

Raw Response Data from Survey Question

If you have specific suggestions for reducing the budget, please enter them below.

Take the schools back to K-12!!! This splitting the kids up into 4 different schools is just crazy!

2/17/2013 9:44 PM [View Responses](#)

Has the district considered combining Capron and Manchester?

2/16/2013 9:59 AM [View Responses](#)

Stop paying stipends to coaches.

2/15/2013 5:45 PM [View Responses](#)

I encourage using reserves to stay on track for the near future. Hopefully, the state will find a way to fund the education system properly and figure something out within the next few years (yes, wishful thinking).

2/15/2013 5:43 PM [View Responses](#)

I am unaware of the reasonings of why art and music are shortened..but I think there needs to be time spend in music/art in elementary. I think that these are very important areas for students to express themselves, and I am disappointed that the times they spend in these is cut.

2/15/2013 1:26 PM [View Responses](#)

Rental fees should be higher because there are many times that messes are left in the buildings that janitors must clean up during the school hours they are working.

2/15/2013 11:24 AM [View Responses](#)

Your facility rental contract needs to be redone, it is poorly written.

2/15/2013 11:16 AM [View Responses](#)

Manchester should be closed. It would save the district large amounts of money. There is more than enough room in the other K-4 buildings to house those children for MANY years to come. If the day ever came we needed more space, re-opening Manchester would not be the answer. Building a new elementary on the land we already own south of PG would make more sense. But I don't see that need happening for MANY, MANY years.

2/15/2013 7:03 AM [View Responses](#)

School board should officially, on the record, ask our elected officials to overhaul the teachers pension fund situation. Taxpayers are paying to educate our kids, not to be funding the teachers retirement. We can't keep cutting everything but pension and health insurance costs

2/14/2013 10:29 PM [View Responses](#)

Instead of free lunch/free anything, is there a way to implement the children working or the parent working to pay their debt. When I was in jr. high, I help custodian's clean and worked in the kitchen to pay admission, extra curricular and lunch. This was done from jr. high to high school.

2/14/2013 7:06 PM [View Responses](#)

I don't really know enough about operational costs to speak to what else could or should be reduced. Perhaps if we as a community were informed on this it might help as far as suggestions go.

2/14/2013 4:57 PM [View Responses](#)

Cut ALL supply budgets across the board by at least 25%. NO MORE building improvements!!!! Take a look at staff/administrators that are not directly associated with the children on a daily basis. Facilities person, head cook, head librarian. Reduce the assistant principal to 1, not 2! We replaced Cathy and Mary with 3 individuals at the DO....why? We need to be smarter with our \$\$\$\$ spent in each building. I see too many unnecessary things being thrown away and then rebought months later!!! Start with the highest paid individuals in the district. The lowest one just get rehired anyway!!!! The district can not function without them.

2/14/2013 10:42 AM [View Responses](#)

I don't know what the cost of the paper trail of registration is, but I am most certain it could be reduced greatly by online registration; at home or in house for those without internet. Only have paper possibly for new students.

Optional email report card. Eliminate Saturday detentions. Install motion detected lighting for many places in the school. Eliminate automatic gym suits.

2/14/2013 8:49 AM [View Responses](#)

Can some of the Summer Maintenance be done by HS Students for community Service hours, for example landscaping, painting etc. Maybe parent volunteers can supervise? Can fees be charge for voluntary transfers? Students who do not want to go to neighboring districts? I do not know if enough cost would be off set by what is spent per student, but there may be a high number who would choose our district over neighboring in the next few years if the option was feasible.

2/13/2013 12:06 AM [View Responses](#)

Cut teacher pay Outsource anything you can

2/13/2013 11:54 AM [View Responses](#)

I feel that dist. facilities should be used to their fullest potential. Example Maybe a paid summer school. Or summer camp, charging per person. Also Prairie Hill School is rented by the YMCA for activities. A partnership with a organization like that could be beneficial to all. Example basket ball at Manchester Sat Mornings 3 Sessions, K-1, grade 2-3, grade 4 boys and girls. Middle school done same way etc. Summer the fields could hold numerous baseball teams. A summer Camp charging per person would be beneficial. Or instead of parents paying for tutoring services such as Sylvan set up a tutoring at the schools. Renting out the school cafeterias as banquet facilities. Charging for all extra activities, setting up a non-profit group to help off set cost . I am 100 percent against closing a school that has served this district so well in the past. The cost of having to reopen it if needed for any reason would be unheard of. Especially with Manchester and not having other facilities in the area it could be greatly utilized. Even renting the gyms out for Birthday Parties with cake in the cafeteria, or Baby showers , wedding showers, etc.

2/13/2013 10:07 AM [View Responses](#)

Use reserves

2/13/2013 9:52 AM [View Responses](#)

You are asking about increasing fees to cover increasing costs, but you have cut 13.6% and are cutting more. How are there increased costs? As far as renting the building, rent to school use for as little as possible, but rent to make money to outside groups. While cuts are being made, it makes the board look bad when they increase the superintendent's salary. Get help from parents? Other community members. We will all pay in reduced values of our homes if our district is not one of the better districts.

2/12/2013 4:27 PM [View Responses](#)

I believe the district super should take a pay cut vs giving him a raise? Cut one asst principle at the HS. I know taht the community can not pay more taxes, we are being taxed out of our homes. If the turbines come to our county the property value will decrease 35-50%. So the taxes will go down to support municipaliteis

2/12/2013 3:13 PM [View Responses](#)

I do feel closing Manchester school would be a positive step, however I am not sure about closing Capron. It would cause a lot of over crowding at NBUE.

2/12/2013 2:39 PM [View Responses](#)

It seems to me, for a district our size, we are STILL top heavy! We could use one less principal for the number of students between Capron and Manchester. Is a facilities person absolutely necessary??? We definitely do not need 2 assistant principals at the H.S. There was 1 bookkeeper and 1 business manager and now we have 3 people doing the job that 2 did forever. Is a head cook really necessary??? There has been rumor of cutting 2 library assistants again..... this is the dumbest idea I have ever heard of!!!!!! They are already sharing buildings....what about cutting the head librarian????? We have cut the lowest people in the district numerous times.....and it has not stuck. We find ourselves hiring them right back!!! Now is the time to cut from the top! We also need to look at cutting supply budgets across the board at least 25%. Defer all unnecessary maintenance projects, reduce Special Ed staffing, are new desks really important....do we have enough put into technology for awhile (ie laptops, smart boards...) and as much as I dont like to say...if Pre-K can not pay for itself like transportation, do we need to consider cuts to that???? I know this is a tough decision, but lets do what is most beneficial to the kids with the least direct impact to them!!!

2/12/2013 1:31 PM [View Responses](#)

We can d something like comnining the 5th and 6th grade bands into one, so we only need one teacher for the job.

2/12/2013 1:10 PM [View Responses](#)

First of all, let me thank you for the hours and effort you people provide to help make our school system #1. I have researched and in my opinion I would suggest to the members of the School Board the following: Eliminate the position of Facilities Engineer Coordinator and Food Service manager. The responsibilities of these positions have been sufficiently handled in the past by the custodians and cooks of each building and "overseen" by the Principals of each. I also feel we employ one or possibly two, too many administrators in our district at this time. I'm not sure Vice-Principal positions are necessary also. Is there any possibility to freeze administrator wages for a couple years? I feel we are paying a very good wage when I surveyed the surrounding school districts. A few other suggestions I hope you have time to evaluate before making your decisions would be eliminating after school activity busses used to transport students home from extra curricular practices. We may have to review the number of staff we have in our District office and possibly downsize as necessary. Review bus routes could be advantageous as well. I hoping these ideas will be taken in consideration as you work to reduce the budget. Again, thank you for your time and for the opportunity to express my opinions. GOOD LUCK !!!

2/12/2013 11:28 AM [View Responses](#)

I would like to see a program to introduce tablets for student use in lieu of text books and work books. With the cost of the device to be covered by the parents of the students. Also any damage to be covered by parents.

2/12/2013 11:23 AM [View Responses](#)

Do not cut sports, you can increase the fee a little bit to participate but cutting them would devastate tons of students and probably ruin their attitude about the whole school.

2/11/2013 10:40 PM [View Responses](#)

We are extremely top heavy in administration.

2/11/2013 5:34 PM [View Responses](#)

I do not feel the UE and the MS need both a principal and an ass. principal. Seems to be overkill went you factor in the counselor.

2/11/2013 3:04 PM [View Responses](#)

I feel cuts should be made that won't affect academics. We should NOT be looking at cutting teachers, aids, or anyone that directly works with the students. The students are the reason we are here. Cuts should be made in extracurriculars and put a stop to future nonsense spending. Look at EVERY dollar spent and where it is being spent. Also make money spent comparable throughout the district and throughout the entire staff, from administration down to support staff.

2/11/2013 2:40 PM [View Responses](#)

I would just suggest looking at reducing extra curricular options before cutting academic ones.

2/11/2013 12:14 AM [View Responses](#)

sack lunches for F/R only altered schedules to provide after school programs reforming special ed. assistance

2/11/2013 12:03 AM [View Responses](#)

Reduce (1) UE/MS assistant principal position--possibly add counselor or dean or secretary if necessary at a lower salary. Remove food service head position. Allows more food prep positions. Subcontract bus services.

2/11/2013 11:12 AM [View Responses](#)

No Freshman Teams

2/11/2013 10:42 AM [View Responses](#)

Capron Elementary has city water and sewer plus extra land for football, etc. Has anyone ever thought about leaving Manchester and Capron open, putting Kg through 6th in the three elementary schools, 7 and 8 in the middle school and tearing down the old high school? Also, why are 2 assistant principals and assistant to superintendent needed?

2/11/2013 9:05 AM [View Responses](#)

I wonder about consolidating district office staff. I am unsure of the benefit of certain positions and the function that they serve.

2/11/2013 8:35 AM [View Responses](#)

All district budgets should have equal or near equal cuts across the board. There are still many small things that we spend money on that could be tightened up. Across the board cuts are fair. It is difficult to see technology growing and expanding when we are facing another budget crisis. Can we just maintain the technology that we have until we are back on our feet financially?

2/11/2013 7:23 AM [View Responses](#)

reduce assistant principal positions eliminate food service manager eliminate facilities coordinator position have one principal cover two grade schools

2/11/2013 7:03 AM [View Responses](#)

The district is too administrative heavy. Why do you have individual principals for the K-4 buildings when the enrollments in those buildings are diminishing? Share 2 principals between those 3 buildings. Also is it necessary to have a principal and vice principal at the NBMS? The buildings are close enough together to be able to function with 1. Do we really need a principal and 2 vice principals at the high school? Eliminate 1 vice principal. You should also steam line positions at the district office instead of increasing staff.

2/10/2013 10:48 PM [View Responses](#)

Take a careful look at salaries of those not directly involved in teaching the students. Cuts could be made in the salaries of people with no student/family contact.

2/10/2013 7:17 PM [View Responses](#)

Higher class sizes TA's go to four days a week as possible Freeze all field trips unless paid outside of district funds Maximize Title I funds to pay for Title I salaries as possible All district employees take a pay freeze for at least one year 10% budget cuts in all areas outside of pay

2/10/2013 6:24 PM [View Responses](#)

Food, look at food costs and selections. The menu selections are odd which reduces what the kids actually eat and what is wasted whether it's thrown out by the kid or the kitchen staff due to non use. Sorry, it has nothing to do with the Obama admn it has to do with what is planned, paired and ordered for the menus. Again all schools need to be equal in size of classes and what is offered to them as far as food, computers, books etc..one school should not receive preferential treatment. The district must work within its budget. If we as a district cannot do all things, athletics, arts, ag and academics...we must focus on academics first. If our graduating seniors aren't meeting the State Standards they should not be graduating. If a student can't read or complete math at their level they should be kept at that level rather than pull kids in and out of classes all day, disrupt others and hire more staff to do this function. Back to basics, keep it simple. Move the admn center (which never should have been built) back to the

Middle School and rent out that front office space. Why do we have to pay registration fees at all when other Districts in the area do not? Transportation: If we are accounting for certain areas to be riding the bus and those parents decide to drive their child instead the space and route for that child is still an expense for the district. If the bus route is available and they choose not to participate charge an opt out fee. This would eliminate some of the congestion and safety issues with drop offs and pick ups. If the state requires that we provide the transportation at our taxpayers cost and they choose not to participate their should be some reimbursement for staffing/diesel/maintenance. Stop with the

2/10/2013 12:00 AM [View Responses](#)

You only need one principle at the school Town kids should have to walk to school like I use to when I was a kid. Town kids should walk to only a couple of pick up locations instead of many pick up location that would help in less busses being used and gas.

2/10/2013 10:14 AM [View Responses](#)

close manchester elementary, cut weight lifting

2/10/2013 9:16 AM [View Responses](#)

Freeze administrative employees salaries.

2/10/2013 8:00 AM [View Responses](#)

I would rather pay increased registration fees and addtl fees for extracurricular activities instead of having things taken away or cut from the students.

2/9/2013 9:23 PM [View Responses](#)

we have too many administrators for the size of our district. stop activity buses immediately try to cut some bus routes limit how many sports we have freeze administrators salaries and the higher paid teachers at the top end

2/9/2013 7:12 PM [View Responses](#)

no after school activity busing, fewer administrators & freeze their wages, eliminate facilities engineer coordinator position, downsize district office staff, eliminate food service manager position, eliminate sports with ten or less participants, review bus routes, eliminate plastic silverware (for cost & environment)

2/9/2013 5:40 PM [View Responses](#)

Put an annual bus fee for all students. A flat fee included in the registration would help. Nothing outrageous, say \$25 extra per family no matter how many get bussed from each household.

2/9/2013 3:08 PM [View Responses](#)

Fees for building rental should be used to reduce school registration fees or buy supplies for the students. This is called "free education" is costing families more and more each year.

2/9/2013 2:47 PM [View Responses](#)

Less paper

2/9/2013 10:25 AM [View Responses](#)

teachers take pay cut

2/9/2013 8:25 AM [View Responses](#)

Cut the salaries of the administrative staff. If the Board receives salaries, lower those too. Everyone should feel the cuts, not just the teachers, parents and students.

2/9/2013 7:04 AM [View Responses](#)

Increase fees per student attending school. Move more of the burden to people who have children and away from the ones that don't.

2/9/2013 6:26 AM [View Responses](#)

Evaluate the necessity of so many administrators at the high school level.

2/8/2013 9:45 PM [View Responses](#)

If you need to close elementary schools, keep the principal from Manchester. She seems to have the best track record and the best standings out of the 3 schools.

2/8/2013 9:02 PM [View Responses](#)

It appears to me that some of the reductions in the past years have NOT been kept. In some of the athletic cuts/stipends...The district has added 2 assistant principals at the HS to replace 1. We replaced the business manager and eliminated a transportation director and added an additional bookkeeper in the district office???? What savings was this? We have 2 K-4 buildings with under 200 kids yet they have a full time principal. Is our Facilities person saving us money??? Does he do the repairs or is it the case that he just calls someone in to do them? Can the custodians call someone in? Now on a different note...it is rumored that 2 librarians may be cut again!!! Can we really afford to cut the library staff any thinner. Is the library not a final part of any education??? They run some pretty vital programs at ALL levels!! If we cut from the TOP and leave our lowest paid employees alone it seems we can save more money with the least impact to our students.

2/8/2013 7:59 PM [View Responses](#)

Dont cut activites but evaluate and decrease budget in these areas.

2/8/2013 7:36 PM [View Responses](#)

alot of companies have frozen wages...to look to the parents for more money in fees isn't feasible because alot of them have lost their jobs or had their pay even cut...

2/8/2013 7:01 PM [View Responses](#)

Reduce administrator's salaries.

2/8/2013 6:51 PM [View Responses](#)

My childs bus is not very full....perhaps a smaller bus could be used?

2/8/2013 6:44 PM [View Responses](#)

We are administration heavy - reduce. Reconfiguration of grade levels is a great idea! Reduce sports and extra curricular activities.

2/8/2013 6:30 PM [View Responses](#)

Cut teachers, admin, other staff. Don't cut Coaches or sport staff and give them raises.

2/8/2013 5:35 PM [View Responses](#)

This is 23 News, don't count our survey. Thanks

2/8/2013 3:48 PM [View Responses](#)

As a parent, if I do not get the check to pay for my child's lunch back to the school in time for one reason or another, he does not get a lunch (he gets a sack lunch). While the state aid students get a hot lunch everyday. This is while knowing full well that my child's lunch money is coming shortly he suffers for a day. This needs to be addressed and have something done to help out the "paying students"

2/8/2013 3:43 PM [View Responses](#)

I would highly recommend getting rid of the after school activities bus. If a child is involved in an extra-curricular activity it is the parents responsibility to provide transportation to and from the school for the activity. All bus routes should be taken a closer look at as I live in town and several buses per day pass my house. It seems as though maybe a route or two could possibly be eliminated. Seems as though there are several stops for high school/middle school students. Maybe cutting down on the number of stops and combining stops/routes.

2/8/2013 2:27 PM [View Responses](#)

reduce the superintendent salary.

2/8/2013 12:55 AM [View Responses](#)

eliminate admin education pool, weight lifting courses, close manchester school

2/8/2013 12:48 AM [View Responses](#)

wo vice principals at the high school Waste of money! We do not need to pay TWO vice principals

2/8/2013 12:38 AM [View Responses](#)

The money that is raised at all sporting event consessions should be put into one fund. The organizations should then have to put in a vote for item(s) that they made need or want. That request should then be voted on. I feel the junior class should not receive the money made from football consessions. They should have to fundraise for their own money. When our team made playoff this year the money raised and/or the potential money that could have been raised could have been a great start for new bleachers for our football statium. Instead, rumor has it that the district is going to cut gym teachers and librarians to accommodate funds for a new statium. Further more, I do not see the need for principles and assistant principles. Lets hire one person for the job.

2/8/2013 12:26 AM [View Responses](#)

Closing Manchester and Capron schools should save a lot of money. How much???? Extra Curricular activities should be looked at and reductions made where possible. The MAIN objective in our schools should be academics!

2/8/2013 10:45 AM [View Responses](#)

can have kids/parents volunteer to clean up school grounds during summer/before school starts.-- grounds looks awful....not enviting to attend. reduce some of the clubs if any that cost money. reduce wages for administration positions.

2/8/2013 10:31 AM [View Responses](#)

Consider eliminating middle management positions such as food service director.

2/8/2013 9:41 AM [View Responses](#)

As there is only one principal covering both NBUE & NBMS, maybe a reduction to one principal covering all grade schools. I like the idea of housing Pre-K-3 at PGE. Although it would be sad to see Capron & Manchester close. There are also at least 4 empty classrooms at PGE. I would think it would be smarter to install an elevator for handicap access to these rooms than to contiunue leaving them empty. It may also be an idea to eliminate the food service person, & let the cooks coordinate their schools menus.

2/8/2013 9:24 AM [View Responses](#)

I think that reducing important staff such as librarians, is unacceptable. Our students should come first and that is a reduction that directly affects their learning and the availability of materials.

2/8/2013 8:27 AM [View Responses](#)

Reduce schools but look at k-8 or k-6 system. Mixing all of those kids and transporting them all over just doesn't make sense.

2/8/2013 7:04 AM [View Responses](#)

Hard to make suggestions without a copy of the budget. Cut back on Football staff and schedule.

2/8/2013 6:58 AM [View Responses](#)

It baffles me that the NBCUSD books are in the RED when 71% of my property taxes go to the school district. Knowing this and assuming all of my fellow citizens of Northern Boone County have comparable tax rates, I'm going to need a whole lot more convincing before I can believe or trust that the school district even knows how to manage it's revenue!!!

2/8/2013 6:50 AM [View Responses](#)

LEAVE THE HOME OWNERS ALONE THEY ARE OVER TAXED ALREADY .. PUSH A TAX SO ITS FAIR TO MAKE EVERY ONE PAY LIKE THE SALES TAX ON FOOD OR POP AND BEER CIGARETTES

2/8/2013 5:42 AM [View Responses](#)

I may support combining some school however I believe we should take one more year to study the not only the alternatives but also the total cost/savings of doing so. It should include the cost of mothballing a school and reconfiguring a school. The findings should be published, and I wonder if they could be done by community volunteers and current staff instead of paying consultants. * Referendum * We had just moved here when the last referendum came up for a vote. I recall reading articles both for and against it. I did vote for it but I fear it will not pass again due to attitudes in the community as a whole. I've heard people say "it didn't pass and the new school was still able to open and sports were able to continue". Unless there is a way to bring buy-in from the general population I fear it won't pass again.

2/8/2013 5:29 AM [View Responses](#)

fundraisers should be held at the school for the school. Get the community involved more. Spread the word about how people can rent out the school, I never knew you could do that. Rent out tables and chairs for parties and garage sales. I know a lot of people that would rent them! You can make a lot of money off that alone if word gets around. Don't advertise, that costs money and paper, use the phone messages to get the word out or your website or facebook.

2/8/2013 2:17 AM [View Responses](#)

Although my child has not been impacted by student fees, I am aware of those that have and feel those should not be increased.

2/8/2013 12:06 AM [View Responses](#)

Rezone the district. Why bus kids from Candlewick past PG to Manchester? Close the middle school and combine with the upper elementary. Too many assistance principals. Work with area groups to develop relationships that save the school and group money. Cancel drivers Ed.

2/7/2013 11:07 PM [View Responses](#)

1. Re-zone the district boundaries 2. Eliminate the Assistant Principals 3. Combine the Upper Elementary and Middle School(2 buildings that close and each holding only 2 grades is ridiculous) 4. Change start time for the high school to match up with the others. Could cut back on a couple buses. (gas, maintenance etc..) 5. Eliminate Pre-K 6. Charge more for sports/ extra-curriculars 7. Work with the community/ Lions Club to have a cohesive sports complex. The school/ Lions and all could fund it together.

2/7/2013 10:44 PM [View Responses](#)

It's tough but we need to live within our means. Do we need an assistant superintendent, a highly paid superintendent and more than one psychologist in our district? I pay the state, they need to pay the district. When I pay manley's for a car, rock river ford does not then ask me to pay again. It does not make sense and if we would pass a referendum to pay again, we would be as foolish as our state government.

2/7/2013 9:45 PM [View Responses](#)

A deeper look at how much we pay administration and how much of that money could be allocated towards helping the schools budget, that would essentially go towards the students.

2/7/2013 9:00 PM [View Responses](#)

Freeze in administrative pay. Lessen the amount of sports. Students can play sports through their Park District or other leagues. After all, aren't we a school district that looks at EDUCATION as the number 1 priority? If we keep sports, have the coaches be unpaid and volunteers. I am sure there are many that would donate their time. With the new CCSS we are expected to have the students assessment rise, how are we to do that if our number of students increase? There is evidence to suggest that smaller class sizes can boost achievement, especially in the early grades and for low-income students.

2/7/2013 8:38 PM [View Responses](#)

I feel that administrative positions are very overpaid while staff members have to fight to barely make a living. Cut administrative pay!!!! There are several admin positions that could be eliminated as well - Jim Novak, Janice Burmeister, one of the TWO assistant principals at the HS. Cut the secretary that was hired to work with Rhonda at the DO. Rhonda was hired to do specific jobs and was her pay reduced when she couldn't and an additional person was hired?!?!

2/7/2013 8:38 PM [View Responses](#)

Grade schools could be moved to K-5 then the middle school would be 6-7-8, keep the UE building open but close the more expensive and older middle school. ESL students all in one place to save on staff.

2/7/2013 8:35 PM [View Responses](#)

When considering everything - athletic fees should vary per sport. For example Soccer and baseball have low overhead for equipment while football has lots of equipment but the fees are the same - why? Make the fees fit the sport or activity. If you choose to cut sports - look at expenses - I understand football is big but it is also expensive. Remove the middle school program - the local area can pick it up if they really need it - like many other area towns do. If considering cutting classes - remember the higher students as well. There are many families in the area that are preparing their children for college and need the higher level classes. I understand about having a minimum number of students to offer a class but is it ok to not offer higher level classes for those who need them - just because they can't get 25 students to qualify and sign up for them. What ever you do - don't lie to us as you have in the past. When the music program had cuts - we were promised that they program would not suffer - It did. They forced out a wonderful person and brought in someone that no-one likes. Some are only playing because they like to play but not because of the band instructor - like my child. Then they make the students choose between band and chorus at the middle school - which makes the program even smaller. There are studies that show those in music have higher test scores. Watch administration salaries and superintendent as well. They get raises even when we are told they won't. I love the education my students get in this district. They keep my children challenged as best as they can. I am happy I live in this district but if your cuts effect the education of the students- you might loose many people who might move into the area because of the education that you have offered. Closing Manchester would be a start - few students actually live in that area. Many have to be bused in to fill the classes. This has been brought up before but too many board members live in its area - so they won't hear of it. They only say it would cost too much to reopen if they ever shut it down. It is too out dated and shouldn't be re-opened. If and when the other schools can't handle the amount of students - then a new school could be built or an addition put on a different building - it would be a lot cheaper than trying to get the building up to code. The district needs to watch how it spend its money - look at the high school. It is very nice looking but a lot of money was wasted - curved walls? did you ever look at the stage? Did they actually look at other drawings for the new school - price it out to other builders? Chances are comments will be read but the board will do what it wants to do - they don't listen to the people within the community. I have been to many school board meeting when people have brought up good points but get shot down - ignored. The board has their own agenda - they pretend to care what we say - but they really don't. This survey is nice PR but will they actually listen to what we have to say? I wouldn't put any money on it. This is based on past experience with the board. What you need to focus on is the students - what is best for them - all of them. Too many school districts loose sight of that.

2/7/2013 8:04 PM [View Responses](#)

As a follow-up comment to questions 18. The concept of school registration fees is ridiculous. It's just another form of taxation. School fees for sports or extracurricular make sense, but there should not be registration fees and I do not support the increase of them. Property taxes are meant to cover your operating expenses and registration fees are just a way to generate more revenue. Comments regarding question 19. If you are renting out school property to other non-district organizations, you should do so at a profit and not costs. There is no reason that the buildings which require maintenance improvements and staffing should not be treated any different than banquet halls. The profit can be used for balancing budgets, improvements, etc. You have my recommendation list: Cut teachers, increase class sizes and close schools to meet the financial / population needs of the district. Additional taxes is NOT the answer.

2/7/2013 7:36 PM [View Responses](#)

It's pretty bare bones now. I can't think of any cuts, other than administration, that won't affect students negatively. A referendum may be needed.

2/7/2013 6:36 PM [View Responses](#)

Would be curious to know how much the district would save by eliminating the superintendents job? Having a district run by board members and principals? Would also like to know if the board decides to keep Manchester and Capron open, how much would we save to go back to having a principal principal two schools? Would also like to see the district have to share with the community how much less this budget cut would be if the superintendent didn't make poor choices? By poor choices I mean spending district money on items that don't benefit our children or students in anyway. By poor choices I also mean by hiring people that are costing the district so much more then he presented to the school board.

2/7/2013 6:32 PM [View Responses](#)

offer longer hours for before and after school care and start charging parents. This can bring in additional revenue and help working parents. combine grades 5-8 and close one of the middle schools.

2/7/2013 5:24 PM [View Responses](#)

Close Manchester, maintain Capron and Poplar Grove. Eliminate Pre-K program. Provide satellite lunch service.

2/7/2013 5:16 PM [View Responses](#)

As I always say, reward who's doing their job. Before you cut someone who directly works with students, cut someone who does not. We are supposed to find commonalities as teachers, double-up on curriculum, look for cross-curricular opportunities, be efficient. So should administration and the board.

2/7/2013 12:19 AM [View Responses](#)

I think that having two assistant principals at the HS is ridiculous! That is a waste of money. Also, eliminate Mr. Novak and Mrs. Burmeister. Our district ran just fine without them for many many years! That would save a ton of money!

2/7/2013 11:35 AM [View Responses](#)

The District seems to be cutting staff members at each level . The staff they keep cutting are the people that work with the students directly. Yet you keep hiring Admn. positions. Is there really a need to have 2 Assistant Principals at the high school. If you were to eliminate their position how would that effect the students...or would it just effect the Admn. side If were looking to keep the students in mind and that is our main goal why are you looking to cut the staff that works with the students. and keep the staff that doesnt work with the students.... If your saying that the cuts would save about 65M dollars by eliminating important things for the students... then just think if you eliminated some Admn. staff and that might add up to double or even triple the amount.

2/7/2013 9:43 AM [View Responses](#)

I am concerned that interest in "the next big thing" is driving our technology choices more than instructional needs and design. The discussions about supporting a one-to-one tech program seem inconsistent with our financial situation. Without a long-term, multiple year grant, I don't feel the instructional needs warrant putting such and investment ahead of other needs.

2/7/2013 9:11 AM [View Responses](#)

A new football field is not a priority over employing our staff members. There should be no critical amounts of district money going into that until we can assure that quality/quantity of instruction/curriculum is secure.

2/7/2013 8:32 AM [View Responses](#)

Administrative positions and salaries should be reduced/frozen.

2/7/2013 8:02 AM [View Responses](#)

Administratize wage freeze. Honestly, It is time for the top wage earners (Administrators) of the district to feel the pinch, instead of the lowest wage earners.

2/7/2013 7:35 AM [View Responses](#)

thats a hard question I absolutely feel that teachers are grossly underpaid yet I dont want the reducing the budget to fall on the parents- The nbue and the middle school and high school should be doing some kind of funfair like the other schools -they should have more dinners and auctions to raise money -we loved the murder mystery dinner and auction -that made good \$ they need to do more things like that!!

2/6/2013 5:18 PM [View Responses](#)

Eliminate/reduce the hours for Food Service Director. Capron and Mancester share principals. Cut back on funds for school assemblies. Consider making class sizes slightly bigger, and possibly busing students to a different school to reduce the number of needed teachers. Look into hiring therapists through the district vs. contracting with an outside company if agreement allows.

2/6/2013 4:57 PM [View Responses](#)

Consolidate purchases for all schools into one purchase for the same items. For example, when pricing health plans, have all schools on one plan. When buying technology services, utilize volume pricing. Better utilize erate.

2/6/2013 4:42 PM [View Responses](#)

Effective running of our elementary school will be impossible if cuts in personnel at that level are made. What services will we have to offer our students? How would we differentiate and administer interventions for students with fewer staff members than we have now? Also of great importance, it would lower our MAP and ISAT scores. More importantly, we have to consider how cuts in our staff would effect our student levels of academic achievement and knowledge. I truly believe we are running our school at the bare minimum now, as far as staff. How much more can we take away from our students? It would be in the community's and school district's best interest to count on the revenue the wind farms are going to bring in. This is of great importance to remember and consider when determining budget cuts!

2/6/2013 4:42 PM [View Responses](#)

It is hard to take seriously budget cuts when in the past almost every cut you have made has been brought back before the next school year. It would seem obvious that letting administrative staff go this time would be the most prudent and have the least impact on the students and community. We could let two principals (AD/assistant principal and 1 K4) go, saving \$200,000 alone and impact nothing as Capron and Manchester do not have high enough enrollment to justify full time principals and the sports schedules and officials are set by people that the district pays now. The Facilities position has also not paid for itself in savings or efficiency and should be eliminated, head custodians can call in vendors as easily as the Facilities Dir.. Food Service Dir, is another position that should be eliminated, and the rise in lunch prices and aligning of meal offerings has not made this program solvent and cuts need to be made to balance this line item. With reading scores in free fall, any further reductions in librarians must be avoided. They are currently working as thin as they can be spread. It would seem more realistic to eliminate the head librarian and keep the library assistants in place. You get 2 library assistants for the cost of 1 head librarian. It would also seem that the bookkeeper and newly hired business manager are in over their head if the public perception is to be believed. You had 2 people doing work that you now have 3 people doing the work. If your replacement to the ousted Bus Mgr is not qualified, hiring more help will not fix the problem. It is my belief that you have created this problem by making budget cuts and then hiring people back and allowing principals and other staff to spend money without oversight. Look at the money over-spent in operations and maintenance. It appears that the superintendent revels in the human misery he himself creates by lording over how the budget is created and spent, and unless that changes now, the rest of this doesn't matter. The idea that the school board can allow itself to be dragged thru this process year after year and be told that it is someone else's fault is ridiculous. The only way to impact spending is to make cuts from the top down, when these things impact the people at the top, spending habits will change. My hope is the new board gets elected in time to turn this train around!!!!

2/6/2013 4:36 PM [View Responses](#)

I think that the district could save money at the high school with the heating and cooling system. Something is not right with it. The heat should not stay on or as high overnight and into the early morning. The main gym should not have the air conditioning on so high that the spectators have to wear their jackets so that the athletes can stay cool. Administrative salary freeze, no paying money out for vacation not taken - take vacation and let district keep the money.

2/6/2013 4:09 PM [View Responses](#)

We really do not have a lot of extra fluff to cut.

2/6/2013 3:57 PM [View Responses](#)

Two small elementary schools could share a principal, a reading specialist, and possibly other specialists.

2/6/2013 3:45 PM [View Responses](#)

Staff at the NBUE was shocked to discover we would receive new tablets this year considering the budget crunch. In fact, teachers are loath to let students use them for fear of damage or negligence given how the laptops have been mistreated. Sharing & monitoring them is difficult. Students don't seem to appreciate them. I think it's ironic that we ask for parental and community support for athletics, but ask for so little towards the demands placed on students to be trained in technology. If the tablets and laptops are necessary for a well-rounded education, then their expense should be a priority for all. If they're not vital, then why are we still investing in them, especially when teachers aren't utilizing them fully?

2/6/2013 3:28 PM [View Responses](#)

All Admins. should take a pay freeze even at district office

2/6/2013 3:19 PM [View Responses](#)