

A number after the comment denotes the amount of people who placed importance on this answer during the forum

Question 1: ***Given the fiscal forecast, cuts must be made. What do you believe should be the priorities of our school district?***

- Already bare bones in the classroom. Cannot increase class size in elementary (23)
- Maintain teachers, can't hemorrhage (15)
- Maintain balance of art, music, sports- to provide opportunities for all (keep kids in school) (10)
- Math, Science, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Future Based Electives (9)
- Classroom (core) is the priority (9)
- Allow for HS students to access classes at HVCC, New Visions, Distance Learning (8)
- Competitive college bound content and basics (8)
- Become politically active and get our money back! (7)
- Maintain music program at all levels (7)
- Must have academic (vs. study hall) options at HS. (5)
- Maintain spots at AMS and HS (5)
- Commit to 21st Century skill development (4)
- Privatization of extracurricular activities (4)
- Music/Theatre Programs (3)
- Late Busses (3)
- Business courses/focus (2)
- Elementary-reading, writing, math-if kids can't read and write, they can't learn (2)
- Can we do a magnet high school concept? (1)
- Maintain Art program at all levels (1)
- Mandated programs
- Remedial Services
- Leverage technology to help maintain current curriculum

Question 2: ***How can the school district ease the impact of reduced funding?***

- Explore grants –train someone to seek grants (15)
- Increase staff share/contribution in benefits (11)

- Renting buses, privatizing sports, cafeteria, afterschool activities (11)
- Increase Distance Learning Output (School earns \$ for every class, computer classes? Important for student's future) (9)
- Reduce salaries of personnel, % based on tenure (7)
- “Kindle” approach for materials (7)
- Work with Town/Zoning Boards to increase commercial tax base/revenue (3)
- Partnering with local universities like HVCC, internships that they offer. HVCC will provide funding for the hardware (3)
- Continue lobbying efforts, in fact, increase them (1)
- Increase corporate sponsorship (1)
- Outsource (1)
- Fees for extra curricular activities (1)
- Community events that could support the school (1)
- Possible restructure debt service (volunteer)
- Push for other types of health care
- Joint district bulk purchase
- Take advantage of programs to get books, equipment (Price Chopper, Target, Hannaford)
- Increase number of “tuition kids” from North Greenbush and Wynantskill School Districts, etc.
- Reimbursement for recycling? (Troy environmental club)
- More electronic Drives- Companies that buy old printers (elementary schools do this)
- Box Tops for education-it is K-12!
- Cake raffle fundraisers, bake sales(Functions like concerts-both to support groups in other schools, like band, chorus, etc)

- Early retirement incentives (instructional and non) to those in the higher salary range
- look at reducing enrollment- what that means for school
- Rent out Sand Lake if groups aren't already paying
- Grants from NASA for STEM* (look closely at resources for federal programs)
- Investigate vehicles for donations-direct/indirect. But it would take a while. Would help future classes if not next year
- Taking more online classes to fill the gaps
- Energy efficiency analysis-already doing this

Question 3: *What do you feel is the best way to engage the entire community around the budgetary concerns shared this evening?*

- Disseminate accurate info to those in the APCSD without kids in schools (14)
- Engage local government officials in commitment to increase commercial tax base (10)
- Provide community members with form letters to write to elected officials (via website) (8)
- Announce a 20% increase needed to maintain current programs (7)
- Make sure message speaks to more than just education. Target the message (future, home values, leaders of tomorrow) (4)
- Additional budget awareness forums (3)
- Neighborhood budget awareness gatherings (2)
- Select/Train "AP Brand Experts" meeting leaders (1)
- Get our friends, neighbors, acquaintances involved to vote, to go to meetings (1)
- Dial into recorded messages
- Robo call about future meeting (emails, snail mail?)
- Advertiser notice

- Individuals send out emails to neighbors friends, contacts
- Edline Messages
- Community Television updates
- Tone is just as important as content
- Narration (video) added to website, presentation, documents
- Community, Board Member moderated online discussion forum
- Simplify the message to clarify issue and galvanize support
- Webinar, live streaming of key meeting
- Advertise meeting notices at Key Locations (banks, grocery stores, post office)
- Provide more detail as to what is included in a budget
- Media-website budget info should be more prominent
- Get higher profile people involved
- Use Key Communicators Programs-Expand, sign up!
- Create more opportunities for community members to be in the schools
- Use community forums-Millers (Hannaford), Library, businesses, fire houses, Rotary, Business Associations
- Could we interest a newspaper columnist in our tale?