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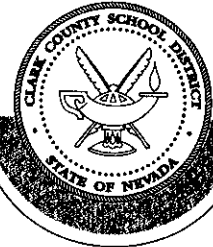
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CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Carlos Arturo Garcia, Superintendent

March 31, 2003

Dear Legislator:

As you are aware, the Clark County School District held a series of four town hall meetings in March regarding potential budget cuts. The meetings, which were attended by several thousand parents, provided attendees with an opportunity to voice their opinion and complete two surveys. One asked for input on programs that should be "maintained," "reduced," or "eliminated," and one asked for their opinion on ways to raise revenue or reduce costs.

The results of those surveys have been compiled and the information is included in this packet. If you have questions regarding the information, we would be happy to discuss it with you.

Sincerely,

Sheila Moulton, President
CCSD Board of School Trustees

Carlos A Garcia, Superintendent
Clark County School District

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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 4/2/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT J
SUBMITTED BY: SHEILA MOULTON

J 1/3

Clark County School District

TOWN HALL SURVEY RESULTS

A series of four town hall meetings were held in March 2003, attended by several thousand parents. At the meetings, attendees were asked to complete two forms. First, a "long form," listing 55 CCSD programs for respondents to indicate which programs or expenses they felt should be "maintained," "reduced," or "eliminated." The second form, dubbed the "short form," was a survey asking for opinions related to various ways to increase revenue. A total of 2,493 long forms and 2,470 short forms were received from the four events. Results of surveys completed at the Town Hall Meetings are summarized below.

LONG FORM RESULTS

Maintain (See SLIDE 1)

The ten items receiving the highest percentage of "maintain" responses are all classroom related, and fall into four main categories:

- Instructional Supply Allocations
- Classroom Personnel (Substitutes, Librarians, Special Education Teachers, Elementary Music and Art Specialists)
- Class Size (K-12)
- Music Programs in Middle and High School

Reduce (See SLIDE 2)

Budget items that respondents were willing to "reduce," but not totally eliminate, are primarily concerned with operations and administration:

- Central Office Personnel (Board and Superintendent's Office, Business and Personnel)
- Groundskeeping
- Technology (Technology Services and Support and Educational Media Services)
- School Administrators and Staff
- Media Clerks at Middle Schools and High Schools
- Board Service Centers
- Credit Retrieval Programs (the only program in the top ten "reduce" list that is not administrative)

Eliminate (See SLIDE 3)

Items receiving the greatest number of "eliminate" responses might be categorized as programs that some may feel are beyond the basics required to instruct students or operate schools. They include:

- Teachers on Special Assignments (TOSAs)
- Community Use of Schools and Board Service Centers
- Non-traditional high school programs (Community College High Schools, Block Scheduling, and Distance Education)
- Remedial Programs (Summer School Tuition Subsidy and Court Continuation Programs)
- ROTC
- Varsity Quiz and Junior Varsity Quiz

Dilemma (See SLIDE 4)

This graph illustrates the dilemma facing the board if we are forced to make drastic budget cuts.

- The top ten responses in the "eliminate" category add up to only \$12 million dollars.
- The top ten responses in the "maintain" add up to \$718.6 million.

This slide demonstrates the frustration shared by the public, district employees, and the board of school trustees. While some areas were clearly identified for reduced spending, the large portion of the budget pays for things that most individuals feel need to be maintained. Less than 1/3 of the respondents agreed to eliminate any single program.

SHORT FORM RESULTS

Charging Fees (See SLIDE 5)

The first seven questions on the short form asked if people felt we could charge for participation in certain programs that we currently provide at no charge.

- 51% agreed or strongly agreed with the concept of "pay for play" for sports.
- 43% agreed or strongly agreed with "pay for play" for music programs.
- 54% agreed or strongly agreed with an enrollment fee for GATE.
- 65% believe we should increase the cost of summer school tuition.
- 63%, however, disagreed or strongly disagreed both with charging for bus transportation, and with increasing the cost of school lunch.
- respondents were split nearly evenly on the idea of textbook deposit fees.

Schedule changes (See SLIDE 6)

- One of the options offered on the short form was a 4-day school week. Respondents were evenly split on the idea – with 49% agreeing/strongly agreeing, and 49% disagreeing/strongly disagreeing.
- When asked about reducing the school year by 5 days, 53% disagreed or strongly disagreed with that suggestion.

Tax Increases (See SLIDE 7)

Finally, on the short form, respondents were asked how they felt about cutting programs to avoid tax increases, and about increasing taxes to fund education.

- 93% opposed or strongly opposed cutting education programs.
- 84% agreed or strongly agreed to increase taxes to maintain current programs.
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed to support Governor Guinn's tax proposal to increase education funding.

Summary

It was very difficult for participants at the Town Hall Meetings to identify programs to eliminate. While some areas were identified for reductions in spending (particularly administrative areas), overwhelmingly, participants sent the message that they don't want education programs to be cut and that they are willing to pay higher taxes to make sure they are funded. Complete survey results for all 55 questions are also provided. (Please see green sheet.)