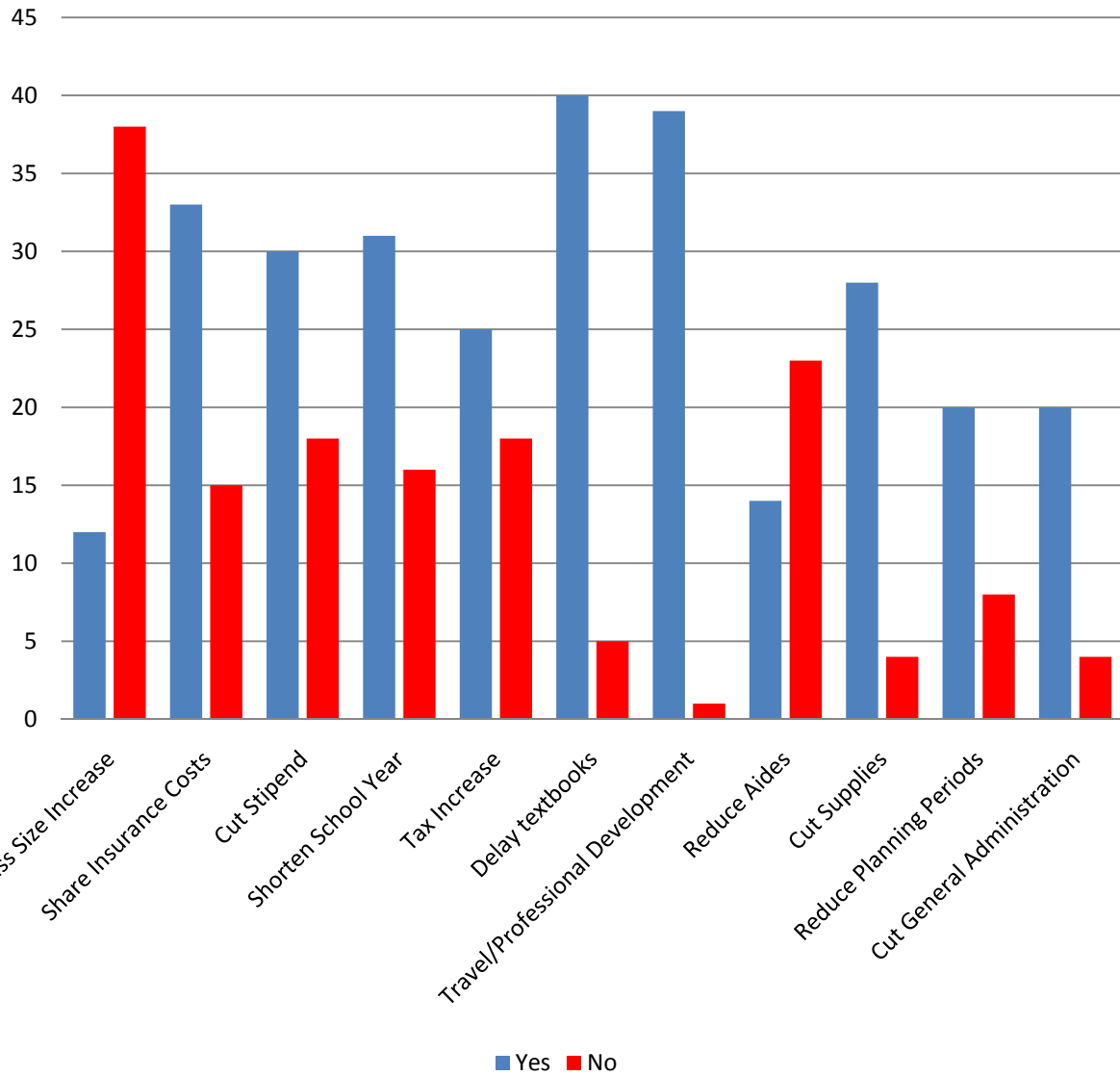


Summary of Community Email Budget Comments

- Responses: 87
- Strong opposition to raising class sizes (38 against; 12 for)
 - Most of those in favor suggest different ratios for each grade level
- Most favor sharing insurance costs (33 for; 15 against)
- Most favor cutting the stipend (24 for; 18 against)
- More favor a tax increase (30) than oppose one (18)
 - Some who oppose do so because of concern over how the Legislature may perceive such a move
- Strong sentiment toward delaying text book purchases (40 for; 5 against)
- Strong sentiment for cutting travel/professional development (39 for; 1 against)

Summary of Community Email Budget Comments		
	Yes	No
Class Size Increase	12	38
Share Insurance Costs	33	15
Cut Stipend	30	18
Shorten School Year	31	16
Tax Increase	25	18
Delay textbooks	40	5
Travel/Professional Development	39	1
Reduce Aides	14	23
Cut Supplies	28	4
Reduce Planning Periods	20	8
Cut General Administration	20	4

Email Responses to Budget Cuts



EMAIL ABOUT POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS

Dear School Board members and Dr. Timothy,

I have spoken at prior Board meetings about the District Gifted/ Talented program, but would like to do so again as you enter final budget discussions. My view is that our District should keep funding for the GT programs at its current level, at a minimum. I base this view on the consultation report of Dr. Shepherd and the recommendations of the District committee to prioritize those recommendations. Both the report and the committee review indicate that our GT program is lacking in various areas. To further cut this program now will further reduce the District's ability to fulfill its mission of helping each student (including GT/high ability) to reach their full potential.

I believe a tax raise will backfire at the state legislature. It is hard to want to raise a voted leeway for our District when the Legislature may try to take those taxes away from our District again.

Thanks very much for your time and all your efforts!

Hi,

We, like many other families here, chose to move to Park City primarily due to the quality of education offered by the public school system here. Education is the foundation on which the next generation will build its future. So, while these are difficult times for all, we should make budget choices wisely.

We would oppose any cuts that impact the quality of education, or create dis-incentives for teachers and educators. With that in mind, here are some suggestions on how to manage through this budget crisis:

1. Strongly oppose increasing the class size or reducing the number of school days
2. I'd oppose any moves to cut teacher salaries, number of aides, health benefits. However, the district should actively look into opportunities to improve the quality of staff where possible.
3. In my experience, there's always room to re-negotiate and consolidate contracts with vendors when times are tough. So, the \$1.7M supplies budget may have some room for re-negotiation. It wouldn't be un-heard of to squeeze 15-20% cost savings by prudent spending on this budget.
4. Adoption of new text books shouldn't be delayed. However, it may be possible to share the cost with parents on a voluntary basis. If half the parents come forward and pay for the books (or make a donation to the school) to cover the cost of new textbooks for their children, that will save \$125K. Many parents in the community can afford this expense.
5. While i would encourage you to cut travel, let's cut it wisely. Every business is cutting back on travel, it's possible to use conference calls, web ex, organize local seminars or have trainers travel to the school district to reduce travel costs.
6. Based on the information below, looks like the annual housing and transportation allowance of \$1200 is offered as a flat payment to all employees. This should be based on need or other merit

standards, and there may be opportunity to disburse these funds more wisely, and cut back 30-40% of the budget.

7. While raising property taxes is generally not a positive step, it should be up for debate. I wouldn't mind paying an extra \$50-\$100 in property taxes if it helps to improve the standard of education in the school district. I am sure many parents feel the same way.

8. There may be an opportunity to lower the ongoing electricity, water and heating costs by adopting green technologies. Simply replacing all the light bulbs with energy efficient lighting can cut the electric bills in half. The light bulbs can be donated by parents, or sponsored by local businesses. I am sure that the highly educated community here can offer many more such suggestions on how to manage heating and water bills.

9. I strongly oppose the re-capture of PCSD funds for distribution to the rest of the state. Many families in Park City made the choice to move to this area, are paying for higher property values and taxes and cost of living to enable their children to take advantage of the quality of education offered by PCSD. I would strongly encourage you to contest the re-capture of these funds, including exploring legal options.

_____ and I strongly support the work of the public school system. Do let us know if we can volunteer in any way to help the district manage through this shortfall, or help implement any of the suggestions above.

Hi! Here are some of my thoughts on the budget as a parent, business person, and volunteer in the schools.

Why didn't more parents show up at the budget meeting? This is the time of year for school plays (which we had that night), band concerts, sporting events, etc. It's hard for all interested parents to show up. The only thing I could think of for the future is to have one day meeting and one night meeting and make sure the time, date, and place are listed somewhere obvious in the Park Record - I do believe that would increase the participation.

Budget Cuts With Which I Agree

Some insurance costs should be shifted to the employees. In today's world, I think you would be hard pressed to find companies where employees aren't paying any of their insurance costs. Those companies did exist in the past, but the world has rapidly changed. Benchmarking is a good idea on this point, and I think asking the employees to pay some of their insurance costs is a very reasonable thing to do.

Supplies and materials - I agree with cuts here. In every other state we've lived in (Indiana and Virginia), every child has to bring about \$30-\$40 worth of school supplies to school at the beginning of the year - pencils, crayons, markers, erasers, paper, etc. Supply lists by grade level are given to students, posted at Wal-mart, etc. We were shocked when we didn't have to do that here.

The number of teacher development days and conferences that teachers and administrators attend could be reduced. Likewise, the travel for professional development could be cut. I like the breaks here

in Utah (Fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter, and Spring) and I do think they break up the school year nicely for both the students and the staff. For the regular classroom year, teachers are out of the classroom too much in my opinion for various meetings, conferences, etc. I would like to see them in the classroom more.

Budget Cuts With Which I Disagree

I disagree with raising taxes at this time. With the equalization bill hanging around, I would definitely not increase taxes. I do think it's a red flag, a sign that we have plenty of money in Park City, if we raise taxes now. We don't want to raise money to give to other districts - that's just not a good thing at all. If the money isn't definitely going to stay here, don't collect it.

The district should not increase the class size. While 23:1 looks good on paper, 9 classes at Parley's Park are currently above that. In the winter, the classes are usually bigger due to children of some seasonal workers. Looking into an elementary classroom with children who have discipline issues, who are ELL, who have certain learning disabilities, etc. - the teachers absolutely do not need more students in their classrooms. A lot of classrooms need less children.

I disagree with shortening the school year. I think it's a good number of days right now. Our kids need to stay competitive academically with the rest of the country, not just Utah. I wouldn't shorten the school year. We need to be efficient with what we have.

Summary

These are some of the cuts I know are being considered. If you would like me to voice an opinion on others, please let me know. We want to do what's right and what's fair and what keeps the students' best education at the forefront.

Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Dear Park City School Board,

This is our family's opinion on the Park City School District budget....Our top three ways to cut the budget is....

1) Do not raise taxes. Besides the obvious that we don't want our taxes raised, it also brings in the whole issue of the old HB66 bill and whether we end up keeping it anyway. This is unfair. Ask families for supply donations per class.

* We would rather see planning periods cut and district travel cut than staff jobs cut.

2) Cut 5 days off of the school year

3) Yes - delay adopting new school books. Do not buy/adopt new school books. Make the kids responsible for bringing them back in good shape.

Thank you,

Hi there,

I missed the meeting on how to deal with the budget cuts but here are my suggestions.

1. shift some insurance costs to employees
2. planning periods cut to every other day in the secondary level
3. cut travel for professional development
4. cut the stipend
5. not being from Utah and understanding UEA weekend, can we cut that and save money?

I have yet to meet a teacher who goes to a professional conference during that weekend.

Hope this helps and I don't envy those tough decisions.

thanks,

-
1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? 6th grade and above, only. Will not work to increase class size in elementary because ESL.
 2. PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? Minor cuts can be made to supplies budgets. Parents can supplement what is reduced.
 3. PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? Yes - All other industries have employees pay some portion of their health and dental benefits. If the employees participate in a flex benefits program, the cost to them could be minor and a large savings to the district. Dental is the easiest place to start.
 4. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? No
 5. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? - Yes.
 6. Should taxes be increased? - Not sure.
 7. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut? NO, NO and a bigger NO.
 8. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? - Yes. We could easily cut out a week, at least!
 9. PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? Not qualified to answer.
 10. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings? - Don't think so, especially if benefits are cut. Maybe choose between benefits or planning periods. The teacher's work so hard!

11. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? - Not qualified to answer.

Regards,

As a parent of Park City School district students I would like cuts to come from the following areas:

Field Trips - this may not account for much savings but the number of field trip elementary school students take to silly.

Cut travel for professional development

Delay adopting new text books

Either cut employee stipend OR shift some of the cost of health insurance to employees.

I have high regard for school teachers and think budget cuts which affect their pocketbooks should only be made as a last resort.

Thank you!

To Whom it may concern: I have two children at Parley's Park Elementary and I have VERY strong feelings against increasing class size as a way to save money. None of the six classes my children have been in have had a ratio as low as a 24 to 1 ratio as it is, so however that ratio has been computed is suspect to me. Both children had at least 27 kids in their kindergarten class and similar numbers in future years. If anything, this ratio should be reduced. I can't think of anything that would make a more negative impact on students' ability to learn than further increasing class size. For this same reason, I oppose cutting teaching aide funding. I also oppose shortening the school year.

Having said that, I would consider any of the other alternatives mentioned in the email I just received: cutting supplies, cutting benefits, postponing new textbooks, cutting administration, increasing taxes, cutting professional development, and cutting planning periods. Many of these alternatives would have the greatest impact on hardworking teachers, so I would urge that their feedback be used to determine which of these options would cause them the least harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to an important issue.

Sincerely,

Dear Board of Education,

First, thank you for creating such a simple and easily accessed way of communications! I am the mother of 3 Park City students, with 1 at Ecker Hill and 2 at Parley's Park. We moved here a year ago

from Las Vegas, where our children were enrolled at the Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain, to the tune of \$18,000 per child a year!!!!

Our daughters were BEHIND their Park City peers and with the help of the fantastic staff at both schools, were up to speed by mid year. You have made my husband, an East Coast, prep-school, Ivy League graduate a huge supporter of public education-not a simple task. I am sorry to hear you are having to deal with such a large budget deficit, but want to voice my opinion on ways to trim back. I am against taking any \$ from the teacher's pockets, whether it is for housing and transportation help or insurance costs. The educators in our country are grossly underpaid and under appreciated, and Park City is one of the few districts that try to help. Our student ratio at the old school was no greater than 17:1, and that didn't make them better students.

Perhaps the increase in student ratios can help. I am more than happy to pay a tax increase for education but I realize most people are suffering due to our current economy. I don't envy you and the work ahead of you, but wanted to voice my opinion to NOT take anything away from our educators. Thank you so much!

My thoughts:

1. I would support a major cut on supplies. In California we purchased our own supplies for the school year. They would be shared by the entire grade. There were always families who purchased extra which covered those who couldn't afford them. We would purchase reams of paper, pencils, hand sanitizer, binders, etc.. basically whatever the classroom needed. Here is a website of our school district to see grade by grade supply list

http://cves.capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1225555013767 (If the link doesn't work it is the Capistrano Unified School District in CA, Canyon Vista Elementary School, under Resources)

2. I support the stipend for the teachers.

3. I would support delaying the textbooks.

4. If each day the school is closed and saves \$150,000 could you shorten the school week? What if you closed school on Fridays and added one hour each to Mon - Thurs.? And kindergarten, I would rather my child attend twice a week for a longer period than every day for 3 hours. (I will have a kindergartner next year)

5. Insurance. Let me preface this by saying I used to do benefits for a large law firm 8 years ago. At that time we noticed an increase in premiums throughout the industry and knew it would continue to get worse with time. Premiums increasing and coverage was decreasing. We came to the realization that we couldn't keep the same great benefits at a \$10 cost per paycheck to the employee to insure their entire family. Times were changing and we unfortunately needed to do the same if we wanted to provide insurance to our employees. We learned that even when employees contributed to their insurance premium, they were unaware of the actual cost of the benefit. When we changed this policy there were obviously those who were upset. Every year it got easier and more accepted. Yes, it does open the door for the employee to pay more in the future. But, as a company we couldn't continue to take on the increasing premium and decreasing benefits without the employee contributing. We also recognized insurance coverage was an incentive for people to work for our company so we needed to be competitive.

We realized that a family of 5 was technically being paid more money by the company than a family of 2 because of the cost of persons being covered by the premium. We noticed that spouses of employees had insurance and double insured their children because we didn't require additional payment to cover them.

We got rid of vision and dental because it wasn't cost effective. We also got rid of coverage like infertility that majority of the company wasn't using.

We ended up increasing the amount the employee would pay for themselves to be covered. The employee then had to pay an extra amount per dependent. For example, we had the employee pay \$20 each pay period for self to be insured and \$15 each pay period for each dependent to be insured. This made it more even if you will for those with smaller families verses larger families. You would have to run numbers and see what would work for you to help offset costs.

Have you had quotes for different plans? Could you offer more than one plan? Perhaps if you offered a HMO and POS plan together you could have the employee contribute less if they elected the HMO option vs. the POS which gives them more flexibility but still enjoy the HMO option.

Good luck!!

We have three children in the PC School District. Here is my feedback on the budget:

1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? NO
2. PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. YES-give parents a tax deduction for donating supplies to class.
3. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? If they pay NOTHING now--some of the costs should be shifted. I have never worked for a company & not paid a portion of my health costs.
4. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? YES.
5. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? YES-of course!
6. Should taxes be increased? NO
7. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut? NO
8. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? (YES-they do nothing the last few weeks of school anyway)
9. PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? YES

10. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings?
YES

11. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? YES-
businesses are doing this so the school districts should.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Dear School Board,

As a concerned parent, I respectfully ask that the following school cuts be implemented which would have the least impact on the students, who are the most important part of the equation.

- 1) Please cancel the housing stipend. This is no longer as critical as previous years as housing in the Park City area has dropped at least 20-30%. This can be re-evaluated as prices increase and when budget cuts are no longer a concern. This measure alone could save \$790,000.
- 2) PCSD employees should be responsible for part of their insurance costs, just as the rest of the working public is. The era of FREE medical insurance is no longer economically feasible. Employees should pay part of their premiums.
- 3) District administration should be cut. In dire economic times, the cuts should come from this level, before the students.
- 4) Cutting district travel for professional development could save \$310,000 annually.
- 5) Although not preferable, if need be, teaching aides could be cut. This is also a reason not to increase class size. As we know, class sizes are not as low as professed in our "statistics".
- 6) Text books could be purchased every 2 years as opposed to annually for a savings of \$250,000.
- 7) Planning Periods could be cut to every other day to save \$795,000.
- 8) 15% cut for supplies and materials, preferably at the district and administrative level.
- 9) Grants for after school care or program activities. In this climate, we cannot afford to fund these programs any longer. Parents will have to pay for all day kindergarten and after school care. The school district cannot afford to fund social /welfare programs. Leave this to the private sector.

Please :

- 1) Do not raise taxes. Taxation is increasing on every level, state and federal. This should only ever be done as a last resort when All other implementations and cuts have occurred.
- 2) Do not increase class size to 24:1 This should also be a last- ditch measure as not only is it detrimental to our students, many of whom are already in classes this size, , but would increase the demands on teachers, their planning time and need for more aides and support.

3) Do not close school for extra days. This should also be a last-ditch measure after all other measures are exhausted.

Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to our children. Also, thank you for the opportunity to voice individual concerns.

Sincerely,

As a parent of two Park City school students and an active volunteer in Parley's Park Elementary for the past 5 years, the following is my input on the proposed budget cuts:

Areas to cut

- Field Trips – 4th grade had no less than 5 field trips this year; each grade should get ONE!
- School supplies; districts in other states have parents purchase school supplies for their children
- Delay purchasing new textbooks for 1 year. Textbooks are merely a tool. The real teaching comes from the teachers.
- Eliminate President's Week as a school break
- Consider a PARTIAL tax increase to maintain our level of education in Park City, but not draw a "red flag" from other Utah districts/legislature
- Cut travel for professional development for 1-2 years at most

Areas that should be "protected" from budget cuts

- Class size should NOT increase – this is fundamental to our children's learning – PROTECT THIS AT ALL COSTS!!!!
 - Teacher/employee benefits. We already pay our teachers way less than they are worth, protect their health benefits and housing and transportation so they can still afford to teach in our school district which has a high cost of living
 - School days – why would we EVER want to reduce the number of days that our children have a chance to learn? As it is, they are out of school at least 1-2 days every month and have FOUR breaks!
 - Principals – just as important as the teachers in ensuring quality education for our kids
 - Aides – important for oversized classes; reading specialists CRUCIAL to early intervention
- Please consider the parent, who are the customers of the school district, as you make your decisions.
-

Here are my responses to the questions. Thanks for providing this opportunity for feedback.

Cheers, (2nd grade PPE parent)

1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K?
A: Perhaps, although not a top priority recommendation. We should try to get through this while compromising the quality of education as little as possible. Still... 24:1 is pretty good relative to the rest of the country, so I wouldn't treat class size as a completely sacred cow.
2. PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0

million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees?

A: Minor cuts to the supply budget might be effective. Again, I wouldn't want the educational experience to be compromised, but "smarter shopping" can usually yield significant savings. Shifting some cost of insurance to employees is also a potential option -- there are tax benefits associated with shouldering health care costs, and medical care reform is a lodestone of the current federal administration, so the negative impact on employees may be mitigated, short-lived, or both.

3. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut?

A: Perhaps as another less-than-top-priority item. The potential bottom line benefit is lower, yet the negative effects on employees may be greater than if some of the health care premium costs were shifted to them.

4. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K?

A: Yes, unless the current ones are in bad shape. If they're just "slightly used," though, save the \$\$.

5. Should taxes be increased?

A: Under different circumstances I'd say yes, but not now -- not until the "equalization" question is buried in the state legislature. Unless... (thinking out loud here)... we could raise taxes with a stipulation that if equalization is brought up again in the state legislature, and passes, the tax increase will be reversed. That might also send a message to the state, effectively saying, "If you come after our local taxes earmarked for our schools, we'll find a different way to fund them." Not sure how feasible that would be. If we can't swing it, we should leave taxes off the table for now.

6. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut?

A: Unfortunately... yes.

7. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened?

A: Perhaps, if the quality of education is not meaningfully compromised.

8. PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut?

A: Yes. Not sure about the school level, but I know from personal experience that there is some dead weight amongst the district's administrative employees. Find it, and remove it.

9. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings?

A: Perhaps. It might be a way to keep the employees' transportation and housing stipend while still getting the savings. "Fine, teachers, we won't cut your pay, but you'll have to do more work -- i.e. some of your prep will be done at home." Teachers aren't going to get out of this one unscathed, unfortunately.

10. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually?

A: Absolutely. In times like this, discretionary spending should be first on the chopping block.

Hi, I am a Professor at the University of Utah and my daughter is at PPES. The U is going through the same budget issues so I have been dealing with this for the last year. Regarding the budget cuts for PC school district:

I think that class size should not be increased, this directly affects education.

Supplies should be cut, we can live with less.

Travel should be cut, this has also happened at the U, I would rather not travel and try to preserve a smaller class room.

The housing/travel stipend could be cut rather eliminated, or a portion of health care premiums could be shifted to the employee, but you shouldn't do both. Given the salaries of teachers, I would be sensitive to shifting too much of the insurance burden to the employee.

Good Luck,

1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? **Yes**
2. PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget?
3. PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? **Cut vision insurance. Almost no one gets that coverage**
4. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? **No**
5. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? **Yes**
6. Should taxes be increased? **No**
7. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut? **No**
8. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? **Yes Start after labor day and end memorial day. Cut teacher workdays throughout the year if days need to be made up.**
9. PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? **District Administration cuts.**
10. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings? **Yes**
11. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? **Yes**

(1 child at Parleys Park, 1 child at Ecker)

To whom it concerns,

As a parent, I realize cuts have to be made, and I am not sure what the best choices are, however, I am sure the gifted program should not be cut and in fact if anything should be increased so as to catch children at even a younger age than it currently does. My son is "gifted," but like many has had trouble staying focused at school partly because of boredom, and seeing different ways to do things. Children like this often get lost, give up, and actually end up not succeeding in school. Without parents and or the school encouraging them and giving them the extra work they need, they can fail at an early age. I do not know what would have happened without the help of some great teachers and the gifted program. First grade was somewhat of a wasted year for my son because his teacher who has since retired, was not prepared to handle him. Second grade, he learned through his sister about the gifted program, and that in itself, helped encourage him (along with more understanding teachers). Please remember these children as you make the budget cuts.

As a parent of two children at Parley's Park Elementary School and an active volunteer for The Park City Education Foundation, I would like to provide my thoughts on the proposed budget cuts. I recognize that the district needs to cut \$4.8M over the next two years. Thanks for taking the time to read my opinions.

CLASS SIZE

IDEA: Currently 1:23, move to 1:24 saves \$640k

PLEASE do NOT make the classes any bigger. As an active weekly volunteer in the classroom, I see first hand how demanding it is for a teacher to address the needs of 23 students in her class. Already so much is lost because there are simply too many needs for on individual to address. A 1997 *Education Week* survey should that most educators believe an elementary class should not exceed 17 students. Much research shows that students grades K-3 do significantly better on achievement tests when they are in smaller classrooms (13-17 students) rather than the standard class size.

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS

15% cut

As an involved parent, I am already making donations to the schools as the classroom is often short on pencils, glue sticks, folder. For a period of time, we had to make copies on colored paper as the school had run out of white paper and there was no more money in the budget. It seems like this would be a challenge. I know that many parents like myself don't mind pitching in a little here and there to help with these kinds of things.

However, I do recommend cutting food at meetings. Having worked in corporate America for a decade, I have experienced this first hand. All companies need to cut costs in hard times and it isn't too much to ask employees to brown bag it rather than the tax payers fund their breakfast or lunch. I make our entire family a brown bag lunch daily - even my husband.

HEALTH/DENTAL/VISION PREMIUMS

\$4.0M annual

Overall, I think that teachers are grossly underpaid for what they do. While their annual salaries are not that of some corporate jobs, there are other perks like full benefits and summers off. So part of me

recommends not touching this. However, The Park Record article, front page May 23, states that it is not the norm for school districts to pay the entire amount. I tried to do some quick research on this subject on the Internet but couldn't come up with good information. However, it seems prudent to look at this on a national basis and follow the norm. I have worked for companies that have paid my benefits in full as well as companies that paid a portion.

HOUSING/TRANSPORTATION STIPEND

\$1200 annual per employee, \$790k saved if cut

While it is a benefit to have teachers reside in the community where they teach, I think this is something that should be looked at further. No matter where I have lived or on how little or much money, I have never been paid a housing/transportation stipend. Out of college, I lived in Chicago making \$17,000. Cost of living in a big city is high but I managed to get by - without a stipend.

DELAY ADOPTING NEW TEXTBOOKS for a year

\$250K

I don't have enough information on this to comment.

INCREASE TAXES

YES! YES! YES! We rank at the very bottom in regards to spending per pupil nationally. What is more important than educating our children? Please - raise our taxes to make the schools better.

At the same time, we need the district or some task force to ensure that the school equalization bill does not move forward again next year. If we elect to raise our taxes here in Park City to benefit our children, the money needs to stay here.

TEACHINGAIDES

\$705k

-does not include ELL or special education

Although I have never seen a non ELL aid in the classroom despite my 3+hours I spend in the classroom weekly, I would think this to be pretty important. I would ask teachers for their input.

SHORTEN SCHOOL YEAR

Each day closed saves \$150k

NO! NO! NO!. Not because it would make my summer with the kids longer but because we as Americans need to be in school. Our children are falling way behind educationally. We need more time and more academic rigor. Have you read Malcom Gladwell's new book Outliers? If you have, you would never shorten the school year. Many other countries in Europe and Asia have school years much longer than ours. And guess what - their kids way outperforms ours.

CUT ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES/DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Avg salary \$123k

I don't know all of the jobs or roles and responsibilities, but I see first hand how much is on the plate of the principal at Parleys. I assume this is true across the board for all district personnel. I wouldn't cut here.

CUT PLANNING PERIODS

Every other day at secondary level for \$795k

Teachers need time to plan to do a good job teaching so I wouldn't touch it. However, having read the blog on the site, I would encourage teachers to remember that good employees in corporate america don't get paid for every hour they work or the time they spend making themselves better at the job. As a salaries employee, I was officially paid for a 40 hour work week. On average, I worked about 52, sometimes even in the 60s. That was just part of the job. Also, I often spent personnel time buying books and reading to learn more about my field. I wasn't compensated for this. In today's hard economic times, everyone has to be willing to do more for less.

CUT TRAVEL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEV.

\$310k annually

I would cut all critical travel. If there is a local option, choose it rather than going a long distance.

I'm sorry you have to go through this. I'd suggest the following.

Class size. Hold K-2 to 22 to 1. Increase 3-5 to 24 to 1, 6-9 to 25 – 1, and 10-12 to 26 - 1.. Increase some secondary classes (PE/health, Chorus, Band, etc. to 30-1 where possible) Scrutinize secondary schedules for "extra" periods that might be awarded to staff for non-instructional duties. Protect advanced and sequential courses (foreign language, advanced math, etc) to preserve quality.

Move to shared costs for insurance. It's a shame, but it's time.

Cut annual stipend for housing and transportation.

Do not shorten the school year.

If necessary, delay new texts.

Staff development is essential. Put limits on travel (limit distance and purpose to district priorities) and continue with in-house training but do not cut.

Selectively cut teaching aides. Parent volunteers will step up to the plate.

Hard to increase taxes given the foreclosure lists I've seen.

We have ALL been hit by this economy and had to work hard to 'trim the fat' but I would be *glad* to have an increase on my taxes if I could be assured it would stay locally and diminish cut backs of IMPORTANT programs.

Some questions:

How much would we save as a district if Friday were full days and we made the winter longer?

How much would we save if we got rid of the winter break.

I'm OK with each of these if it saves a significant amount of money.

I don't think class size should be touched.

My employees have had to take a pay cut so that everyone can keep their job, I'm Ok with teachers losing aids and paying for a small portion of their health care.

The stipends are important or they may not be able to live here. Health care is not a right yet.

We should not be getting new text books with the same information. As an example, Math does not change much.

Not sure that administration should be cut, but again benefits should be reduced.

Planning periods should be cut altogether. I know it's not a popular statement, but if a teacher has been teaching for over 3 years s/he should need that much planning.

Professional development should be looked at. There is essential development and non essential development.

Thank you

Shifting some of the cost of insurance to employees is consistent what employees in the business world have experienced. This, in my opinion, should be the first place the district should look for budget cuts.

Please consider my idea for saving the PCSC budget.

I think rather than reducing the **quality** of education. Park City School District should move into the future and reduce the **quantity**/numbers of full-time students: meaning that by creating an "**online-classroom**" many families could begin experimenting with "**dual-enrollment**," thereby ensuring that our **schools still receive the money for each student, whether physically present or not**. This will stop class size increase-- thus providing better student/teacher ratios, less need for additional teachers' and aides' salaries, and requiring fewer supplies because fewer kids would be using them at once.

If PCSD will **create and strongly encourage an "online-classroom program"** (something like Washington County's, see *Desseret News*, Sat. May 16, 2009 edition), PCSD may be able to keep the best quality programs that we have come to expect, because the number of kids actually in the physical classrooms at once could radically decrease. The funding remains the same for the total number of children, whether enrolled in the full-time physical or the part-time dual-enrolled/ online-classroom.

The addition of the new program would mean more money per child present. And the virtual students would share the materials on a different schedule. By **staggering the loaning of the district's materials, library-style**, less money would be required for both the materials and the staff to run our famously excellent programs. I think many families would rather pay a simple materials deposit for online-classroom learning materials instead of for sundry fund raisers. At minimum, each family provides it's own computer to enroll in this option (though a scholarship funded by donations could supply needy families with them, if necessary).

By **encouraging** families to participate in dual-enrollment/ online-classrooms, I mean that many families are interested but unwilling to part with sanctioned ways. If PCSD asks for volunteers, they will come forward. Especially if there is a clear support plan in place.

I have participated in dual-enrollment and am convinced in the necessity of group support. Two conditions would help the program to become a success: 1) Teams of families should be instructed to combine in groups, in order for students in the online-classroom program to not feel isolated, and for parents to share the perceived burden of responsibility. 2) Full-timers must be instructed that part-timers are contributing to our overall solution for high quality education and that they still belong; so that when part-timers come to school (ie. in the afternoon for music, etc.) they should not be made uncomfortable by such rudeness as full-timers' demanding to know where they've been. (I speak from personal experience at TSES, when my normally extroverted fifth-grader tried dual-enrollment because my second grader, who is diagnosed with PDDNOS, required dual-enrollment). Online-classrooms/dual-enrollment would succeed twice as likely if my two suggestions were accommodated.

Many, many students would be good candidates for the online-classroom/ dual-enrollment program, **with encouragement from the PCSD**. Introverted children, self-directed learners, ADHD children, gifted children... anyone without the need to be away from home for 8 hrs. every day.

Teachers could even be viewed live via SKYPE. Or PSCD could have lectures filmed for online airing, providing some teachers with fair pay, but without many hours committed. These teachers and aides could then supplement their own incomes by offering private lessons among the on-liners/ dual-enrollment Combined Family Groups. Imagine a regular "Mad Science"-type experience scheduled privately with Mr. Crandall: My 6th grader and his friends would love it! Our group of families could share the cost independent of PCSD's budget.

Computer-based learning just makes sense toward the future. Let PSCD remain on the cutting edge, and not pull back, but lead the way! A New (online-classrooms/dual-enrollment) Program for PCSD-- Leading the Way. (But let's not call it OCD...E, ha!)

Thanks for your attention. I hope you will implement such an alternative for us.

I was encouraged to write my opinion to you regarding the coming budget cuts for the school district. I hope you do not have to cut the teachers salaries or benefits. We need to keep the high quality of the teachers we have. I am also against increasing the class size. On the other hand I am not opposed to increased tax in order to get more money and we can cut on supplies and ask the parents to bring crayons, pencils, glue etc instead. Hopefully we can still maintain good teaching materials. The school

year might be shortened by a few days if that helps so that we are more at par with the Salt Lake City school years start and end times.

As a parent, here is my perspective:

- 1.- Class size is a ratio not a set limit. Classes are already often much higher than the ratio. If this is raised, class sizes could easily reach 30/1. That is unacceptable.
2. Cuts in supplies means less for teachers to teach with. They should NOT have to use their salaries to supplement. don't touch this.
3. Insurance should be left alone. Teachers receive small salaries as it is, paying for insurance might mean we lose many good teachers as they could no longer afford to live here.
4. Housing and travel expense. As this is new, this could easily be cut with the least amount of issue.
5. Textbooks. This district is already well-supplied in this area. I think they should continue to use what they have. cut this one
6. Taxes- I would support a small raise here.
7. Aides- needed for sure. Teachers often need another set of hands to help with day-to-day instruction. Leave this alone too
8. The school year could be shortened one week, getting out earlier in June. Not much seems to be done after Core testing anyway.
9. D.O. personnel? This should be looked at as strongly as any other cut. Perhaps some could have hours cut? Are all ESSENTIAL??
10. Planning time- teachers need this in order to provide the best lessons. it would be detrimental to our students to take this away from our teachers. They would not have the time to be prepared.
11. Professional development- This seems a good area to cut at this time.

Several points are worth making at this juncture. While one can appreciate that the town meeting format was a good forum a critical analysis of who attended is germane. Teachers and staff were significantly over represented while parents were under represented. Proof of this lies in the answers to the survey question "How many children do you have in the district"? The most common answer was zero and thus the evidence of too few parent responders. The meeting was largely unknown to the parent community and as such relatively unattended. Conversely, the teachers and staff, not simply aware but highly motivated as well to protect their interest, showed in great numbers. None of this is surprising or alarming, provided of course the members of the Board (and other integral decision makers) are aware of the above bias. If indeed one seeks an objective accounting of all the stakeholders here then lets simply sample them, in a transparent, comprehensive, identifiable and objective fashion.

Lacking this there will undoubtedly be discontent in some quarters constituent and the perception that due process was not served.

No one in their right mind would dismiss 1.2 million dollars a year as inconsequential. However this is not an insurmountable sum especially if all of the stakeholders (parents, teachers and administrators) are willing to make some sacrifice.

Sometimes crisis offers an opportunity to reassess and redefine one's mission. It becomes imperative to pursue only top priorities.

Lets put our heads together for a rational and concerted solution.

I am a very involved parent at McPolin and will have two more entering within the next couple of years. Optimally, I would not like to see cuts anywhere, but expansion for things like art, science and actual programs/aides for high achieving children. But, since that is not going to happen, here is my opinion as to suggestions.

The district should NOT increase class size.

The district should REQUIRE all teachers to clean out, go through, and sort the various supplies that they have in all of the classrooms and offices. I know that a group of parents went through just two small teacher prep rooms at the beginning of the year and found a tremendous amount of stuff - science kits, tons of art paper, scissors, tape, lab equipment... It was ridiculous.

I cannot even imagine the amount of stuff that is in closets throughout this school system. It is wasteful to continually buy things that we already have

- I am speaking from experience, not just a complaining parent. A major cut in supplies may force everyone to evaluate the items that are already on the premises.

The district should NOT cut benefits, nor the housing/transportation stipend.

Can we try to do more on-line? It seems rather wasteful to continually buy books that are out of date before the year is done.

TAXES SHOULD BE INCREASED!!!!!! We are embarrassingly low and it is ludicrous that we are unable and unwilling to fund our schools to the best of our ability. We do not even offer basic educational needs like science or art for elementary kids. Raise our taxes so that our children are well rounded individuals and not mere math and reading automatons. I really do not care of NCLB and test scores. If you ask the majority of parents in this town and they will agree with me.

Balance out the aides -- not just for low achieving children. The budget can actually be used for the other end, occasionally. If you look at numbers, there are the same percentages in the high end as the low end. But, do we fund those percentages the same? One group gets about 40% of the budget and the other group gets nothing. We are squandering an amazing resource in this community. Those kids can be in-class tutors and do classroom projects to the benefit of the others, yet, we just put them in a corner and have them "self-study". Pathetic.

The school year should NOT be shortened and Fridays need to be made into full days. If we do not have "time" for science or art or language or anything but reading and math, then we need to extend the week, not shorten the time.

We need to look at creative solutions - can PE be farmed out to the PC Rec center or the Racquet club? Can we have high-achieving 5th graders be "aides" in 1st grade? There have to be more out of the box ideas than what we have.

Needless to say, as a first year public school parent, I am terribly unimpressed with our school district. I think the entire board and district have set the bar low and have become complacent in your expectations of teachers, students and parents. We can and should do better.

I believe cuts should be made in a number of areas and taxes should be increased. Of the 10 items brought up at the Town Hall Meeting, I recommend implementing 6 of them as follows.

1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? Yes
 2. PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? Yes, employees should pay 10% to 20% of health, dental and vision insurance.
 3. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? Yes, this should be cut.
 4. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? Yes, delay new text books for 1 year.
 5. Should taxes be increased? Yes, property taxes should be increased.
 6. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? Yes, it should be shortened to match the rest of Utah.
-

Good Morning,

I would like to add my feedback to the issues regarding the budget:

Wednesday's Town Hall Meeting:

1. NO!! Low ratios are key to the success of the students and the sanity of our teachers!! Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K?
2. Teachers hardly make enough \$ to pay their bills and offer education to our children, please do not consider cutting their benefits OR having them pay for the costs of their insurance plans!!!!
Supplies could be cut and students could be asked to contribute more. PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? PCSD pays

premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees?

3. No, let's keep our teachers happy and in Park City. If we aren't careful here, we will not have any teachers left to educate our children. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut?
4. Yes. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K?
5. Yes, I thought the \$75/year increase is just fine. Most people in PC can afford that small amount without a problem. In fact, I think people can pay a little more knowing it is for education...\$150/household. Should taxes be increased?
6. No, aides are very necessary in providing one-on-one attention to those students that need a little extra help. Additionally, they are highly appreciated by teachers in making their job more enjoyable and manageable. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut?
7. Yes, I think the necessary learning could still be attained in a shorter school year. My children often say days near holiday breaks are lost with watching movies and doing busy work. Let's cut out these unnecessary school days, especially the last week and first week of school! Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened?
8. Yes, let's spend out \$\$ on the teachers and children, not the administration. Why is it that the teachers doing the hard work receive only a fraction of what the administrators are making. This seems so unbalanced and in a time where we are financially struggling let's balance this back out!!PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut?
9. Keep the quality, continue with appropriate planning time for teachers to be able to provide excellent education opportunities. Cut the administration and keep the quality!! Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings?
10. Again, keep the quality, maybe reduce here slightly if necessary but teachers need the opportunity to grow also and stay fresh for their students. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually?

Recap, cuts:

Supplies-\$255,000

Eliminate some school days-at least 7 days or more could be cut=\$1,050,000-\$1,500,000

Wait on new text books-\$250,000

Increase taxes-\$75/household-total Park City homes is 7952 x \$150= \$1,192,800

Administration-\$123,000 x 6 (could be more, I do not know how many administrators are at this level)= \$738,000 Thanks for letting me voice my opinion.

1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? NO
2. PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? CUT SUPPLIES TO ADMINISTRATION- MAJOR. CUTS TO SCHOOLS MAJOR, CUTS TO CLASSROOMS- MINOR
3. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut?
4. DONT CUT IT, BUT REDUCE IT BY 30-40%. WE LIVE IN TOUGH TIMES. MOST OF MY FRIENDS BUSINESS IS DOWN 30%PLUS, SEEMS A REASONABLE OPTION
5. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? ABSOLUTELY YES
6. Should taxes be increased? ABSOLUTELY NO
7. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut? YES, PARTICULARLY FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS. AT THE GRADE SCHOOL LEVEL THESE CHILDREN SHOULD BE MORE "SUBMERGED", REDUCING TIME WITH AIDE
8. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? ABSOLUTELY NOT
9. PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? CUT ADMINISTRATION DRAMATICALLY SAVE THE MONEY FOR THOSE THAT ACTUALLY DIRECTLY TEACH OUR KIDS. LIKE JUST ABOUT EVERY ORGANIZATION IN THE USA IT GETS TOP HEAVY WITH ADMINISTRATORS AND BUREAUCRATS. LET THEM GO AND SAVE A BUNDLE!!!
10. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings?
11. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? ABSOLUTELY A 30-50% CUT IN THESE TOUGH TIMES MAKES TOTAL SENSE. I AM TRAVELING LESS, WHY SHOULDN'T THE TEACHERS.
12. CUT TEACHERS SALARIES 5-10%. AGAIN THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES, WE ALL NEED TO SACRIFICE FOR OUR KIDS. MY BUSINESS IS DOWN, I DON'T SEE WHY TEACHERS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN SOME SACRIFICE IN THESE BAD TIMES.

THANKS FOR LISTENING,

1 CHILD AT PARLEY'S PARK AND ANOTHER ABOUT TO START

I am responding to the question of proposed budget cuts.

I believe that we need to preserve anything that directly affects the children's education and ability to learn. Class sizes therefore should not be increased, and

aides should not be cut.

I do think that perhaps we could cut supplies and materials. Textbooks, if they are current could certainly be used for another year.

Basic health insurance is good to cover, although I know of many organizations that don't cover dental and vision insurance, and certain plans are cheaper than others. Some money could be saved there.

The teacher stipend for housing and transportation could be cut.

Shortening the school year by a few days shouldn't make much of an impact on a student's overall learning for the year, in my opinion.

Travel money could be given only for professional development that can't be had locally.

I would support a raise in taxes, since the education of our children is one of the most important things a community can do to secure it's future.

On another note, I would implore you not to cut the Gifted and Talented program. This program not only helps gifted kids, but high ability kids as well.

The program is already underfunded for those children on the high end of the spectrum, compared with those children on the lower end.

I agree we need to spend more money on the lower end kids to get them up to grade level, but so very little is being done with the higher end kids, it would be tragic to cut things further in that area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? **Yes**

Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? **Yes**

Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? **Yes**

PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? **Yes**

I feel strongly that the impact on teachers should be minimized. Additionally, I feel that a shorter school year might have an easier impact on students and teachers alike.

In a time of no money, extravagances like travel for training is unrealistic.

District and administration should be cut to a bare minimum.

We all are finding difficulty in these trying economic times. Increasing taxes should not be looked on at

this point, as there are quite a few of us parents out there who aren't comfortable with an increased tax burden.

I have an idea. Why not cancel serving lunch on the ½ day Fridays (except for the full day students)? Kids can wait until 12:30 for lunch at home.

I am definitely in favor of shortening the school year....let's not start until after LABOR DAY like the rest of the civilized world! Also, the February break should be cut short.

I am not in favor of increasing class size in the K-3rd classes. 24:1 is OK for the upper grades.

School teachers should probably pay some toward health insurance premiums. Almost everyone else in the workforce does.

I am in favor of cutting the housing/transportation stipend.

I am not in favor or delaying the purchase of textbooks if the current ones are shabby or outdated.

DO NOT cut the aides, we need them.

I am definitely in favor of a tax increase.

Don't cut the administrative personnel for now.

District travel/professional development expenses should be cut.

Parent member of Community Council for Parley's Park Elementary

Our suggestion is to **stop serving lunches on Fridays at the elementary schools** which end their day at 12:30. This could be a huge savings! Our students can wait to eat lunch after school that day. As it is my children spend the last 45 minutes of that day eating lunch (11:45-12:00) and having recess (12:00-12:30).

Also, if needed we don't mind paying a little extra in taxes! Our classes are already at 26-27 students and we surely can't afford to cut out our aides. Another suggestion would be to start school after labor day.

Dear School Board,

As a parent (with kids in PCSD) and taxpayer in the PCSD, I would first and foremost like to see a TAX INCREASE to address the budget needs of our school district. Education is a priority to our family and should be for our community. As to the other items being considered by the Board, I respond as follows:

1. NO increase in class size.
2. NO change in supplies, materials.

3. NO change in insurance to employees.
4. YES, cut the housing and transportation stipend (or at least make it needs based).
5. NO delay on text books.
6. YES! Increase Taxes.
7. NO cut of teacher aides.
8. YES, shorten school year.
9. NO cut of district or school administration.
10. NO cut of planning periods.
11. NO cut for professional development travel.

This all being said. Cuts in some areas (ie. travel, materials) could be made just by reviewing absolute need rather than eliminating it totally or setting mandatory cut goals. Quality education is one of Park City's strengths. We cannot afford to lose that!

It is so hard to weigh in on this issue because it is so complicated. Cutting one place (i.e. days of school) ultimately effects the teacher salaries, cutting another effects the quality of education. It seems like we can all nickel and dime our way through certain cuts, but to make up for the 4.8 million dollar shortfall is overwhelming.

I did not attend the meeting because it was not well advertised nor was it promoted throughout the school system very well. I don't think one public forum is enough when the situation we are dealing with is so drastic. There should be other means to receive feedback, too (i.e. an internet/email poll like surveymonkey.com).

I see no other way to continue to maintain quality education except by raising our taxes. Perhaps having a very minimal increase with an additional area for tax beneficial donations? I am not happy with my solution, this year has been challenging for us and many other families in the area as well... but to sacrifice our education system is a result I cannot easily live with...

Parent feedback on budget cut issues

1. increase class size to 24:1? Instructional quality and student performance are both drastically impacted by class size. This is an area where cuts should NOT be made.

2. Supplies? High performing districts around the nation require students/families to purchase and provide supplies. This would be a good place to make cuts.

Some insurance costs be shifted to employees? This would be a reasonable option IF employees could choose HDHP coverage to minimize their expenditures out of pocket for those who opt to doctor minimally.

3. Should the stipend be cut? No, this is a very expensive community in which to live.

4. Adopting textbooks? Current texts are usable. This would be a reasonable area to cut.

5. increased? Not enough information to address this at this time.

6. Should aides be cut? Yes, this is a convenience that could be cut.

7. Should the school year be shortened? Yes, quality education could be maintained with a shorter school year, eliminating some of the superfluous.

8. Should district or school administration be cut? Yes, minimizing top level expenditure could be a reasonable area to make cuts.

9. Planning periods be cut to every other day? Teachers need time to enhance instruction and provide meaningful student feedback on assignments. Planning periods are a vital part of quality instruction. But Ecker teachers have not had daily prep at the secondary level so it can be done, though it is not ideal.

10. travel for professional development? Possibly, though this seems like a very small piece of the pie and if it makes training opportunities more accessible to teachers, then cutting this could impact quality instruction.

Thanks for your work sorting through these important decisions. I trust that your primary operating focus will be to maximize quality of education while minimizing costs.

I love the way our schools are run now. The teachers do a great job and make school fun for the kids, but I believe some extras could be cut in a time of crisis.

I think class size is a crucial issue that impacts children's education. Increasing class sizes should be a move of last resort, as should increasing the financial burden on our teachers. Please do not cut their stipends or increase insurance premiums.

I believe minor cuts could be made to the supplies budget. I've never before lived in a district that provided ALL supplies to students. Parents can certainly afford to provide pens, pencils, colors and paper. I also believe we could delay buying new textbooks for a year.

Most importantly, I think, in the face of a budget crisis, that the school year could be shortened. My understanding after the flu crisis is that Park City students attend more hours than is required by state and federal regulation, and the school year extends far into June and begins again in August. This is a fairly short summer. Perhaps the last week of school (which seem to amount to parties and videos, etc,) could just be set aside and we could skip the many days of school festivities altogether.

(And btw, I think a lot of the field trips could safely be cut out also. There isn't always a lot of educational value in them.)

Thank you for your time.

parent of Trailside Elem. Students

I was unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday. I do have the following parental feedback however -

I would focus cuts on areas that don't directly affect students. Examples, prep time, teacher benefits (seems to have the most bang for the buck and is entirely in line with sacrifices being made by employees and employer all over the country) - admin (is there is room to cut, I am admittedly not familiar with how district or school administration work in Utah.

I would NOT increase taxes as there seems no real need. there is lots that can be done before that - and frankly many kids that go to PC schools that don't live in the district. Those family don't pay taxes towards the schools now and would not be impacted by a increase, which seems basically unfair.

As a transplant from California school districts (a good one) I can tell you there is SIGNIFICANTLY less fundraising here than in California. Perhaps the schools could work on a silent or live auction type event where parents and community donate items that parents who can afford a bit more could pay for. If the money were earmarked for specific programs that are at risk of being cut, it may work it self out and the parents and community would have a hand in fixing it, rather than simply having the board take things away unilaterally (which I understand it their task, but my point is, it does not have to be.) The board could identify the cuts is is making, and then identify those programs which are on the fence and will be retained if fundraising can match the district contribution ---- might build a movement in the community.

Thank you

parents of students at Trailside

To whom it may concern: I would like to express my feedback on the budget cuts for the next 2 years. I do not think class size increase is a good idea, especially K-4. If this happens, it would not be a good idea to cut teachers aides. I think you need to take a real close look at District personnel and professional development and see where you could better cut costs. Finally, instead of no new textbooks for 1 year, how about the next 2 years you only purchase the BARE minimum? Thanks for your time in this matter

Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K?

I do NOT think that class size should be increased.

PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget?

Yes –I think that a 15% cut would be OK.

PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees?

Possibly – Teachers are already on tight budgets, but maybe a small deductible would be OK.

PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut?

No – Teachers need a little help to afford to live in this area.

Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K?

Yes

Should taxes be increased?

Possibly

The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut?

Yes – Maybe we can get more parents to volunteer in the classroom.

Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened?

YES!!! This is the best suggestion, yet. I personally think that the last 2 weeks of school are a bit of a waste. School should end by Memorial Day weekend. Cutting 2 weeks would save 1.5 million dollars.

PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut?

I don't have enough information to comment of this.

Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings?

Yes

Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually?

Yes

These suggestions would save \$3.8 million. The other \$1 million could possibly come from fundraisers or a small tax increase.

As a parent of a child in the Park City School district, here is my 2 cents for what I would and would not support in budget cuts:

I WOULD SUPPORT

1. Increase in taxes

2. Cuts in supplies and be happy to donate the cost of those items by buying supplies for the teachers or my student (and covering a child or two that may not be able to pay)

I WOULD NOT support

1. Raising classes sizes
 2. decreasing teacher's aides
 3. shortening the school year
 4. reducing teacher pay directly or indirectly (i.e. reducing stipend, health care benefits)
-

Hello,

I am a parent of a child at Trailside Elementary. I wanted to make my opinions known about where I would like to see budget money spent:

YES, I am in favor of CUTTING or REDUCING funds spent on the following:

Supplies (There is far too much waste, especially of paper.)

Stipend for housing and transportation.

New text books.

Paid aides. Teachers can be taught to utilize parent volunteers more effieciently.

Planning periods.

Travel for professional development.

NO, I am not in favor of doing the following:

Increasing class size.

Shortening the school year.

Making teachers pay for their healthcare.

Increasing taxes - ESPECIALLY if those taxes will be used in other districts.

I am not in favor of cutting any faculty or administrative staff positions, salaries or benefits.

I am not in favor of increased class sizes.

I am not in favor or increased taxes.

I am in support of delaying the adopting of new text books for one year.

I am in favor of shortening the school year by one or two weeks. The last two weeks of school after Memorial Day are usually extra curricular activities anyway. Start school after Labor Day and end it the first week of June.

Planning periods should be cut to every other day.

I understand that meals are provided for faculty meetings and that by cutting them out a full employed position could be saved. I'm all for ideas that are streamlining and cutting waste at this level.

McPolin Elementary Parent of incoming 3rd Grader & Kindergartener

As a parent, I would like to give my opinion on where budget cuts should be made:

1. increase class size to 24;1. This is still a good ratio. Many of us went to school with classes of 33 - 36, still made it to college and post grad studies!
2. cut budget for school supplies
3. do not cut health benefits to staff!
4. do we really need the teaching aides? They are a very "nice to have" support, but maybe we could use more TA's from the High School instead.
5. put professional development programmes on hold until the budget recovers.

thank you for the chance to give my input

Thank you for the opportunity to comment:

Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? What is current class size? Could class size increase to 22 for a partial savings?

PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? When I was a kid, we had to bring our own notebooks, glue, scissors, paper, crayons, pencils – the basics. I was very surprised that I did not have to purchase any supplies for my daughter in first grade. I would not be opposed to having to purchase basic supplies for each school year.

PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? Yes, this is a move that all other businesses have had to make to contain rising healthcare costs. Costs shifted should be on a sliding scale depending on the individual's health risks (in other words, healthy teachers should have to pay less for healthcare if possible.)

PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? No, many of the teachers cannot afford to live in PC and need this stipend to make working in PC attractive. Until there is more affordable housing, this is a good way to help ease the burden of living in PC.

Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? Yes, this seems like a painless way to save some \$ without negatively impacting the quality of the education.

Should taxes be increased? No.

The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut?

Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? NO! I am surprised at how many days off the kids get already. These budget measures should not decrease the quality of education our kids get.

PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? Unable to comment.

Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings? Many careers require that professionals take some work home with them, especially in tough times. Cutting back planning time would be an appropriate way to help contain costs.

Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? Yes, many professions have cut travel for professional education in tough times. There are many options available for on line and local learning. In tough times, conferences in vacation-like locations should not be paid for.

Hi, I am a parent of two kids at Trailside Elem. School. I want to share my opinions regarding the different ways that the district could save some money.

- I think it is okay to increase the ratio of students and teachers per class into 24:1.

- It is better to cut the stipend.

- I don't think it would hurt our students that much if the district will wait to adopt the new text books for another year.

- Aides should be decreased but not necessarily for English Language Learners and Special Education. I think the district should look closer into areas where the schools don't need aides that much.

- The planning periods be cut every other day at secondary level.

- At this time of financial troubles, I think that it would be better to cut travel for professional development and resume the program in the future.

- The district should also take a closer look on expenses on school and administrative supplies.

I hope that this would be of help and I have contributed something for the betterment of our Park City School District.

I appreciate you asking for input on the budget issue. As a business owner and a parent, I would suggest two budget cutting moves.

1. Shorten the school year. I have heard many parents complain about how the school year seems to start too early in August and extend too long into June. The savings in utilities, maintenance costs, fuel (buses) and salaries would be significant.
2. District employees should contribute a portion of their health care premiums. The majority of employers ask this of their employees. It has become the norm.

Trailside Elementary

Ecker Hill M.S.

To Whom it may concern,

As a concerned parent, I wanted to express my opinion in regards to district budget cuts. I feel that money could be saved by cutting the housing and transportation stipend in addition to cutting the cost of travel for professional development. In addition, the administration should take a 5% pay cut and class size could be increased to 24:1 (only if aides are kept). In addition, I strongly oppose cutting staff size (aides).

1. Cut out UEA weekend - instead, the kids and teachers attend school - shorten the year by two days.
2. Cut out travel - unless absolutely necessary OR - only attend local conferences.
3. Class size K-3 No more than 25 student. 4-5 No more than 28 students. All other grade levels 30 students. Unless they are special ed./resource, then smaller class sizes.
4. Even though 1/2 day Fridays are AWESOME, only have ONE half day Friday a month AND shorten the school year (maybe the last or first Friday of the month).
5. Keep all enrichment programs - specialist, languages, Talented and Gifted... The kids need this!
6. Keep the medical benefits the same. Teachers need good benefits - it is one of the nice perks for us.
7. If possible, increase taxes - let the community help with this problem. If everybody pays a tiny bit more, it will all add up.
8. Get rid of all school coaching and new teacher programs. We have an awesome principal and he does a great job giving us feedback. Also, our grade-level teams are great for swapping and sharing ideas. Only require "new teacher" programs for FIRST year (NEW) teachers.

-
1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? **no, class size reflects quality of education**
 2. PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? **yes, if employees could choose a high deductible plan and/or a health savings account**
 3. PCSD employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? **no, park city is expensive place to live**
 4. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? **yes, we can get by on current text books**
 5. Should taxes be increased? **no, tax increases are always a negative**
 6. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut? **yes**
 7. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? **yes, it goes long anyway and we could work harder at having quality education with in a shorter school year**
 8. PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? **yes, administration can create more work for teachers with the additional programs and paperwork they generate (district employees)**
 9. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings? **yes, although planning is important for teachers, but Ecker teachers have been making due with out daily preps for some time**
 10. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? **yes, again alot of this training is probably for another layer of programs laid on teachers that keep them from the basics of teaching their subject and engaging students**

Additional thought: cut spending on technology - I'm convinced as someone in the technology industry (graphic design) that kids don't need all the bells and whistles for a strong education.

To whom it may concern:

I am e-mailing you my opinion on where to cut on the budget. I feel that shortening the school year by a week would be a good way to help out the budget. I would just start school a week later. I realize this is taking a week of salary away from the teachers but it also does not require them to work. I would also cut the planning period time to every other day. The other option of cutting school supplies by 15% is not a bad idea because there is alot of waste right now and room to cut.

Hello Board Members:

You have a tough job this year with some hard decisions to make regarding the school budget. I am writing to provide you some (more) input from a concerned parent of 3 Park City students (5th grade, 2nd grade at Parley's, and a 3-year-old future student). I am not an expert on budgets, but here are my thoughts:

- 1) I don't think the class sizes should be increased. Although studies differ, I think it is common sense that smaller classes are better for students and for teachers. The savings of \$640K doesn't seem worth the sacrifice to me.
- 2) Although I think Park City can and does attract quality teachers based on pay and benefits, I think that some of the cost of the \$4 million health/dental/vision premiums can be shifted to the employee. In this time of soaring health care costs, it is quite common, if not necessary for employees to contribute a portion of their insurance premiums. If employees were required to contribute 25% of their premiums, it would save \$1 million. Employees are usually able to make their contributions pre-tax.
- 3) Depending on how old the original textbooks are, I think the district should delay adopting new textbooks for 1 year. I can't imagine the updated textbook editions can be that different from the previous ones and any current information can easily be found on the internet. If new textbooks are routinely adopted every year, I think that is too frequently and should be every other year at minimum.
- 4) Re. raising taxes, this worries me due to the looming equalization bill (spreading the tax money around the state). I think if Park City/Summit County residents are willing to pay more in taxes to maintain strong schools then that money should stay in Park City/Summit County. I fear if we raise taxes now, we will just end up paying for other districts.
- 5) I do not think aides should be cut; I think teachers and all students (not just the students served by the aides) would suffer.
- 6) I think shortening the school year by a few days is possible, as long as the curriculum is not cut short. I don't know if the teachers feel time pressure to cover the curriculum during the current number of school days. Another thing to cut back on is field trips. I think field trips are educational, but I think they should be chosen wisely. For example my daughter (and I) thought the 4th grade trip to This is The Place was great, but in 5th grade she went to Camp Floyd and didn't get a lot out of it.
- 7) I hesitate to cut the administrative salaries, but I think administrators should be accountable and should contribute to their health care.
- 8) I would cut the travel for professional development for this year and look into bringing professional development to the teachers (like inviting a conference to Park City).
- 9) I have some questions about the dual immersion program scheduled to start next year at Parley's Park. I feel strongly that our children should learn a 2nd language during their education

in Park City. I'm just not sure a dual immersion program is the most cost effective or the best way to go about it. I don't know what that program is going to cost, but I wonder if that money would be better spent on other programs (for example, I understand that the 5th grade music program will be cut next year) than on a program that seems to be "experimental" and better suited for a charter school. I would rather see that money spent on introducing foreign language to all 5th graders, or at least saving it in this time of budget crunch. (I don't know if this issue is still "open for discussion" but I thought I'd give you my opinion anyway!)

Thank you for your time and attention. I wish you the best of luck with your decision processes and I really appreciate all the hard work you do for our children.

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are McPolin parents of one Kindergarten student and, come next year, one Kindergarten student and one first-grader. Having just starting our experience with the Park City School District, we have a long-term interest in keeping the schools strong.

In response to the attached appeal for parental input on the budget shortfall and, specifically, in response to the list of possible areas for change, we **support** the following and in this order:

1. Raise taxes. We both moved here from other states, where property and other taxes are much, much higher, to support strong public education. This is the most logical place to begin (if not end the discussion). This town has consistently voted in favor of raising money to preserve public space. Isn't the education of our kids more important? And, assuming support for a tax increase, we should not let an unrealized threat of redistribution from the State cripple our ability to shore up our schools.
2. If still needed, the cuts which would appear to least impact the classrooms. For example, cutting or severely limiting travel for professional development and reconsidering the need for specific classroom expenses, textbooks, or district personnel. This should be done in a surgical, rather than generalized, way.

We emphatically **do not support** raising class sizes (especially for lower grades), or cutting aides (unless you reduce class sizes), planning periods, or employee benefits (e.g., insurance). Such cuts will only weaken our schools and make it more difficult to attract and retain qualified teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

Thank you for the opportunity to chime in on budget cuts.

- 1) Please do not increase the class size. My daughter was one of 28 Kindergarteners 18 were boys. It's amazing that the teacher and all the kids survived the year. She and many others were well beyond the end of year curriculum before they walked into the classroom at the start. If anything class size should be reduced. The teacher was amazing but she depended on 3-4 parent volunteers everyday.

2) I would not touch any benefits that the teachers receive. They are overworked and underpaid as it is now.

3) Delay the textbooks

4) Please keep the aides. Special ed needs more aides!

5) Encourage the teachers to involve more parents in the classroom.

6) Cut the travel for professional development at this point to be picked up again in better times. Instead bring the talent together (i.e. all the K, 1, 2nd etc grade teachers from the district etc) for more intimate round table discussions to share ideas.

7) Have the teachers and administrators come up with a top 10 list to save \$.

8) Ask parents to donate supplies, develop a wish list. Some parent may own or work for a company willing to help out in this area.

9) Cut 5 days max if needed.

10) Raise taxes however, if the money gets redistributed...we've got a much bigger problem.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Hello,

I am not in favor of raising taxes if it makes Park City a target, and if there's the possibility of negative consequences in the future.

Instead of paying additional taxes, there are other ways parents/families can help schools and classrooms. Parents/families could buy classroom supplies and materials, or give money directly to teachers to support various programs/projects (many of us do this already). Related to this, I'm in favor of reducing the budget for supplies and materials for classrooms. Reducing the budget could also make teachers and staff more aware of the costs of materials and making sure we're not wasting anything.

In general, I am not in favor of doing anything which has a negative financial impact on teachers, but I do think we should seriously consider shifting a small portion of the insurance costs to employees.

One reason for doing this is to make sure employees understand and really pay attention to the costs. There might be some employees who already have insurance through their spouses, but who opt for secondary insurance through the district because it's "free." Asking employees to pay a small portion of the premiums would increase awareness of the costs involved.

I am not in favor of reducing/eliminating the teachers' stipends for housing and transportation.

I support increasing class size to 24, but only if this truly limits the class size to 24. If a class size of 24 actually means classes can go up to 26 students, I would not support this. I think 24 should be the maximum number of students in a class.

I am in favor of reducing the number of teaching aides. To offset this loss, parents would need to volunteer more often in the classrooms and provide additional help.

I am not in favor of eliminating planning periods to every other day at the secondary level. I worry this would contribute to teacher burnout, they have so little time during their days already. To ask them to give up a planning period and therefore do their planning at night, would be asking too much.

If text books are still accurate and up to date, I'm in favor of delaying adopting new text books. Depending on the subject, some teachers don't even require textbooks anymore, especially with so much information being available on the internet.

I think the district should cut travel for professional development.

If shortening the school year has a significant financial impact on teachers' salaries, I would not be in favor of this.

I think school administrative and district positions should be carefully evaluated to determine whether the positions are truly needed. Is it possible to eliminate any positions or reduce the hours (FT to PT) of any positions?

Finally, I am a strong advocate of continuing the gifted and talented program, and providing more services to high achieving students. I realize this is not the best time to bring up this subject, but I don't want it to get lost in the shuffle.

To whom it may concern:

In response to the Trailside e-news letter, I am writing as a concerned parent regarding budget cuts. I profess to being mostly uninformed on the specifics of the budget matters facing PCSD, but I do have a general opinion that class sizes should not be increased. I also would like to preserve Art and Music programs as much as possible and would prefer cuts in other areas (e.g., athletics) before cutting those programs.

Thank you for considering my input.

Please stay away from the classroom. Cut professional development, health insurance, housing and travel stipend.

Thank you for reading this note and taking it into consideration and for your service to the schools.

Please:

DO NOT RAISE TAXES!!!

That would be like placing a bulls eye on Park City for the state. In addition, in an economic contraction, people don't have the extra money. Also, we want to attract investment from the outside world by making (keeping) PC taxes low.

DO NOT make any cuts that impact the children IE: class size, days in school, textbooks, aids, etc.

Have the teachers take all of the cuts. Please cut beginning with travel, planning periods, stipend. Cut dental insurance completely and charge for health insurance.

Close to every family in Park City has been impacted by the economic downturn, it is sad, but the teachers cannot be exempted of the realities of the current economy. SPARE the education of the children. Park City teachers will still be among the best paid in Utah. (and if they don't like it, they can join the 10,000 fired teachers from Ca in looking for a new job). Benefits can be added back in when times are good again.

It is unfortunate, but everybody is strapped right now. The Park City school district cannot afford Cadillac benefits for their teachers at this time.

As usual, the people that work the hardest are the frontline employees (i.e. teachers, aides, janitors) and they are often paid the worst. I am hoping you can see to it that administrators see the pay cut and feel the pain financially. This may inspire smarter planning on their part. They should be making equal to or only slightly more than teachers, because they don't deal with the same stressors that teachers do everyday. Yes, they have to play at politics and deal with parents as well, but on a much more subdued level. I understand years of service and education should make a difference on a pay-scale, but it shouldn't be so much of a difference. I know teachers that have their Masters degree, is it any different than a Masters in administration? In my opinion, no. When budget cuts come, the people that make the most should be making the sacrifice, not the little people that are just struggling each day to make it. It makes sense with big corporations, and everyone is outraged when it doesn't happen to the CEO's. Why should it be any different in our school system? But I have a feeling that the teachers work load will be increased and less money given to them and therefore affecting our kids and their education. I wish I could feel more positive about the future of our schools and our leadership team, but I see how society takes care of the haves (afterall they are the ones making the decisions right?) and ignores the have-nots.

Thank you for your time,

I am a parent of a student in the PCSD and another will be in the district in 2 years. In addition to be a parent of students, I am an educator (not currently in the district) of 15 years and a spouse of an educator.

Below is some of my feedback on the proposed reductions.

Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? NO, this is already an elusive value, and arguably would hurt the main content areas (not specialty classes) which are already well over this ratio.

PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? A minor cut in this fee.

PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? No, this trickle down greatly hinders the employees.

2. PCSD Employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? Yes, this was a feel good stipend that was only recently instituted.

3. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? Yes, unless a course or content area makes a rationale reason for being exempt from this. Some classes are more impacted by this than others.

4. Should taxes be increased? I'm unsure on this. As a tax payer, I'm willing to do this. However, as much as the legislature talks about equalization, I would hate for this to ended up being the solution to budget concerns, and then it effectively being taken away. In essence, if this happened, both Peter and Paul would seem to be robbed. How can the district/tax payers do this, but shelter this increase from equalization efforts?? This would be worth investigating.

5. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut? Yes.

6. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? No, this is a minor saving carrying a major negative impact.

PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? yes

7. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings? NO, this is always a delicate issue. The issue of comparing different grade ban levels (elementary, middle, and secondary), both by teachers and parents. Usually, those who are not impacted by these decisions vote to hinder the others. This is somewhat natural. A cut in planning for secondary level teachers greatly impacts their effectiveness. In essence, you increase their workload and decrease their ability to achieve it. As a result, learning is greatly hindered.

8. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? Yes.

Instructional Coaches, be careful with any cuts here. This is one of the quietest and best programs the district has instituted in helping teachers teach. As professional development faces cuts, training faces cuts, workload faces increases, this is a great program to help teachers navigate these issues. Research supports the positive impact on learning that this program provides through coaching teachers.

Don't shorten the school year. This effectively creates a furlough, which puts the burden of budget cuts on teachers.

Yes, a theme of my response is to limit the impact on teachers. The reason for this is that the burden of budget cuts will in all ways impact teachers. Meaning that teachers will inevitably pick up the shortfalls

created by almost any budget cut. This seems to be what teachers do. This being said, please don't punish teachers through impacts on them and their families for the efforts they will put in to pick up the shortfalls created by other budget cuts.

We are concerned parents with 4 kids enrolled in the district since 2001. We have enjoyed the overall public education our children have received from Park City. The whole country is in a rough economic condition and believe that tough decisions today will best help everyone in the long run. Here are our recommendations regarding the budget;

Don't reduce teachers salaries or aids, look at health insurance all other industries employees share in the cost.

Reduce number of days, this is the easiest and least painful way to save money at least 5 days could be cut without a noticeable effect.

Change textbooks purchased to every other year, AP kids are required to buy their own as it is.

Renegotiate annual purchases to save 10-20%, everyone has had budget cuts and the suppliers to schools should expect this.

Class room sizes seem good, but if raising it by one child will help save jobs, one child per class would be acceptable.

Good luck and God bless you in your efforts.

1-yes increase class size-you can always decrease it in the future

2-yes, cut supplies 15%...frankly I buy most of them for my kids as it is

3-yes, def shift some if not half of ins costs to employees-everyone else in the US has had to face that issue already

4-cut the stipend

5-do not delay new textbooks--many are in bad shape already

6-cut aides

7-Definitely CUT the school year--it's been brought up before and it makes sense to go Labor Day to Memorial Day or something similar. Can we also drop the silly half day Fridays as it isn't nec for the majority of our students

8-Cut district, but not school administration

9-Don't cut planning to every other day--this will affect our kids negatively

10-cut prof travel for next year, but not long term--reevaluate every year

Thank you

Dear Park City School District,

We would like to give some input about the potential budget cuts.

1. As parents of children who require extra help in school, we have come to rely very much on the extra help afforded by the aides. Please do not cut the aides, as their role in assisting the teachers is vital and their impact on the children is so great. Our children are as connected to the aides as they are to their teachers.

2. Yes-delay buying new textbooks for 1 year.

3. As a professional nurse, I am used to paying for any professional development required for my license and education. So yes, cut the stipend.

4. Yes-cut the housing and transportation stipend.

5. We do not think that the school year should be shortened. In fact, wish it was longer. A prolonged summer break seems archaic compared to other countries' educational systems.

6. As most other workplaces have increasingly placed the burden for insurance on the employees, a restructuring of the current insurance program is unfortunately in order for the school district's employees.

Thank you,

To Whom It May Concern:

I have 2 children in the Trailside school, and I think the cuts should be made in the following areas:

Insurance

Number of school days

Transportation and housing allowance

District and school administration

I do not think the classrooms should be affected in any way, including classroom supplies, class size or teacher's aides. The teachers have to work hard as it is, and this would just make things harder for them and make the teachers and kids suffer.

Sincerely,

We have two kids at Parley's.

1. Class size should remain the same.

2. We should cut the supplies budget and ask the employees to cover 25% of their insurance premiums.
3. Employee stipend should be cut or reduced.
4. Delat the books for one year.
5. Don't increase taxes.
6. Keep teaching aids.
7. School shouldn't be shortened.
8. Keep the administration personnel.
9. Planning periods should be changed to every other day.
10. We should cut the district travel allocation. Can this be done on-line?

Thanks for taking our input.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opinion concerning the PCSD budget. We moved to to Park City in June of 2008. We have an 8 year old son who was identified as Highly Gifted in 1st grade. He was immediately provided services. His curriculum was truly differentiated, he had a Highly Gifted counselor, he received pull out services in 1st grade and attended a 3rd grade gifted class as a second grader. In addition, he had opportunities in a 4th grade classroom for math, all this, in Nevada. Here, he has a great teacher however, when I asked, I was told services begin in 4th grade. Nothing I see, is truly providing for his intellect. My point being,I know that Chris Fournier is retiring, and this is not an area were we can afford attrition. Please keep the Gifted Program intact.

As progressive as Park City claims to be and as your mission states....**supports each student to become an active learner and critical thinker who strives to achieve his or her highest potential** I see services missing for our best and brightest. When I look on the school web site and see 10.5 FTE's for ESL and 1 FTE for Gifted. I am speechless.

Therefore, being most likely politically incorrect, I have to ask why do we see nothing pertaining to cutting the budget for ESL? ESL is a program that needs to be restructured and revisited, just my opinion.

Secondly, I believe the need for new textbooks can be postponed. I also think the stipend for living expenses needs to be cut across the board. Everyone who gets this stipend, needs to give it up. Please leave teachers salaries alone. However, the supply budget can be revisited, I think in this community, if taxes are not raised, you will have parents more then willing to help make up this need.

Third, out of state conference travel can be halted for the time being.

Lastly, has the board office personal need been reviewed? Wasatch has eliminated the position of their

curriculum director and shifted responsibility to the coaches, which I know PCSD has. Just a thought.

I appreciate your time and I hope that your decisions reflect the least impact possible on our students. I believe you will do what is right. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

1. Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save \$640K? Yes

PCSD spends \$1.7 million annually on supplies and materials for classrooms, schools, and administration. A 15% cut will save \$250,000. Should minor, major, or no cuts be made to this budget? A substantial cut. PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of \$4.0 million. Should some insurance costs be shifted to employees? Yes

2. PCSD

Employees receive annual stipend of \$1,200 for housing and transportation. Cutting the stipend saves \$790,000. Should the stipend be cut? Yes, at least partially.

3. Should the district delay adopting new text books for 1 year and save \$250K? Yes
4. Should taxes be increased? Yes, but only to make up for part of the shortfall.
5. The District spends nearly \$705,000 a year on teaching aides. (Does not include aides for English Language Learners and Special Education). Should aides be cut? No
6. Each day that school is closed saves \$150,000. Should the school year be shortened? Absolutely not!

PCSD spends an average of \$123,000 for an administrative employee (principals and District personnel.) Should district or school administration be cut? Not sure

7. Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings? No
 8. Should the district cut travel for professional development and save \$310,000 annually? Yes
-

I think the school year should be shortened! I have children in elementary school and after looking at the calendar for the last two weeks of school. It seems like we could easily shorten the school year to save money. It is all fun and games, parties, field trips, etc. Not much learning going on and testing has already been completed. If each day that school is closed saves \$150,000, that is my vote.

Dear Park City School District:

I realize that you have a very difficult and important decision facing you. As a parent with two daughters at McPolin, I would like to express my gratitude to all that you do to keep our schools running as well as they do. I believe that the recent successes achieved by McPolin are the result of small, small class sizes, and I applaud Mr. Ed for keeping the classes small. As we all know, McPolin faces challenges that the other elementary schools in the district do not, in terms of its English Language Learners. These challenges also provide unparalleled opportunities, and I am grateful that my children are able to be a part of this educational community. McPolin has been successful when class sizes are kept to UNDER 20 children per teacher. Please do not go back to the 24 or 25 kids per teacher. That just doesn't work at McPolin.

I would be willing to pay higher taxes to see smaller class sizes. I would rather reuse text books. Rather than cut specialists, I would consider asking the teachers to share some of the burden of their health insurance, as is the case in most businesses.

Respectfully,

I was unable to attend the Town Hall, but wanted to give input on the questions asked.

1: Should the district increase class size to 24:1 and save 640K?

Absolutely not. Even with the 23:1 ratio, we are ending up with much larger class sizes in some grades due to "bubble" grades, and also due to the desire to keep the K-3 classes small. Next year JRES is looking at starting the school year with 27 kids in each 5th grade class - that means by the end of the year 29 students per class, or even more is expected.

PCSD spends 1.7M annually on supplies. Should cuts be made to this budget?

Absolutely YES. We all can be more efficient in our use of supplies.

PCSD pays premiums for health, dental and vision insurance at an annual cost of 4M. Should some ins costs be shifted to employees?

Yes. The plans should be reviewed by a committee. Can we reduce some of the plan benefits? Raise deductibles? Remove dental and/or vision?

2: PCSD employees receive annual stipend of 1,200 for housing and transportation. Should this be cut?

Possibly. I can see the value in providing the stipend as we want to retain our best staff. I also see the large dollar amount of \$790K. I believe this should be reviewed by a committee.

3: Should the district delay adopting new textbooks for 1 year and save \$250K?

Yes. Is the information available online? Are the physical textbooks necessary?

4: Should taxes be increased?

No. I would absolutely vote for and promote an increase in taxes if I felt the funding would be safe. If we raise taxes and increase our local support of the schools, it just makes a bigger pot for the legislature to steal. We need to do everything possible to not raise taxes.

5: The district spends nearly 700K a year on teaching aides. Should aides be cut?

Possibly. I do not think this a first place to look for cuts as it impacts the students directly. A review by a committee in this area would be warranted. Are the schools utilizing their aides efficiently? Can parents/PTO be asked to help more? Are aides making copies?

6: Should the school year be shortened?

NO. It is hard enough to get any quality out of a Utah education. We do a great job in our district, but we need all of the teaching days.

PCSD spends an average of \$123K for an admin employee. Should district or school admin be cut? Absolutely. A committee needs to review this. Especially at the District and the High School.

7: Should the planning periods be cut to every other day at secondary level for a \$795K savings?

Yes. All the secondary schools should be on the same schedule. If one school can operate with an every other day planning period, all of them can.

8: Should the district cut travel for prof dev and save 310K?

Yes. For now, all out of state travel should be cancelled. There should be a provision available that if the Superintendent can make a case for the necessity of the training, the school board will have the option to approve the travel.

In addition to the questions asked, I would offer these be asked also:

1: Is the District Office and all of it's departments operating at the highest level of efficiency?

2: Are the salaries being paid to District Office staff affordable for our district?

3: Is it possible to combine support staff, removing one or more staff from the budget?

4: Are we looking at every place possible before we cut services for children? Meaning teachers, aides and class size.

Thank you,

Parent - PCHS, JRES

How about a Utah State Lottery!