

**ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM STAFF AND COMMUNITY
REGARDING PRELIMINARY LIST OF SPENDING REDUCTIONS FOR FY2007/08
As of 2/1/07**

NO.	SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
1	Merge comprehensive high schools into 1 high school.	The Spending Reductions Task Force reviewed this item. This item requires longer-term facility and program planning. Significant capital planning and improvements are necessary for an adequate facility to house all high school students. Staff will continue to review this item for consideration and implementation in subsequent years.
2	Eliminate 1 FTE Administrator in Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities	The Spending Reductions Task Force reviewed this item, and determined the essential functions provided by the position cannot be eliminated or absorbed by another position. The Spending Reductions Task Force recommends restructuring the position to prioritize support to sites.
3	Relax enrollment requirements for schools that have room to grow.	Our current practice is to add classes at elementary schools based on space available and facility capacity. Students are only diverted to neighboring school sites when our capacity is maximized at one school site. Diversion policies allow us to maximize our personnel, facility, and financial resources. Relaxing enrollment requirements will not lead to cost savings.
4	Attract more students/parents; develop a social marketing/public relations campaign (e.g., promote Encinal HS).	A public campaign may improve our enrollment and ADA, and consequently increase our revenue. The revenue increase cannot be projected for the upcoming year.
5	Conduct exit surveys of parents who take their kids to private schools.	This item is under review, and will likely be incorporated into Student Services. The impact cannot be projected for the upcoming year.
6	Merge middle schools into 1 middle school.	Significant capital planning and construction/improvements would be necessary for an adequate facility to house all middle school students.
7	Collect donations and place "thermometers" in the community to show fundraising level.	Donations are always welcome and sincerely appreciated. However, donations are a one-time revenue source, and cannot be used to fund ongoing costs (i.e., personnel costs).
8	Look deeper. Find alternatives.	The Spending Reductions Task Force was charged with reviewing our operations and determining how we can do business differently. Current and prior year spending was analyzed, along with trends in enrollment, staffing, and operations. We are continuing to review alternative scenarios and assessing their financial risk to our short-term solvency.
9	Look at why the district office is left intact.	Central Support Services is not left intact. A total of 1.35 FTE positions are included as reductions in staffing. Prior year reductions totaled 2 FTE.
10	Explore year-round schools.	One-track year-round schools were eliminated in prior year spending reductions. Multiple-track year-round schools are less costly and are not educationally sound.
11	Open enrollment so low enrollment schools can gain attendance (e.g., public relations can bring inter-district transfers).	Current enrollment includes 430 inter-district students (ITD). Current practice is to place ITD students in low enrollment schools.

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12	Consolidate elementary schools.	Low enrollment elementary schools were consolidated for the current year. Consolidating additional schools is constrained by facility limitations.
13	Eliminate CSR at elementary schools.	The Spending Reductions Task Force reviewed this item. This suggestion is again under review. Implementation requires negotiation with an employee group.
14	Organize a meeting to help change the law regarding revenue limit funding.	Community members are organizing through the Alamedans for Better Schools and Alameda Education Foundation. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th at Lum School, 1801 Sandcreek Way, Multipurpose Room at 6:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to work on lobbying for funding. We are very grateful for the work of the community. Lobbying is arduous work that requires long-term commitment, and offers uncertain results. Accordingly, the impact cannot be projected for the upcoming year.
15	Collect \$30/person fee to Alameda citizens to raise funds for schools.	School districts cannot mandate a per citizen fee. Voluntary contributions are a one-time revenue source, and cannot be used to fund ongoing costs (i.e., personnel costs).
16	Looks at students who go to private schools.	Traditionally, private schools do not share information about their students (e.g., city of residence). However, we have hired professional demographers to conduct a study of our community and develop enrollment projections. The enrollment projections will factor in private school trends. A draft of the report will be available in February, and final report in March.
17	Implement an across the board pay cut.	A reduction in pay of 4% of all employees would save \$2M. Requires negotiation with all employee groups.
18	Request help from the City.	The AUSD budget is distinct and independent from the City budget; the City is experiencing its own budget difficulties. Support from the City would have to be on-going.
19	Reduce consultants.	The Spending Reductions Task Force reviewed this item. Professional services includes unavoidable costs (e.g., financial information system, annual audit, BOE elections, parcel tax assessment), and one-time discretionary costs. Professional services will be reduced by one-time discretionary expenditures.
20	Bring back Teachers on Special Assignment (TSAs)	TSAs are funded with categorical funds (i.e., restricted funds), which target specific groups and activities. Re-assigning TSAs to classrooms will not result in ongoing savings. In fact, this will likely result in an increase in spending, as TSAs are some of our most experienced teachers.
21	Outsource custodial services	Contractual obligations preclude the outsourcing of custodial services.

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22	Pick up new revenue streams.	The Spending Reductions Task Force reviewed this item. Some items were identified and included in the preliminary list. Additional items are under review for subsequent years.
23	Have the City implement a surcharge on sales tax designated for the AUSD.	This item is under review. Research to date reveals that a City may not adopt a local sales tax exceeding 1%, unless special statutory authority exists. If special statutory authority exists, a majority vote is required to create a surcharge on the local sales tax. A surcharge earmarked for the school district is a "special tax," and requires 2/3 vote.
24	Consolidate Island High School into comprehensive high schools.	The Spending Reductions Task Force reviewed this item, and proposed a school-within-a-school model, which requires longer-term facility and program planning. Staff will continue to review this item for consideration and implementation in subsequent years. The financial impact of this suggestion is uncertain.
25	Conduct a city-wide bake sale to benefit the schools.	Donations are always welcome and sincerely appreciated. However, donations are a one-time revenue source, and cannot be used to fund ongoing costs (i.e., personnel costs).
26	Have local groups "adopt" the items.	Donations are always welcome and sincerely appreciated. However, donations are a one-time revenue source, and cannot be used to fund ongoing costs (i.e., personnel costs).
27	Ask every parent to write a check for \$250.	School districts cannot mandate a per citizen fee. Voluntary contributions are a one-time revenue source, and cannot be used to fund ongoing costs (i.e., personnel costs).
28	Look at ASTI costs.	The Spending Reductions Task Force reviewed this item. Inter-district students constitute one-third of the student population, and were enrolled specifically for the early college concept. These students will have to return to their home districts resulting in a loss of revenue. ASTI may be helping to close the achievement gap with a high population of students of color and an API of 890. ASTI is accomplishing what many public and charter schools cannot do. Contractual obligations stipulate that the program be in place for 10 years, otherwise, we forfeit 5 portable classrooms. A preliminary analysis shows a savings of \$79K, excluding the loss of the portables.