

Carmel Café Questions March 14, 2024 KES

<u>What are your ideas regarding ways to bridge the gap?</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>What are your thoughts about the proposed Princeton Model?</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>What information would help you make a more informed decision when you vote?</u>	<u>Response</u>
What administrative positions are planned on being cut?	The administrators will be absorbing the department chair positions. Roles and responsibilities include researching and sharing new teaching strategies, oversee departmental issues when it comes to student academics, prepare department budget with the building principal, coordinate subject matter, curriculum, establish department goals, help develop the master schedule, recommend needed personnel, activities and	Expected number of incoming kindergarten students? How many IEP and/or ELL?	These are our <i>projected estimates</i> as of today 3/19/24 - Kindergarten ENL students = 30; Kindergarten Students with IEPs = 59	How could COVID funds ending not have been anticipated and accounted for?	Many positions from Covid Funds were moved over to the general budget over the years. State aid was used to pick up the difference instead of raising the tax levy. This year, NYS unexpectedly changed its funding formula resulting in a sharp reduction between what the district was expecting and what it recieved contributing sharply to the current situaion.
How much of the deficit is due to projected shortfall vs. mis-management?	The district is in a planning phase for next year and had to make some reductions to avoid a higher tax increase . All of the proposed reductions are for the 24-25 school year.	Past practice was successful. K-1(22-24), 2-3 (24-26), 4 (26-28)	Current : K- (22-24) Grade 1-24 Grade 2- 26 Grade 3-26 Grade 4-28 These totals include all students who might be in the class	BOE member removal protocol - impeachment process?	Compliants against a board member can be directed to the board who are largely self regulating. There is a process to have a board member removed but all efforts should be made first to work through any issues.
What are financial pro's/con's of outsourcing transportation?	The district explored the option of outsourcing transportation in previous years with its legal team and discovered that it would not be possible so financial considerations were not explored	Go back to the way it was 30 years ago it worked well then.		Safety bond.	This will be discussed at the March 26 meeting

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Reduce HS bus routes (incentivise families)	This is a great idea and is being researched for possible implementation next year.	The Princeton Model is the original system 30 years ago and worked fine.		Show me how this happened and then I will review a proposed budget	There have been several presentations on the budget but if you review the March 19th meeting, there are slides that address what factors contributed to the current situation. Dr. Timms Presentation also spoke to this on Feb 27.
CTA pay freeze/reductions & if CTA refuses - layoffs, increased contributions to health care	Any reductions outside of contract negotiations would need to be agreed upon by the bargaining units.	Princeton Model - Bigger class size?	Class caps would remain the same	How much is the school district asking for the plot of land (bus garage). Do we have a buyer? How many extra employers will be cut to close the gap.	The land is under contract so yes we do have a buyer. In terms of the positions that will be cut as part of the budget adjustment, there are ongoing conversations although specific possibilities are discussed at board meetings.
Administrative reductions including D.O.	There are a number of positions from the DO that are recommended to be cut	Keep the Princeton Model		I want facts and I want numbers	Information on the budget can be found here: <a href="https://www.carmelschools.org/groups/15632/board_of_education/budgets__audits">https://www.carmelschools.org/groups/15632/board_of_education/budgets__audits</a>
Outsourcing Business Assistant Superintendent	Outsourcing the business department or its leadership could in theory be done assuming that the district found an organization that did that work. There are no known public schools in New York State that use that model so it is unlikely that there are vendors that are set up to do this.	Stop buying stuff and save money	We are taking a very close look at our overall supply inventory and prioritizing positions and programs to the extent possible.	Help the environment which you should always do.	Agreed. The district has already invested in several environmental efficiencies including solar panels

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Overtime review - Big loss	A reduction in overtime is part of the recommended reductions	What will happen to the last school? Will that school be used/rented out to get funds back into the District?	MPES was not part of the proposed Princeton Model adoption	Decision on cuts for admins & teachers	Once those decisions are finalized, they will be public.
Reduce price of bus depot property to sell	The property is currently in contract . The process will take some time though to close				
MPES UPK & K?	CCSD applied for a UPK grant through NYSED and is also actively collaborating with the Putnam County Department of Early Intervention and PreK about ways to allocate space within District for UPK and other preK services.				
CTA & other retirement incentives?	A retirement incentive for the CTA was approved by the Board. Other units were considered but they weren't feasible or beneficial to the district.				
Talk to senior centers?	CCSD is planning to add Putnam County Office of the Aging to Budget Road Show				
Elimination of redundant positions	Part of the district's proposed reductions involve asking staff to take on additional duties.				
Do NOT cut support staff	The recommended reductions are being made to impact the students the least.				
Grant writer	CCSD does not have a grant writer				

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ID out-of-district students	We are working closely with our building registrars to ensure that the registration process is consistently followed and that students who attend CCSD are students living in CCSD.				
Digital text books for 5th and up	We have a digital component for grades 5-6 ELA and grades 6-8 Math				
Subs versus teacher coverage					
Grant writer	The district does not have a full time grant writer although we do have the option of hiring a consultant grant writer ad hoc.				
Find out what/who created the Gap. Once found out then follow the trail and reverse the process.	The long range financial planning that started in October 2024 was the start of the process of understanding of our fiscal process.				
Go back to the era of previous administration and find the money	While true that decisions made in the past may have contributed to the current fiscal scenario, we can only make decisions moving forward to support the fiscal health of the district while continuing to support our students.				
Keep our programs	While proposed reductions impact the district broadly, care was taken not to cut any programs.				

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Keep all programs and get rid of what is not needed	The recommended reductions are being made to impact the students the least.				