most effective to cut, especially in conjunction with other possible cuts.

Library Improvement Program (SLIP) – the inter-county library borrowing system through the Sonoma County Library, as well as on-line options offer great resources

Percentage of categorical allocations – maybe 10%

Middle school sports – I believe there are other options in the valley for this age group in all sports offered through Soccer association and boys and girls club basketball,

School Resource Officer

Student Welfare and Attendance Officer

Academic Coordinators

I will conclude my letter with what I strongly recommend NOT cutting. With all the effort the district has recently made to support a High School that strives to support all students in being college and career ready, I cannot see how any cuts can be made to Sonoma Valley High School programs. This would be undermining the recent effort to rally the community around the more stringent graduation requirements. As we know, to be truly competitive our students need to be well-rounded and explore additional interests in addition to academics. There are several compelling points I’d like to make on this subject.

1. High School Students can not be competitive in college applications without having competitive classes as well extra-curricular activities (including drama, clubs, sports, etc)
2. Many High School students get grants/scholarships and support specifically because of the extra-curricular activities they pursue.
3. High School Students do not have other community options for these types of experiences (i.e. many community classes in drama, art, sports etc exist in our community for elementary and even middle-school age children, but once you reach high school the offerings are much more limited)
4. High School Students have to be able to balance their rigorous academic classes with activities that develop their other skills and interests to keep them engaged and motivated.
5. It does not seem an option to limit our high school students’ ability to be competitive when they graduate – as anyone seriously considering a higher education would be forced to look at other high school options.

Thank you for encouraging the public to offer their opinions and recommendations. I know these budget cuts will be a tough task to accomplish. I look forward to hearing your comments on staff and community input, as well as some insight on several possible pathways you see the budget cuts taking. I thought the suggestion at the recent community meeting at

SVHS that you take the feedback from teachers/administrators, community and the crucial information that only staff would really know/understand and boil it down into several realistic scenarios was important. This would let the community at large have a concrete place to stand on, as they continue to try and give meaningful feedback.

- Respondent recommends to following budget reductions: Eliminate CSR Grade K and 2, eliminate 3 buy back days, eliminate 5 school days, eliminate 1 section of AVID at Altimira & AHMS, recapture Gate funding for General Fund use, 50% reduction in funding for high school independent study, partial elimination of SV Adult School, 100% elimination of summer school funding, 50% reduction in funding in intervention programs, 50% cut to funding of high school sports, reduce .6 FTE Vice Principal SVHS, eliminate .1FTE District Funded Academic Coordinators/ELL managers, reduce \$100,000 of general fund contribution to Transportation, cut 1.0FTE custodian district-wide, eliminate first \$100,000 in Maintenance and Operations, \$100,000 reduction at District Office, 10% reduction to categorical allocations to all sites, 1.8% cut to Special Education.
- It is essential that our elementary school libraries stay open.

Reading is the most important skill we can give to our students at the elementary level. Literacy opens doors to every discipline—from fluency in the English language to the language of Computer Science and everything in between. Without the ability to read well, our students will not be able to communicate effectively in our written language, will not be able to read a story problem on a standardized math test, will not even be able to follow directions necessary to operate a simple household appliance, let alone a complex scientific instrument or a computer program.

Given our District's goal to ensure that each of our students is "college ready" by high school graduation, we must make sure that all our students can read fluently at the elementary school level. How are we to expect our students to take and pass the rigorous classes required to achieve the "college ready" goal if they are not encouraged to develop their reading skills at an early age? How will our students be ready to write excellent essays on their college applications?

I am the Library Media Specialist at Sassarini Elementary. Over half of our school's students are English Language Learners and/or come from Low Socio-Economic families. Many of our students do not have books at home. Many rarely, if ever, visit the county libraries. Some of our students' parents are marginally, if at all, literate. Our students need access to our school library every week, every day, so they can check out books at their reading level, books that interest them, books that they can and will read.

Sassarini has put in place a fantastic Accelerated Reader program. Under my urging, in concert with our Computer Lab Operator and our teachers, we encourage every child to participate in the program. I have labeled and color-coded every book in the library that has an AR quiz, making it easy for students to come to the library and find books at their level. After we had put AR in place and encouraged students to use the program, the circulation in Sassarini's library increased tremendously. On average, nearly two hundred books are checked out of our library every day, for book reports and the AR program as well as to satisfy our students' blossoming curiosity about the world. Our students are definitely benefiting from the AR program, which encourages children to read books at their level and understand what they are reading. Because they are learning to be successful readers, our students enjoy reading. It is amazing to see their enthusiasm as they choose library books to read for learning and pleasure.

The budget reduction our District is facing is daunting. But the cuts the Board decides to make should not impact the reading programs at our elementary schools in any way. Closing the school libraries, even for part of the day or week, will have a tremendous negative impact on the reading programs in our schools. Now, more than ever, with the consequences of Program Improvement hanging over us as educators, the elementary school libraries must stay open to our students.

- Respondent recommends the following budget reductions: senior projects, AVID, HS independent study, Adult School, HS and middle school co-curr stipends, K-5 counselors academic coordinators, tech. support, home-to-school transportation, grounds, Maintenance and Operations, District Office. *Lynn sent us all a great article on being able to read by 3rd grade tells us if a child will live in poverty. Please keep this in mind as you make cuts. *Have you thought of taking 1 day a month and adding those hours to the rest of the school days? So, 1 day a month, the schools would have zero operational costs (10 a year). The kids would not lose any school hours for the year?
- I would like to suggest that the directors meet with D.O. staff (not necessarily from their departments) to see what input staff have as far as cuts @ D.O. go. Maybe some people are willing to be cut to part-time and some are not, trying to make it more equitable for all and create a sense of teamwork. People at D.O. are quite stressed about impending cuts. Other items to cut: CSR, reduce school days, summer school, SLIP and reductions to categorical.

- I don't think summer school should be cut at all. Especially for the kids w/ESY and/or kids who desperately need summer school. I think that the Special Ed. costs would increase over time, (if summer school were eliminated) because I think the Sp. Ed. population may increase w/o summer school. Just a thought.
- Eliminate 5 school days would be an across the board sacrifice. I think involving the parents/families in the load of the cuts is an effective way to get people to understand the severity and maybe motivate civic actions. Save CSR!! Trying to differentiate for 20 students requires maintaining this "low" number. Trying to raise proficiency will only be more difficult w/30 in primary.
- Respondent recommends the following budget reductions: Eliminate CSR Grades, K, 2 & 1, two buy back days, eliminate 4 school days (take 2 days Thanksgiving week), 50% reduction to high school independent study, maybe close Gateway (where would they go?), eliminate funding for teen parent program, 50% reduction to funding for intervention programs.
- Combine Academic Coordinators, EL Managers, GATE and Dept Chair into one position. Increase revenues by charging more for facility use. Is it still beneficial to maintain Basic Aid status or would revenue increase if we went back to ADA? Combine middle schools. Use AHMS for Creekside, Gateway and Adult School. Woodland Star is a charter school – why is M&O over there? They should be self-sufficient. Re-evaluate the free/reduced lunch or transportation process. Students seem to have phones, new fancy clothes, etc.
- Respondent asks: How many staff are at the top of the pay scale (capped)? Why is the District Office description so vague and all others are more detailed. Need "future discussions now. Provide incentive for early retirement to include medical. Teachers pay % of medical/dental – do all levels of staff pay in at the same rate? Can CSR be partial – have 25 in a class, rather than 20 or 30, but still get some/partial funds or is it all or nothing? Will furlough days affect all employees - is that the D.O. too? Please clarify why Justin, Louann and Dino got a raise, when staff didn't? Do not eliminate K-5 counselors: Children's availability to learn will be impacted – those who get services as well as others around them. We appreciate the long term commitment that SVUSD has made to employ K-5 counselors. What if we move AHMS students to Altimira. What type of money can this save? Could AHMS be rented or sold? What about the custodial manager.....where did \$\$ come from to hire?
- Do whatever it takes to not put 30 kids in K-2.
- I am wondering if we can cut by 1 or 2 days, the school days, but also make 1 or 2 buy back days into teaching days so that students get the same number of days of instruction. This represents a salary loss to teachers, not a loss to instruction. It will look (and be) really awful to cut so many things and charge more for extra-curricular (i.e. buses, sports, etc). and ALSO cut day of instruction. (Spoken more as a parent & community member – but also as teacher, I hate to lose instructional days, even for SBCP.) I would cut: AVID at middle schools, Adult School (except ESL), all summer school, SVHS Vice Principal - that's only .5 million.
- Respondent recommends the following reductions: eliminate one buy back day, eliminate five school days, eliminate mid-day "core" intervention at elementary sites, senior projects, 1 section of AVID at the middle schools, 100% SVHS independent Study, Creekside High School, Gateway School, Close Sonoma Valley Adult School, 50% elimination of summer school (senior credit recovery), eliminate K-12 intervention programs, .6FTE SVHS Vice Principal, Eliminate funding for .1FTE District funded Academic coordinators/ELL Managers, one district-wide technology support position, eliminate home-to-school transportation, \$100,000 in reductions to the District Office, discontinue SLIP, 10% reduction to all sites in categorical allocations.
- Wow, once again, seems nothing ever changes. I just want to add a few suggestions since every little bit helps:
 1. There is a secretarial position that can be deleted. Special Ed and curriculum. This was brought to my attention in a conversation with a friend of mine. I think it is valid.
 2. Reduction in the classification of "confidential secretaries". There is a description and some of yours in this status could be changed to a not so high salaried secretary.
 3. The reduction of one management position. Make Business Manager, Deputy Superintendent's assistant.
 4. Special Ed Curriculum being put under the Director of C&I with an assistant to help with Sp. Ed. Services.
 5. At least 2 routes at Transportation. Put drivers back to regular assigned buses, reducing the use of all vehicles which could lead to longer vehicle usage, less maintenance and parts. Even the ability to sell some off.
 6. ACES must be self-sustaining or gone.
 7. A complete bell reschedule

8. Change benefit packages so that new hires would be treated more like the outside where theirs are shared costs as now, but family are paid by the employee
9. A school closure. Dunbar since a great deal of their students are transfers. Move Sonoma Charter to Dunbar and Make Adele a K-8 school. Sell the charter campus and put money in high interest earning account being able to use the interest for budget boosting.

(sic)

- The following items may have been discussed; I am sure there are other things to consider. This is just some random thoughts.

1. Make home to school the top priority in transportation.

2. Allow field trips that can only be covered by District personnel and equipment.

-It seems that there are many trips that are covered by other School Districts and Charter Services. This is an additional cost to the district that does not need to be incurred. If the event has the funds to pay for a Charter Service this is OK.

-All trips request should have three preferred dates and the request shall be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the event. A calendar of scheduled trips could be posted so teachers could see what dates are open or they can see that their trip is on the schedule.

3. Reduce the number of field trips per day, if they are departing or returning during the A/M or P/M route times they should not be allowed, thus eliminating the need for additional drivers.

4. Combine athletic trips on one bus, when the team's events are close to each other or the trip can be done in a loop. This will require early student release time on occasions; it could also require a team to wait for the later team to finish. After all they are learning team building.

5. Develop hub style stops, these stops can be position in $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ mile increments. These stops can be for all school sites. Buses can drop off or pickup at these locations and transfer the students from these locations. The school sites could be the hubs and would provide a safe environment for all and reduce any potential issues that can arise from standing on the street.

6. Review bell schedules to see if there are any benefits to adjusting them.

7. Start negotiations with all bargaining units to take up to a 10% pay reduction for two years. At the third year if the state economy is better then maybe a gradual increase in salary could happen to get all back to where they were when the negotiations started. No one wants to lose their income completely, a reduction is much better than having no income.

Questions/Observations:

If home to school is eliminated, will the district have staff at all school sites to monitor the early drop off of students?

If school starts at 8:00 a.m., a parent would need to drop their child off at say 7:00 a.m. so they can be at work on time at 8:00 a.m. in Santa Rosa.

The District has stepped up to be stewards of the environment by using environmental friendly products, converting to solar and installing Particulate Filters on its school buses.

The emission reduction from the buses has enhanced the air in our town and around the schools site. Removing these vehicles from the road and replacing them with passenger cars is stepping back in time. We will increase the pollution around the school sites that the students have no choice but to breath.

Bus holds 60 students at a time, the average car if car pooling holds 3 students.

1 bus = 20 cars.

This also increases the chances of a student being struck by a car in school zone and traffic congestion at the school site and the neighboring neighborhoods and local business.

- Here are my thoughts. When I first circled "what I could live with", it only totaled \$4.5 million. Obviously this is a very difficult time. My suggestions now total \$2.4 million – sadly. Thank you for your presentation and time.
Eliminate CSR Grade K and 2 (Reading for 1st grade is crucial), eliminate 1 buy back day (staff development is crucial to student achievement), eliminate 5 school days, Reduce core replacement teachers to .4FTE?, eliminate GATE, 50% high

school independent student, Gateway, Partial elimination of SVAS, eliminate K-12 intervention programs, partial elimination of co-curricular (CSF could be an adjunct duty, Pep Squad should be a coach...it's a sport), Reduction in middle school counseling, reduce .6 FTE vice principal, 20% reduction in elementary Noon Duty Supervisors, reduce \$100,000 of general fund contribution to Transportation, \$100,000 cut to District Office, 20% reduction to all sites in categorical allocations and 1.8% cut to special ed.

- I write you this letter to ask you to please keep open the Altimira Adult School, I take classes to the ESL and they are very much help me, I speak English some but I need more help writing and understanding. I need better English to be able to help my daughter with the school work and talk with the Teacher. I need better English to talk with the doctors. I need better English to be able to understand directions and rules at work. My Teacher helps me learn English, she is very kind and patient when the class doesn't understand. Please keep the Adult School open to help me become a better resident of Sonoma. Thank you. P.s. My Teacher no corrected this letter English. (sic)
- I recommend the following bit-program cuts: Eliminate CSR (better to get 2 years of the right preschool experience), eliminate 3 buyback days, reduce 5 school days (cutting conference rather than class time?), eliminate bussing (and let Flowery feed Altimira and Sassarini feed Adele), cut 3.0 FTE custodial, cut 1.0 FTE grounds, cut 2.0FTE Maintenance and Operations, close Adult School, eliminate HS Independent Study Program
- ELAC Parent Recommendation: Eliminate: Gateway, Creekside, Adult School (13.2), Summer School (14.2), High School Sports, High School Ex-Cur, SVHS VP (23), Translators (25.1), Middle School Library, High School Library, 1 FTE Technology Position, 3.0 FTE Custodial, Maintenance & Operations (35.2), \$100,000 District Office, I.A. (38.1), 3 buy back days, 5 furlough days
- Hello – here are my suggestions for budget cuts in order: (1) eliminate three buy back days; (2) eliminate 5 school days - as a state employee, my pay was cut 10%, this is only 4% per Justin; (3) Close SV Adult School (too much money for 13-15 ex-students to get a SVHS diploma); (4) Eliminate Transportation (recommend admin. Staff consider benefits of rerouting Sassarini students to AHMS and Flowery students to Altimira – as this would reduce the need for bussing (sic); Close Gateway – let those expelled students find alternative education; (6) Eliminate ELL Manager – better this than librarians; (7) HS Independent Study – on-line resources exist for students who can't attend school); (8) 1.8% reduction special ed. – wow!! 1.8% is this much!! (sic) Can we reduce further?; (9) Creekside Administration; AVID at Middle Schools seems more valuable at high school level; (11) summer school – knowing there is a fallback position to not passing seems like enabling failure); (12) senior projects (deadlines conflict with early college apps. And testing); (13) SVHS campus supervisor (still have 4); (14) 20% reduction at all sites – but we still have class size reduction!!! (15) SLIP (but we still have CSR).
- Respondent says: Eliminate 3 days staff develop. Have Wednesdays go back to full days of instruction. Eliminate Conference Weeks and go back to full days of instruction. Look closely at supplemental payroll; eliminate cost of paying from timesheets (extra bus salaries, department head, intramural director, etc.). Have all employees pay the \$32 cost of fingerprints. Look closely at the cost of teacher salaries compared to Classified; cutting extra pay for teachers will save a lot more \$\$ than cutting classified. Closely look at teachers who abuse sick leave and continue to receive differential pay/ when sick leave is abused, pay should be docked. CSR should effect 2nd grade before 1st gr. Or Kgn. Make sure all cuts that effect employees' salaries are equal for Management, Classified and Certificated. Please look at the 2 days before Thanksgiving as possible furlough days. Consider all employees paying for their own TB. test – SV hospital charges \$33 per person.

Comments added on December 6, 2011:

- Item 40.1 – Has anyone looked into the fact that special education teachers at the high school get two prep. periods?
- Respondent says: Eliminate: 3 buy back days, five school days, core replacement teachers, senior projects, GATE, high school Independent Study, Adult School, 100% elimination of summer school, K-12 Intervention, 60% reduction of Student Welfare & Student Attendance Officer, \$75,000 reduction at the District Office and SLIP.
- We need to be a team – and we need to all feel the cuts: teachers, admin., staff and parents. In other words, loss of day care (as in fewer school days or shortened K hours) should not be a deciding factor. I want to teach and offer quality education for any number of days (even 160) that baby-sit a huge class with no support for 180 days. *K – consider going back to half day and team teaching. *If we cut days, consider many 4 –d ay weeks and a longer over-all “year”.

- If you close down the school, I won't get an education. I really want an education. The teachers have taught me how to read better and speak English better. If you close down the school, I don't know what I do. Please don't close down the school. (sic)
- I found this copy of the "Top Priority activities for English Learner Site Coordinators" sent by you and _____ when she was the E.L. District Coordinator. I have discussed this list with my administrators (names have been kept confidential) to prioritize the responsibilities. As you can see by my marked up copy, each added words and tasks.

This is my third year as the EL Coordinator at SVHS and I can say that with the exception of a few clerical duties now assigned to the Registrar, all of the activities are part of the coordinator's list of responsibilities to keep each site in compliance with State mandates.

At the high school one of the most time consuming tasks is also my favorite, and that is monitoring students who have been reclassified to English Proficient or RFEP. As you know, coordinators are responsible for tracking the progress of students who are reclassified, monitoring their grades for two years and their CST scores for three years. When students fall short, especially with grades, I meet with them to design a plan for improvement. As we have talked about in our EL meetings, the one to one consultation with students is extremely powerful.

Each year the number of students I monitor grows as we RFEP more students at the middle school level. At any given time I am responsible for tracking 200-250 students in addition to the other duties. Each year I request another .1 or .2 FTE to allow me enough time to complete the list.

Now, given the budget crisis, I hope to keep the .2 FTE position at the high school and if the position is saved, I am asking that it not be reduced to a .1 FTE or half day a week. Officially most schools only have a half day position although coordinators use other time to finish tasks. I do the same in my position at Dunbar. Obviously the high school has many more students and I believe the existing .2 position is already at the bone.

Thank you for listening and considering my request. (sic)

The following comments have been translated for your review:

- My comment is that instead of making cuts in the schools there should be better care in schools. Offer more help for children who have learning problems and more counselors for children who cannot express their feelings. More people available to take care of children in the playground and to care for them well. Have more aides and not that many students in the classrooms because there are too many students and few caregivers. Do not cut only what is necessary. Ask parents to pay some money for their children or to buy their school supplies. To make cuts in school buses. Please cut just what is necessary. Do not make cuts
- I provide my support for not having any cuts in Sonoma, like teachers of adults and buses for children. Do not eliminate any services in Sonoma. What about the taxes we pay? Do not remove the entertainment of football or the counselors, mainly teachers in the adult education program. When is about children to get funds from any place possible.
- Through this statement we urge you not to remove the adult English classes because we need them for better communication in our workplace and to benefit our children. The more we know, the more our children learn from us. They are the future of this great nation, because without education, the country remains in ignorance. There would be more vandalism and laziness. Because of all this, we politely ask for your help, in representation of all those who need it, because we love this great country and we are very grateful and proud of it. Thanking you in advance for your courtesies and valuable support. Sincerely Yours.

I am attending adult school and am interested in knowing how the budget cuts will affect the adult program. I'm also aware that these cuts would affect many programs. I have a student in high school and I realize the strong effect these cuts will have in the school program. It is urgent to find solutions because we are worried about these cuts. I suggest collecting \$3.00 per child every Monday. This donation would help.

- I think parents of all students should pay a substantial amount every month, as it is very important to the education of our children and this should apply to all schools that are in danger of closing or even if they are not in danger of closing. If this were to happen, perhaps the cuts would be less. Or if you have any other ideas on the way we could help not to have more

cuts, please let us know. All of us working together to find a solution. Anything we can do we will. If we need to pay, we will. If we have to buy school supplies, we will.

- I support not having any budget cuts in Sonoma, like teachers at adult school and school buses and all other services. Where are the taxes we pay? If you take away the services in Sonoma, this will be a disaster.
- "My comment is that instead of making cuts in the schools there should be better care in schools. Offer more help to children who have learning problems and more counselors for children who cannot express their feelings. More people available to take care of children in the playground and to care for them well. Have more aides and not that many students in the classrooms because there are too many students and few caregivers. Cut only what is necessary. Ask parents to pay some money for their children or to buy their school supplies. To make cuts on school buses. Please cut just what is necessary. Do not make cuts." [sic]
- "I provide my support for not having any cuts in Sonoma including teachers at adult school and buses for children. Do not eliminate any services in Sonoma. What about the taxes we pay? Do not remove the entertainment of football or the counselors, mainly the teachers in the adult education program. When it is about children, we need to get funds from any place possible." [sic]
- "Through this statement we urge you to keep the adult English classes because we need them for better communication in our workplace and to benefit our children. The more we know, the more our children learn from us. They are the future of this great nation, because without education, the country remains in ignorance. There would be more vandalism and laziness. Because of all this, we politely ask for your help, in representation of all those who need it, because we love this great country and we are very grateful and proud of it. Thanking you in advance for your courtesies and valuable support. Sincerely Yours." [sic]
- "I am attending adult school and am interested in knowing how the budget cuts will affect the adult program. I'm also aware that these cuts would affect many programs. I have a student in high school and I realize the strong effect these cuts will have in the school program. It is urgent to find solutions because we are worried about these cuts. I suggest collecting \$3.00 per child every Monday. This donation would help. Thanks." [sic]
- "I think parents of all students should pay a substantial amount every month, as it is very important to the education of our children and this should apply to all schools that are in danger of closing or even if they are not in danger of closing. If this were to happen, perhaps the cuts would be less. Or if you have any other ideas on the way we could help so we don't have any more cuts, please let us know. All of us working together to find a solution. Anything we can do, we will. If we need to pay, we will. If we have to buy school supplies, we will." [sic]
- "I support not having any budget cuts in Sonoma, like teachers at adult school and school buses and all other services. Where are the taxes we pay? If you take away the services in Sonoma, this will be a disaster." [sic]
- "I direct this to the district office. I want to say that adult classes are very important to me as a mom because this way I can become part of society and I can help my children with their homework. In order to help my children I have to learn first. Support this program because it is very beneficial for the entire county. Thank you very much and I urge you to understand our needs as parents. I hope you do not remove this program so important to me. Thanks." [sic]
- "To whom it may concern. My name is _____ and I am an English student at night school for adults. My comment is: I want to ask you to please not remove this program. If all students unite and agree on keeping the program, we can support each other so you don't take our teachers away. We may offer a little financial support to the program. I hope you think about this and save the program. Sincerely." [sic]
- "The program helps all workers to learn English and to communicate with their bosses or employers. Without any English classes it would be more difficult and it would lead to misunderstandings with everyone due to the language barrier. This is very important and classes help the economy of this country." [sic]
- "I do not want you to stop classes for adults because they are very useful to those who do not speak English. I did not know anything when I joined but now I know a little bit. I have learned during this year that I have attended. I want to keep going to school because I want to learn so I can help my daughter with homework and so I do not have to ask for an interpreter when I go to the hospital or elsewhere. Thank you for the opportunity to comment." [sic]

- "I would like to continue the program for adults because it is a way for us to develop and feel confident about being able to communicate in English, especially with our children's teachers, parents and friends, to educate our children and communicate with our leaders so we can get a promotion. Thank you for your understanding." [sic]
- "My name is _____. I'm in the school program for adults. I do not want this program to be removed because thanks to this program I have learned English. This has helped me to flourish in my workplace and it has also allowed me to help my nephew with homework. It is very important to learn English as a second language. We all love our teachers who help us with our learning every day. It is not fair that you take our teachers away because all they want to do is to help us and we are happy to learn the language. Keep in mind that we will be really thankful." [sic]
- "Eliminate - Gateway school; Teen Parenting Program; Sonoma Valley Adult School. Eliminate funds for sports at middle school; office staff; administrative staff - SVHS; campus supervisors; SVHS library staff; Reduce transportation service; custodians; grounds; maintenance and operations; reduction at district office; reduce a percentage of Categorical Distributions; Special Education." [sic]