

Mindy and Bruce Schmidt
P.O. Box 5
Corbett OR 97019

January 19th, 2011

Dear Corbett School Board,

We received and reviewed all the packets of information from last night's Community Information Event and we would like the below entered into the record as one additional option to be considered for your proposed budget cut scenarios.

ONE "OTHER" SCENARIO FOR BUDGET CUTS FOR 2011/2012

1. Cut 8 school days - **\$160,000** (This is a 4.8% reduction in pay for all employees at CSD – this is significant but still less than other districts.)
2. Cut three teaching positions (Anywhere *except from our K-2/primary programs*) **\$225,000** (See below idea for an Exploratory Teaching elective for our high school students to assist in the grade school when class sizes increase.)
3. Eliminate elementary music - **\$67,282** (Or the Charter could possibly fund?)
4. Eliminate AP training and some *testing* - **\$12,000** (Previously trained employees could possibly train others in need. Could also save additional monies in AP testing for students who wish to OPT OUT of testing and forgo the AP designation on their transcripts.)
5. Eliminate Athletic Director - **\$42,500** (Position assumed by varsity coaches and administrators. Too small a district and too big a budget shortfall for an AD with benefits.)
6. Cut Culinary Arts. See below for how these *few* students could be utilized into an "Exploratory Teaching" elective where only a "teacher of record" would be required. **\$66,720**

TOTAL: \$573,502

This scenario retains: Music for middle/high school, AP testing & AP programs AND Athletics. Most importantly it doesn't require large loans or an expansion of the Charter School and/or year round school in Corbett.

Other areas where money could be saved or found:

- Levies, endowment funds and/or fundraisers
- Cutting trips/conferences for staff
- Forming a task force to find cost saving measures for the budgeted items
- Administrator pay freezes and/or salary evaluation
- An independent cost analysis of the Corbett Charter School to determine if the contract should be adjusted to better reflect the actual costs of the additional students to the district next year

* See below for more ideas and notes on the above.

MORE IDEAS AND/OR NOTES ON THE ABOVE BUDGET CUT SCENARIO:

- **Levies and/or bond needed for our septic system.** CSD will start to incur fines and this is an obvious health risk to our elementary children. (All people.) Children were not allowed to play with balls at recess because of the sewage on the field this week at the grade school. This is a problem that is not going to get better with adding more students to our district and it has been an issue that has needed attention for years.
- **Really working for passage of a levy** must be supported and promoted by our school board with cooperation from those community members who would like to help. If we take steps, like the above cuts, for next year and the next attempt at a levy fails, then sports and music must be put up for cutting. (This needs to be clear to the community so they know what they are voting for or against.) If we can't afford these things then we can't afford these things. When your credit cards are maxed you shouldn't apply for a new card.
- **Serious efforts towards an endowment fund** to add back to the above list of cuts should be considered. Not everyone will give money if there is uncertainty in how these funds will be spent. People will be reluctant to support such a fund if the district moves to taking out large loans and increasing the size of the Charter.
- **Contacting our representatives.** We agree that Salem should hear from us. One idea would be to get all the kids on the field (after the septic situation is cleaned up) and organize a rally that is videotaped, put on YouTube and then we can contact the media. This, in addition to an organized letter campaign, could help draw attention to school funding in Oregon.
- **To be clear about how Corbett is funded -** It seems to be unfair and inaccurate to insist that Corbett is not funded with the same formula every other school in the state is funded by. **We are funded less because we don't have to provide services that other districts do. (ELL, pregnant teens, number of identified SPED students etc.)**
- **Exploratory teaching vs. Culinary Arts:** High school students would earn credits while also helping with elementary classroom needs. This would require minimal instructional time to train students and could be done by an administrator who could also serve as the teacher of record. It works. It's great for ALL the kids and can help the teachers too. (For example, they could do a unit on PE and teach elementary kids so teachers could combine classrooms on a rotating basis to recover prep time) AP High School students could also assist in the grade school in Math, Science or Language Arts instruction.
- **Elementary music can be taught in classrooms** by teachers if the Charter can not provide funding to retain our Elementary Music Program. Teachers could have a rotating block for music with all the other elementary teachers to allow for recovery of some prep periods too. More volunteers could be put in place to support staff. The PTA could possibly create a project to create a rotating schedule of available parents & volunteers etc. to help at crunch times for teachers.

The above scenario is only ONE idea from ONE family. There are ways of getting through this budget crisis WITHOUT going deeper in debt as a district if we all work together. We don't support bringing in large numbers of out of district students, implementing year round school or living outside our means. Districts everywhere are having to cut days, cut programs, freeze salaries and increase classroom sizes. There are ways to support our schools during these trying economic times and the community would be there to step up and help.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this information,

Bruce and Mindy Schmidt

