

**Message Posted 1/19/10 @ 5:27 PM from Wil B.. (school unknown)**

This is the speech I wrote for us to speak tomorrow. I encourage everyone to make a copy of this and take it with you to the meeting. Just in case I don't have the chance to speak, someone else can speak it on behalf of the students. Let me know what you think of it, thanks. Good Evening Everyone, My name is [Your Name], I'm a [years in school] at [school you're from], and I'm here tonight to express the many concerns of students on the financial cuts in our district. We would like the board members to know that if they do go with these proposed budget cuts, it will dramatically affect our education and our lives. We would urge you to reconsider the proposal and look for other options. First of all, the original plan was to cut roughly about 80 teachers in order to save \$5 million for the district. As students, we see this as a big disappointment to our education. Cutting off this many teachers would mean there are fewer classes to take and bigger classroom sizes. This in turn, will affect the students' learning environment and probably have an impact our district's AYP scores. Not only that, but many of the teachers that are being let go are also sponsors to many school clubs and activities. Letting them go would mean no sponsors for the clubs and activities for us to participate and be active in. Also we would like to point out the unfair ratio between cutting teachers and administrators. It is not fair that cutting 16 teachers save \$1 million, while it only takes 7 administrators to save the same amount. That's more than twice the amount of teachers it takes to achieve the same cut. If you do have to cut back on the jobs, then you should distribute the ratio evenly between the two groups. Second, many of the programs in the cut proposal are vital to our education and our future lives. To name a few: fencing, guitar classes, jazz bands, COACH program, and the speech team. These programs help us achieve our highest potential in school and outside of

school. These are the programs that we enjoy participating in and enjoy doing. They open up new doors and possibilities in our future. It's these programs that we look forward to everyday in school. Cutting down a small percentage of spending on every program is fine, but terminating a whole program to save money is not right. There are other cuts that we can do instead of cutting the important programs. Do we need to have an "A" and "B" team for the same sport? Do we need those plasma TV's sitting in the storage room? Do we need administrators flying out of state for conferences? Do we need to add new programs while we can't support older programs? Those are some of the things that we could cut. Rather than cutting what's important to us, cut spending on things we don't need. Finally, we would like to say that this is a great opportunity for the board members to stand up and make the right choices for the students. Our parents have elected you into office so, in times like this, you can do what is best for our education. And our education lies within the teachers and programs that we have. We would like you to reduce the cuts of teachers and programs that are important to us and encourage you to look for other options. Please do what is best for us; this is what we have elected you for. Thank you.

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