

**Comments related to the possible potential budget reductions submitted via email.**

**This list will be updated weekly.**

**For any questions please contact Esperanza Toupin at [etoupin@srcs.k12.ca.us](mailto:etoupin@srcs.k12.ca.us)**

| <b>#</b> | <b>DATE</b> | <b>FROM</b>   | <b>BUDGET ITEM</b> | <b>COMMENT</b>   |
|----------|-------------|---|--------------------|--|
| 1        | 10/23       | John Cortopassi<br>From:<br>jcorto7@yahoo.com                         | General            | I understand the appeal of going after matching funds, but when I look at item F-2 on the agenda where the district is looking at cutting \$5.6 million and look at this where it wants to spend \$1.8 million it doesn't make sense. An idea of saving money for future budget years is not spend during current times. The board is asking for sacrifices, maybe this is one of the sacrifices that could be made. I would also suggest that someone ask the question about how many students are currently in the medical pathway at Piner and look into ROP's funding of it. If there is only a handful (14 or so) of students in the program, spending \$980,000 also does not make much sense. |
| 2        | 10/24       | darlene pullen<br>dpullen@yahoo.com                                   | General            | From my point of view as a teacher and parent as well as knowing the impact on students, I urge you to make low class size a priority in all grades.   |
| 3        | 10/25       | Chris Bertozzi<br>cmbertozzi@gmail.com                                | 9                  | Elementary teachers need and deserve prep time. Elementary students deserve to have teachers who have the time to prepare their lessons, communicate with their parents, and analyze their work. I believe strongly that this item should be saved.  |
| 4        | 10/25       | Chris Bertozzi<br>cmbertozzi@gmail.com                                | 12                 | The current class size for grades 4-12 is already at the maximum that it should be. Please do not go above 30 students in these classes. I ask this as an elementary teacher and parent of two SRCS students.  |
| 5        | 10/25       | Dawn Thomas<br>Art Teacher<br>Comstock/SRMS<br>dthomas@srcs.k12.ca.us | General            | I am writing to ask you to reconsider sweeping 100% of the Art and Music Block Grant monies into the General Fund. It would be smarter to leave 50% available to sites to fund the Art and Music programs. Without this funding, we will not be able to purchase supplies, and that limits the teachers' ability to provide Hands On projects that benefit all of our students, but especially the Special Needs and English Language Learner communities, which are abundant in Art classes. I would know because I teach Art for this district. Please do not cut 100%; please leave some money for the sites to buy supplies.   |
| 6        | 10/26       | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.net  | 48                 | Please cut more at the district office, and less at the sites. Administrative personnel do not help to educate children.   |
| 7        | 10/26       | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.net  | 4                  | Unfortunately, cut this.   |
| 8        | 10/26       | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.net  | 10                 | Cut the police officer, who does not teach, after all!   |
| 9        | 10/26       | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.net  | 15                 | go ahead and cut this  |
| 10       | 10/26       | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.net  | 18                 | Save the books!  |
| 11       | 10/26       | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.net  | 20                 | If you cut this program (which I support), than cut the director too!  |
| 12       | 10/26       | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.net  | 24                 | Cut this.  |

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| 13 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 26      | If you cut this, which I support, cut the director of this program also for a larger savings.  |
| 14 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 31      | Save the libraries as is. This is essential!!!   |
| 15 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 35      | Save the custodians, though cut them at the district.  |
| 16 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 48      | Please cut admin. at the district before any school cuts.  |
| 17 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 53      | Save the libraries!  |
| 18 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 55      | If IB, AP, and others are cut, artquest and Agriculture classes should be cut too. Also, special ed should be looked at (RSP, ELL) for possible cuts.  |
| 19 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 59      | Do Not cut the school year. Kids need to be in school. Longer even, if you believe Pres. Obama!  |
| 20 | 10/26 | a hornpez<br>hornpez@sonic.n<br>et                          | 67      | Cut the district office! I do not see cuts there For example, if professional development is cut; eliminate the director (100,000?) If Par is cut, cut the director. The district office needs to cut as much (or more as any sites that actually see children!)   |
| 21 | 10/26 | Abby Walls<br>awalls@srcs.k12.<br>ca.us                     | General | Please do not jeopardize our students' learning by doing something as extreme as enlarging class sizes to 30 in elementary and 40 in secondary. I teach in the classroom and as much as I would like to give individualized attention and differentiated instruction (as recommended by New Horizons TO GET US OUT OF PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT), there is no possible way I can effectively teach that way if I have forty bodies crammed into one room. As a parent and a teacher I implore you to reconsider such an extreme measure. Anyone who recommends this as a viable option has no idea what teaching is all about. |
| 22 | 10/26 | Adam Hayman<br>adam.burns.red<br>@gmail.com                 | 32      | If I had not been able to go to Midrose High School, then I would not be able to graduate on time, and possibly not at all. I am extremely thankful for this opportunity. I plan to go to college in LA right after high school, and I would not be able to go without the help of this school that I love.  |
| 23 | 10/26 | Adam Santana<br>ada_sant1@yaho<br>o.com                     | 32      | My name is Adam and I am a student at midrose high school. I am a senior and if Midrose is shut down I will not graduate. I need to stay another semester in midrose and if midrose is closed down I will be forced to drop out to find a job because my family is struggling with money. Please do not close down midrose and thank you for listening.  |
| 24 | 10/26 | Anonymous<br>Grace Student<br>quality_freak@h<br>otmail.com | 24      | Grace is a place for opportunity for students who struggled the first years of high school. And they can make up credits here faster than a regular high school. So they can graduate on time with their class. So they don't have to come another year. I am here so I can make up credits and get my diploma so I can get on with my life and succeed in my future.  |
| 25 | 10/26 | Brianna Stafford<br>sbrianna@yaho<br>o.com                  | 32      | I found out today that our school program for under-credit students might potentially be closed next year. I just wanted to voice my opinion and explain why I highly disagree with this choice. A lot of teens have gone thru rough times, some being their own fault and some just not having the best of luck. This program helps teens that want to strive to do better and get back on track. Without this program, the percentage of teens dropping out will increase. The fact of the matter is that without this program there won't be a second chance for kids and we all deserve one.                         |
| 26 | 10/26 | Carolyn Hamill  | General | I am writing to urge you not to "sweep" 100% of the Art and Music Block Grant funding into the General Fund. Arts and Music  |

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|    |       | comstockhomeec@yahoo.com  |         | Teachers depend on these funds to purchase books, instruments, and supplies for their classes. We have had our funding 'frozen" since last year, and have been unable to purchase supplies, even though our classes are larger than ever this year, and students are enthusiastic about "hands-on" projects like painting, drama productions, and ceramics, for which we need to purchase on-going supplies. Please leave at least 50% of the Art and Music Block Grant funding for the purpose for which it was originally intended: to provide equity in access to the Arts and Music to the students in our district.   |
| 27 | 10/26 | cindy garcia<br>lostcindy@gmail.com                                     | 24      | My name is Cindy Garcia. I am a junior at Midrose High School. I was recently told that the board was planning to close Midrose High School and others like it. I am highly against this action because this school is my last hope of graduating from high school. Ridgway is not an option for me because of my parent's disapproval of that school. Midrose is a good school because it is located right here on the Elsie Allen campus. I am able to participate in the Elsie Allen tennis team and I am trying out for badminton. These opportunities are not available at other schools like Ridgway. I can earn credits here much faster than I can in other schools because I can take more classes here. Please think twice before closing this school because most kids I know that attend Midrose would not even be in school any more if it weren't for Midrose. Help our education by keeping schools like mine open.                           |
| 28 | 10/26 | Daniel Vasquez<br>DVasquez.Midrose@gmail.com                            | 32      | They should not close midrose because midrose is an important school to make up credits. You should not close midrose because the people that are seniors want to graduate and get their diploma. You should not close it because the people that are going to be seniors next year and are not passing are going to want to come here and make up their credits.  |
| 29 | 10/26 | David Henneman<br>dhenneman@srcs.k12.ca.us                              | General | Any reductions of certificated and classified salaries should accompany a commensurate reduction of the number of days in the contract year.   |
| 30 | 10/26 | erica castillo<br>erica.castillos@yahoo.com                             | 32      | I'm a senior and I just wanted to say without Midrose, I would not have gotten any of my credits or even graduated. We students need Midrose to succeed in life and get our diploma and to go to college. If I were a junior, I would feel hopeless about the future. I'm asking you to end our school please  |
| 31 | 10/26 | Jana Rabune<br>Parent of SRMS<br>7th grade student<br>jrabune@yahoo.com | 12      | I am writing to urge you not to "sweep" 100% of the Art and Music Block Grant funding into the General Fund. Arts and Music Teachers depend on these funds to purchase books, instruments, and supplies for their classes. We have had our funding 'frozen" since last year, and have been unable to purchase supplies, even though our classes are larger than ever this year, and students are enthusiastic about "hands-on" projects like painting, drama productions, and ceramics, for which we need to purchase on-going supplies. Please leave at least 50% of the Art and Music Block Grant funding for the purpose for which it was originally intended: to provide equity in access to the Arts and Music to the students in our district. Thank you for your support of the Arts and Music.   |
| 32 | 10/26 | Joan Rousseau<br>jrouska@sbcglobal.net                                  | 59      | I agree to reduce the amount of days for the school year. I would agree to a four day reduction for the 2009-10 current school year. a. The four days following the Lincoln Birthday holiday would be an easy week to take days off. These could be the same days off for the 2010-11 school year. Or, b. Reduce school days by taking 4 Fridays off throughout the school year.   |
| 33 | 10/26 | jose ruiz<br>JRuiz.midrose@gmail.com                                    | 32      | Hi. My name is Jose Ruiz first of all I came to Midrose because I want to graduate on time. And in a regular high school I wouldn't be able to do that.  |
| 34 | 10/26 | jovani lara<br>larajovani@yahoo.com                                     | 32      | Hi, I'm at Midrose because I need to get my credits. At Elsie I couldn't make-up the credits I'm missing to graduate on time. In fact, I wouldn't graduate at all. Also, other students wouldn't have a chance to graduate either. If students can't graduate on time they wouldn't want to continue going to school, and they would end-up dropping-out, which means there's going to be more unemployed people. Also, many teenagers would end up doing badly like getting in gangs, more young girls getting pregnant, and teenagers winding-up in jail. Many students, who go here, like me, have the hopes of their families behind them. I would be the first one in my family to graduate from high school. Other students here are in the same situation. You would be ending a lot of hopes and dreams if you decide to end Small Necessary Schools. It's not our fault that the economy is bad, but it feels as if we are getting punished for it. |
| 35 | 10/26 | kathy korlin<br>korlin@sbcglobal.net                                    | 12      | Arts & music must not be cut!  |

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| 36 | 10/26 | kathy korlin<br>korlin@sbcgloba<br>l.net   | 13 | I think this is ok to cut. If the students are not learning the required material to pass the cashee, then get rid of the poor performing teachers or let the kids not graduate. There should not be extra funding for this.  |
| 37 | 10/26 | kathy korlin<br><a href="mailto:korlin@sbcgloba.l.net">korlin@sbcgloba<br/>l.net</a> | 14 | See comment on item 13. Why have extra counseling for cahsee. extra career counseling I could support   |
| 38 | 10/26 | kathy korlin<br>korlin@sbcgloba<br>l.net   | 15 | To my knowledge, this program has never been properly funded, so may as well scrap it. Parents of gifted children, typically have ways of nurturing those gifts or the students figure it out on their own  |
| 39 | 10/26 | kathy korlin<br>korlin@sbcgloba<br>l.net   | 56 | Does this mean you have had staff on payroll for 'Opportunity classes that were eliminated 5 years ago? This is unclear to me   |
| 40 | 10/26 | kathy korlin<br>korlin@sbcgloba<br>l.net   | 59 | Do not reduce the school year.  |
| 41 | 10/26 | kathy korlin<br>korlin@sbcgloba<br>l.net   | 64 | I mostly see budget cuts that hurt the students. Where are the cuts to eliminate/reduce the administrators?   |
| 42 | 10/26 | kathy shanklin<br>kshanklin@srcs.<br>k12.ca.us                                       | 33 | As a teacher who has worked eleven years at Comstock Middle School, education for middle school students would really suffer with extended bus commutes caused by a school closure. It would also create hardship for families. It would be foolish not to see the quality that Comstock brings to students and the intense improvements in CST scores that reflect the achievements of Comstock's students. Comstock's enrollment numbers have increased in the face of other schools' declining enrollments. Comstock serves northwest Santa Rosa. And people do vote. I strongly urge the Board and District to seek grants that will support the changes to an AVID/STEM school that Comstock has already been developing to bring in enrollment from all sectors of Santa Rosa. There are collateral expenses to closing Comstock and not that much money will ultimately be saved, and it would be unfortunately cruel and blind to a very vibrant community of families. Quite honestly, Santa Rosa School District should be actively seeking grants and should cut the excess administration expenses.   |
| 43 | 10/26 | Kelley Dillon<br>dillonkelley@ya<br>hoo.com  | 49 | This does not seem a cost effective cut. The net savings is not significant enough to cut 41 jobs. Raising the class size in the elementary grades would be a step backward and would not have a positive effect on instruction. We are working hard to get out of PI status. Increasing the class size would not help this effort.   |
| 44 | 10/26 | Kelley Dillon<br>dillonkelley@ya<br>hoo.com  | 59 | In this troubling economy, cutting the school year seems like a fair way to attend to the current cuts. It is a way for all employees to take a small hit that could in turn save many employees the loss of an entire salary. We need to save as many jobs as possible, and continue an attempt to cut far away from the classroom.  |
| 45 | 10/26 | Kendi Aliff<br>kendialiff@yaho<br>o.com  | 24 | Grace High School is a small necessary school to help students earn credits so that they'll graduate on time. We have smaller classes so that it's easier to concentrate on our school work and rise "get" better grades. I am a here at Grace so that I can graduate on time. In fact last year when I started at Midrose I had only 20 credits out of 220. I was not on track to graduate then. Now I'm a senior at Grace High school and I'm on track to graduate. I Graduate on Dec 18, 2009. I worked so hard to get my credits o graduate and have accomplished my goal. I wouldn't have done this without Grace or Midrose. Good things about Grace are our teachers, counselor, principal, fellow students and our secretary. As well as our small classes so that it makes it easier to work and concentrate and we get the help we need if we need it. If it wasn't for Grace and Midrose I would have disappointed myself and my family and dropped out of school. I most likely would be a low life living on the streets with the wrong crowd not making anything of my life. But because of Grace and Midrose I'm working on becoming a chef and owning my own restaurant. This is what Grace High School our small necessary school means to me. |
| 46 | 10/26 | Lorie Wilcox<br>lwilcox@srcs.k1  | 10 | I have been with the school district for almost 17 years and as a Student Advisor we have a significant roll as such. We not only provide a safe atmosphere for the students of the school we are at but we are also like mini Administrators doing some of their work  |

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|    |       | 2.ca.us  |    | load as well. Cutting our jobs would be not only detrimental to the students who love us so much because they count on us for so many reasons, but for the administrators who we help everyday. We also are a great deal of help to the parents of these students and the staff as well.   |
| 47 | 10/26 | Louise Penna<br>louise_penna@yahoo.com           | 24 | Please do not cut the Small Necessary Schools as they are serving students who would otherwise fail at the main stream schools. This includes my son, who would have dropped out of high school if he didn't have the opportunity to attend and graduate from Mesa.  |
| 48 | 10/26 | luz mora<br>luzmora64@yahoo.com                  | 32 | HI, MY NAME IS LUZ MORA IM A SENIOR AND CURRENTLY ATTENDING MIDROSE HIGH SCHOOL. THE REASON WHY IM ATTENDING MIDROSE IS BECAUSE IM ABLE TO MAKE UP MY CREDITS FASTER TO GRADUATE ON TIME. WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE MORE CLASSES' GLAD THEY HAVE SCHOOLS LIKE MIDROSE. WITH OUT SCHOOLS LIKE MIDROSE LOTS OF TEENAGE STUDENTS WOULD NT GRADUATE N JUST DROP OUT. I WANT TO PROVE TO MY DAD THAT I CAN BE THE FIRST ONE TO GRADUATE ON TIME. MIDROSE ALSO LETS US TAKE CLASSES FROM EAHS. WE ARE ALSO ABLE TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY EAHS SPORTS OR EVENTS. PLEASE DON'T CLOSE MIDROSE. DON'T TAKE AWAY THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY SOME STUDENTS HAVE TO GRADUATE.  |
| 49 | 10/26 | Mariela Alvarado Canela<br>Mari_alv707@yahoo.com | 32 | Hello. My name is Mariela. I am currently a senior at Midrose High School. I just wanted to say that Midrose has helped me a lot! I don't think it's fair to close down Midrose. Not everybody has it easy, most people have issues, and sometimes these issues get in the way of graduating from a regular high school. If I had not gotten accepted to Midrose last year I would not have the chance to graduate with my senior class. Last year, when I transferred here, my chances of graduating on time were very unlikely. I entered Midrose the second semester of my junior year with only about 83 credits. Being a junior, this meant that I was very behind in credits. I finished off my junior year and now, not only am I able to graduate early; I can transfer back to Montgomery High School and graduate with all my friends. I strongly believe that closing down Midrose is truly unfair because there are still many kids that need this school to be able to achieve their goals and dreams. Without schools like Midrose around, I think that the kids that are so far behind in credits need this as motivation, because if they have no motivation they are most likely going to drop out of school.   |
| 50 | 10/26 | Marlene Callen<br>mcallen@srcs.k12.ca.us         | 53 | I feel the libraries should be removed off the list. We can scrape by without a lot of things, but that is the cog that keeps the wheels moving. The cost of replacing books or errors on orders would be staggering without librarians.   |
| 51 | 10/26 | Michelle Meislahn<br>mmeislahn@pacbell.net       | 49 | Anyone who taught pre-class size reduction with 33 kindergarten students will tell you there should be no going back!! When we taught 33 kindergarteners, Project Achieve was still being formulated; we had a teacher-partner for a good portion of the day, and an instructional assistant for a small portion of the day. 3 adults in the room with 33 kindergarteners, and still, not all kindergarteners left kindergarten reading and writing. If there is a successful, standards based model of teaching kindergarten with over 30 students in California, I would love to observe and learn how they do it.   |
| 52 | 10/26 | Michelle Meislahn<br>mmeislahn@pacbell.net       | 50 | Cutting this item is distressing to me in so many ways. The schools that have PFO's that raise over \$10,000 in ONE event will be able to purchase a music teacher, art teacher, or P.E. teacher with their funding, while a school without these resources will not. The disparity between these types of schools will only get larger. I would argue that a school like BH would need to be exposed to these types of classes even more than a school with a higher SES, as a majority of families at a higher SES school would have the capability to provide it for their own children. As a parent of students who score Advanced on the STAR test, I do not want them to have double or triple periods of ELA and Math. I want them to have a rounded education which includes music, art, computers and physical education. I am a product of public schools and am a public school teacher and have staunchly defended public vs. private school. The circumstances that we are in make it extremely difficult for me to defend it anymore. As a K teacher, I do not get a music, computer, art or P.E. prep, so I cannot be accused of trying to save something from which I personally benefit. Please leave this one off the table. (I understand that it is a negotiable |
| 53 | 10/26 | Nayeli Guzman<br>Nayeli_707@hotmail.com          | 32 | We were notified today that Santa Rosa City Schools District doesn't have any money. Due to the budget cut the state wants to close down small schools like Mesa, Grace, and Midrose. Closing small schools like Midrose will not really help at all. Without these schools many of us will not get the opportunity to graduate on time, or even graduate at all. Midrose is a big help for me to get my credits that I have missed in the past. Attending Midrose was my only way to catch up in all the credits that I was missing. Now my only hope is to graduate from Midrose my senior year. This really concerns us, students from the chosen schools. Midrose was not just   |

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|    |       |  |         | a big help for us to graduate on time but it was also like a small family. The classes are smaller and bring us closer to each other including the teachers. We are able to get the help we need. If you start closing down schools then students from these schools probably won't end up going back to school. I know I won't. Even though we won't have anything to do, we would rather just be at home wasting our time than trying to go to school for another couple of years just to graduate, and we won't get the same recognition as we would of if we did graduate on time.   |
| 54 | 10/26 | Nicky Gisonno<br>ngisonno@srcs.k<br>12.ca.us | 10      | As a school psychologist at MCHS, I am aware of how closely the special education department works with the student advisor at MCHS on a daily basis. Our student advisor is aware of all students with behavior support plans and ensures that when issues arise, the plan is implemented and that MCHS staff members are aware of and follow the plan. When general education or special education student behavior escalates, the student advisor is one of the first people to be aware of what is going on due to their involvement in discipline referrals. Our student advisor alerts the administration and special education department of any concerns and we work together on an effective plan. We collaborate closely at MCHS and due to the relationship, effective interventions are implemented quickly thus preventing many incidents or preventing a current situation from escalating! The MCHS advisor frequently seeks my professional opinion on how to deal more effectively with various discipline related issues and this has resulted in a reduction of referrals from the same students. If the student advisor sees a behavioral pattern, it is dealt with immediately. Without the student advisor position, we would not be aware of these patterns until the situation was extremely serious and out of control. Frequently, my referrals for crisis counseling are generated from the student advisor position. Without this position, I would have limited contact of what is occurring in the general education population and be less effective as a school psychologist. My concern is that I would be involved after the crisis has occurred and then dealing with a crisis management situation rather than crisis prevention. The student advisor at MCHS has allowed me to be more effective as a school psychologist who engages in counseling as needed and not just limited to special education assessment. I see this position as essential to ensuring that all of the student barriers to learning are addressed on a high school campus.  |
| 55 | 10/26 | Patrick Shinkle<br>shink42@att.net           | 32      | I am a student at Midrose High School, and I am concerned about the budget cuts. You say that the cuts will save half a million dollars for the city, but taking away small necessary schools is going to increase the drop-out percentage by a huge margin. Midrose offers students who have had a hard time in big public schools, a second chance to graduate. They offer more than double the classes, and instead of getting credits at the semester we gain credits by the quarter. So, instead of getting 60 credits a year, Midrose student can earn up to 96 credits a year. That's 36 more credits that can help students who are behind, to graduate on time. I am one of these students. I used to be over 100 credits behind and now after two semesters I am on track to graduate on time. In fact without Midrose, me and a lot of people would give up and drop-out. Meaning that there would be less people working, and there would be less money coming in for the city. So, in fact cutting out small necessary schools would be much more devastating than the short term cause. With that I ask that you please don't cut out small necessary schools. It gives kids who messed up, something to fall on.  |
| 56 | 10/26 | Paul Drake<br>pdrake@srcs.k12<br>.ca.us      | General | I wanted to give my two cents about the proposed budget cuts. You had expressed interest in hearing from the teachers, so here goes:<br>1. Cutting the school year short is something most of us could survive, given enough opportunity for advance planning. It's not ideal. It would hurt, but we would live through it. 2. Cutting music, art, and P.E. is also a contract issue and could be a protracted one. Kids already spend too much of their time in core academic pursuits and much of the spare remaining joy of coming to school would be lost for many. Additionally, there is plenty of research to support the fact that P.E. art, and music increase cognitive functioning. Humans need expression and experiences beyond the three r's to be whole. We have responsibilities beyond increasing test scores. 3. I am in full support of cutting spending for text books and materials. Good teaching does not come from a text and what I have works fine. I can't speak for middle and high schools, but the feeling at elementary is that we do not need additional curricular materials. 4. Increasing class sizes will diminish the quality of education at first grade. I can tell you that for sure. I assess the kids every six weeks and use that information to group the kids for small group instruction and paired practice. With 22 students, I can already see the impact of slightly larger groups. 30 students would be devastating. I would not be able to successfully get enough of the kids reading at grade level with today's standards if I could not meet with them in reasonably sized groups on a daily basis. It is critical and sets up the future of their elementary experience. Currently, with the occasional exception, they emerge from first grade reading at or beyond grade level. And, of course, I'm talking about a Hidden Valley population here... 5. I am not qualified to speak to the closing of alternative high schools or deletion/consolidation of bus routes. I appreciate the impossible nature of this decision making process. Any choice will hurt and will be met with resistance. I encourage you and the board to put our human resources first. Although administration and materials are important, it's the students and teachers who need to be protected here. All the best in this difficult time. |

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| 57 | 10/26 | Peter Finch<br>mrpcf@att.net   | 2       | smaller class sizes here are crucial for student achievement, CAHSEE success, and graduation   |
| 58 | 10/26 | Peter Finch<br>mrpcf@Att.net   | 12      | decades of studies have proven the crucial and immeasurable necessity of arts programs for students and their school sites   |
| 59 | 10/26 | Peter Finch<br>mrpcf@att.net   | 14      | it is ridiculous to expect any quality assistance from an over-worked counselor with a 1 to 500 ratio  |
| 60 | 10/26 | Peter Finch<br>mrpcf@att.net   | 22      | actually, here you could save money, since the AP programs could replace the IB courses  |
| 61 | 10/26 | Peter Finch<br>mrpcf@att.net   | 25      | Again, you could save money here, since districts should not have to pay anything. SCOE should fund the program, and could save money by eliminating their connection with Far West and reduce the BTSA staff. The program was better years ago when it was smaller and locally based  |
| 62 | 10/26 | Peter Finch<br>mrpcf@att.net [   | 51      | terminating this is a good idea  |
| 63 | 10/26 | Phil Penna<br>philp@scottlab.com   | 32      | My son Skyler Penna benefited greatly from the education he received at Mesa. He will be attending UC Davis and without the fine education he received at Mesa that would not have happened. Jim and Eli made it work for him. Do not close this wonderful opportunity for so many students.   |
| 64 | 10/26 | RLaden<br>rladen@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 59      | After reviewing the list of potential cuts, I support closing a school and cutting 5 days from the school year!! Everything else hurts students and teachers who are already struggling to meet the needs of their students.   |
| 65 | 10/26 | ROSEMARY<br>rosemary.cruz12@yahoo.com                                      | 32      | Hi, my name is Rosemary Phillips, and I go to Midrose High School. The reason I'm writing to you guys is to ask for a favor to please still continue Midrose High for the next school year. Midrose High to me is my home. It would help me get my credits faster and go to the J.C. and maybe to a four year college. Without Midrose I would probably not even be in school right now because I'm so behind that there is no point of going to school. All the students here had some really difficult past problems, but we are still here not giving up because Midrose helped us a lot. If they are closing Midrose, they are throwing away our future. |
| 66 | 10/26 | Ruth Moore<br><a href="mailto:Englandruth@aim.com">Englandruth@aim.com</a> | 48      | Why are no reductions at the district office being considered?   |
| 67 | 10/26 | Sirius<br>siri@yahoo.com   | 50      | When will you people realize the importance of the arts and physical education to the over all well being of a child? Curriculum in said areas being delivered by trained professionals in the field. Not delivered by classroom teachers who believe throwing a CD in the player constitutes a quality music program? Or tossing out some jump ropes and basketballs constitutes a well rounded PE program. Grow a clue! When will you reduce administrative costs significantly, vis a vis, the creation of a NEW position in district offices for an inept administrator. Yes. We all know about it.  |
| 68 | 10/26 | Theron Cole<br>theronwwe79@yahoo.com                                       | 32      | Well my dear city hall employee, I am sending this E-mail regarding the Recent budget cuts which might happened to close down Midrose High School the following year. Then I ask you, why? Midrose and all other small necessary schools is a great gateway for students who couldn't fully succeed in previous years but now they can reach their full potential. What I am implying is cut some other program not ours, please I want to graduate and not be just another person in the crowd. I'm from Midrose! So, with my last plea, we are all begging that you will let us be.  |
| 69 | 10/26 | yovan avila<br>yovan_avila@yahoo.com                                       | 32      | Hi, My name is Yovan, and I'm attending Midrose. I think u guys shouldn't close Midrose because kids have another chance 2 make-up their credits so they won't drop- out. Kids are going 2 be sad if you guys close Midrose down   |
| 70 | 10/27 | aileen cormack<br>rustynails456@aol.com                                    | General | I am writing to urge you not to "sweep" 100% of the Art and Music Block Grant funding into the General Fund. Arts and Music Teachers depend on these funds to purchase books, instruments, and supplies for their classes. We have had our funding "frozen" since last year, and have been unable to purchase supplies, even though our classes are larger than ever this year, and students are   |

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|    |       |   |    | enthusiastic about "hands-on" projects like painting, drama productions, and ceramics, for which we need to purchase on-going supplies. Please leave at least 50% of the Art and Music lock Grant funding for the purpose for which it was originally intended: to provide equity in access to the Arts and Music to the students in our district.  |
| 71 | 10/27 | Alexander Cerda<br>a.cerda21@yahoo.com                                    | 53 | Greetings I am a student at Elsie Allen high school class of 2010 hoping that you would reconsider your plan for the schools libraries. From what I read I do not think that this could help any one in any way. If one person was to be in charge of all the school libraries then how would some students get some books they want to read or need for their classes. Yes there is the Sonoma County Library, but some students may not always have the time to go there and check out a book. With this in mind I hope that you can see what I am talking about. Which is why I hope that you will reconsider your plans for the school libraries, or at the very least find a compromise that will benefit us all in some way.  |
| 72 | 10/27 | Angel Valencia,<br>Grace High School Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com | 24 | I believe that shutting down the Small Necessary High Schools will make a lot of people mad. From my situation I'm a senior and without going to Grace and I wouldn't graduate. Grace High has given me many opportunities to graduate and not stress about homework or thinking twice in walking. As my response, I disagree on closing down the Small Necessary High Schools cause without it many people will not see their future.  |
| 73 | 10/27 | Anonymous<br>Grace Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com                   | 24 | I am a student at Grace High School (a small necessary high school). It might not seem much to anyone else but Grace plays a huge part in so many students' lives. Obviously, everyone here has made mistakes in their past, but we are that handful of students that are passionate about making a change. We realize how much we need school and are willing to go beyond our limit to get to graduation. Here at Grace we really do care. We care about our education as well as each other. We are the "Grace family." Over the past year I have bonded with so many people that understand my situation because they are going through the same thing. At Grace we are able to make up missing credits/units that we have. Grace gives us the opportunity to earn 96 credits in a single year compared to our former school (Piner HS) at 60. They care just as much as we do about graduating. The counselor shows us we are important. Every student notices how much the staff genuinely cares about our well-being. That matters to me. I need Grace. Without it, I would not be able to graduate. Please use another option instead of the Small Necessary High Schools. There are generations behind us that are going to need help just like us. Please be considerate of us. We are students that WANT to be here. |
| 74 | 10/27 | Anonymous<br>Grace Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com                   | 24 | Grace is a place for students to get back on track. We can make up 96 credits each year, our classes are smaller, and the teachers know us. It's a great place. If I didn't come into Grace I would have dropped out or not graduate on time. Grace really encouraged me to stay in school. Grace is really a Small Necessary School. Thanks to Grace I'm going to graduate on time.  |
| 75 | 10/27 | Anonymous<br>Grace Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com                   | 24 | I don't think you guys should close down Grace because it is probably the best deal at any other schools. Grace gets 96 credits a year and at Piner they only can get 60 credits. That's 36 more credits to earn and some people need that to graduate. I am in Grace so I can graduate. If you cut down Grace, what am I going to do? We have the best students here. They actually want to work. They come every day to get their credits and do their work to graduate. All I'm saying is that if you close down Grace, you're closing down a family.  |
| 76 | 10/27 | Anonymous<br>Grace Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com                   | 32 | I am writing this letter to let you know how important it is for us the student and staff of these necessary schools. These necessary schools give students the opportunity to be able to get credits that they once missed for whatever reason it is that they didn't get the credits they needed. These necessary schools allow them to graduate and if these schools were to be gone, many students would not have the chance to graduate and get the credits needed. This would lead to students just dropping out of school, because they have fewer and fewer opportunities being taken away. This would cause a higher rank of non-high school graduates. Another problem with cutting down on small necessary schools would be a large number of unemployed staff. So that's why I think small necessary schools are important and shouldn't be cut off. Thank you from a student who attends Grace High School   |
| 77 | 10/27 | Bella Villasenor<br>BellaVMidrose@gmail.com                               | 32 | I hear that the Santa Rosa City School District is looking to close Midrose. I am a student attending Midrose and I think you should not close it because students that messed up last year or this year need another chance to earn their credits. Many of us would want to graduate on-time and be able to go to a university or the J.C. so we can get a better education and a career.  |
| 78 | 10/27 | Blaire Murphy   | 14 | The AB 1802 Support Counseling program that has been in place in this district since December of 2006 has proven to be an effective   |

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|    |       | beryndarl@hotmail.com                      |                             | and very successful program. I have seen first hand the positive effects that the extra support has had on this at-risk population of students. Having the opportunity to work more closely with students and their families to identify issues and problem solve solutions has made a big difference. Since the program has been in place, CAHSEE scores have improved and drop out rates have decreased. With this districts extremely high student to counselor ratio of 500:1 this type of student support would be impossible to continue. The addition of support counselors makes it possible to support this needy, yet important group of students and give them the encouragement that they need to be successful. If this funding is absorbed into the general fund and these positions are cut it will be feasibly impossible for all of our students to receive the support that they need and deserve in order to be successful and ultimately graduate from high school. If the support counselors are cut, the current program will be non-existent, therefore it is my understanding that the funding that we are receiving from the state will then be cut. While the money is available to us from the state, let's please put it to work in the way it was intended...to support at-risk students. Counselors are an integrate part of the educational team and seem so often overlooked in this district. Counseling almost every year is changed, often time decreased, due to enrollment or budget cuts, which causes students to have to change counselors. This is difficult and frustrating for students and parents, as there is usually a relationship that has been built. Students and families utilize counselors in a variety of ways, including as a support system when they are struggling or to provide resources in times of need. A student that is struggling socially or emotionally or is dealing with a crisis in their life is unable to focus and learn. I realize the budget crisis that is upon us, but I hope you will review the data and take into consideration the positive impact that the support counseling program has brought to SRCS. Thank you for your time and consideration during this difficult time. |
| 79 | 10/27 | Blaire Murphy<br>beryndarl@hotmail.com     | 24                          | The Small Necessary Schools are wonderful programs and one of the few alternatives that our students have if they are not successful in the comprehensive high schools. This is a group of students that for one reason or another are not making it at their high school. The small setting of Mesa, Grace and Midrose is exactly what a student needs in order to be successful and get back on track. I have seen first hand the positive impact these schools have made in so many students lives. Many of these students without the opportunity to attend these alternative programs would drop out of school. Please take the time to look at the many positive aspects of these programs and the student success they foster. Thank you for your consideration in this difficult matter.   |
| 80 | 10/27 | Blaire Murphy<br>beryndarl@hotmail.com     | 31                          | Our school libraries have already been cut to the bare bones. Our libraries offer so much more than "just a place for students to hang out". As a matter of fact, I believe that most schools don't just allow students to "hang out", but require them to be productive while in the library. Our libraries are an essential part of the educational team, as the offer many resources, promote reading and encourage student success. Many of the students in this district do not have the resources available to them to access the essential materials in our library, such as books and computers. Please consider the long term effects on our students and on our schools without our wonderful libraries and the staff that supports them. Thank you for your time and consideration.   |
| 81 | 10/27 | Casey<br>caseye@gmail.com                  | 48                          | Whenever possible, please try to keep the cuts far from the classroom. It seems like there is still room to make cuts at the district level. Have the district office personnel numbers decreased since the economy started failing? Areas that I see the most waste center around testing. I am not against testing. However, in the remedial sophomore English classes this year, the students took three district created tests within the first quarter. Imagine the money that could be saved by eliminating the administration, copying, scoring, and recording of these three tests. One administrative position is equal to eight sections. Eight sections would improve class sizes significantly. Eight sections could equal two full time teachers, librarians, or custodians (maybe more). Thanks for listening.   |
| 82 | 10/27 | Casey<br>caseye@gmail.com                  | Career<br>Tech<br>Education | Where does the district have 1.8 million dollars for this? Why is this even a consideration as we are looking to cut 5.6 million dollars?  |
| 83 | 10/27 | Catherine Maltby<br>cmaltby@srcs.k12.ca.us | 49                          | Increasing class sizes in K-3 over the current max of 22 per class is a HUGE step backwards for education. I hope the board does not forget why the state of California made the change to lower class sizes in the first place - in order to provide better individualized instruction for students during their VITAL first years of school. I heard a board member comment previously on whether low class sizes made a difference or not. As a teacher, I can say YES! As a parent, I say YES! My child who went from a third grade class of 20 to a fourth grade of 33 even noticed that the teacher has "too many kids to help." Think about other professionals and their "clients". Would you rather your physician have a manageable number of patients or be overloaded with patients? How about your accountant? Or even your mechanic? Taking a step backward by cramming more students into K-3 classes is a cut that is just too close to the children. Keep cuts away from our children!  |

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| 84 | 10/27 | Claudine Gans-Rugebregt<br>crugebre@mcn.org                                | 2  | I understand that the board is considering increasing class size at the high school level to 40. First of all, this wouldn't make sense financially, because then many of us would be over the 165 student limit and we would be paid extra for the students above the 165. (Five classes of 40 would put us at 200 students costing the district thousands of dollars.) I have taught classes of 40 students in this district and I can tell you that a good portion of these classes are spent on discipline rather than developing critical thinking skills. Our star test scores would not be improved in such conditions. And lastly, to give meaningful assignments, teachers often rely on librarians to help our students work on projects, without librarians these kinds of assignments would be severely diminished if not eliminated. We need the libraries and the librarians to teach students the skills they need to be prepared for their future education and careers. Please reconsider these two budget items and keep the cuts as far away from classes as possible. |
| 85 | 10/27 | Dawn L Baskin<br>teacher<br>dbaskin@srcs.k12.ca.us                         | 49 | I understand what a terrible time this is economically. However, I am afraid that increasing class size to 29.75 would have DRASTIC negative consequences to our schools and the quality of education we can provide. Teachers will not be able to give the students the time/attention they need in order to achieve high academic success; thus test scores will be lower and everyone will suffer. I would sooner see a shortened school year than give up our ability to provide quality education to ALL our students.   |
| 86 | 10/27 | Deb Ball<br>dball@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 14 | While we are in Program Improvement we need to provide as many services as possible to our at-risk students. Support counseling is designed to help those students.   |
| 87 | 10/27 | Deb Ball<br>debball1@netscape.com  | 21 | When I was a beginning teacher, my mentor teacher made all the difference in the world for me. Without certificated staff mentoring, how will our beginning teachers get the support and guidance they desperately need?  |
| 88 | 10/27 | Deb Ball<br>debball1@netscape.com  | 24 | We will lose students to other alternative schools and other districts if we close our small necessities. Many of those students will not attend the comprehensive high schools and our graduation rate will suffer.  |
| 89 | 10/27 | Deb Ball<br>debball1@netscape.com  | 32 | I worked at Mesa for two years. Many of those students will not attend the comprehensive sites and will drop out. To serve our students and improve our graduation rates we need more alternatives, not less. Midrose has an exemplary program and has helped many students who would not graduate were it not for that program. Mesa graduates a number of "super seniors" as well as others. Grace serves our ELL population in need of credit recovery. If we close these schools we will see less students graduate, and we will lose some students to other schools and other districts.   |
| 90 | 10/27 | Deb Ball<br>debball1@netscape.com  | 55 | I am very concerned about increasing the ratios as we see many classes at SRHS now at 35+ students. When the number of students rise the opportunities for learning decrease. Sometimes there are not even enough desks for all the students, and the noise level can make it very difficult for students to concentrate. If we want to aid student learning and get out of program improvement we need to keep the ratios manageable.  |
| 91 | 10/27 | Deb Ball<br>debball1@netscape.com  | 60 | For many students, the reason they come to school is tied to athletics. For others, the reason they work hard and keep their grades up is the same, athletics.  |
| 92 | 10/27 | Guadalupe Aquino<br>Grace High School Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com | 32 | I am a student in Grace High School out of 46 kids. It's a small designated school which gives the teachers an approach to help us succeed in our necessary skills that we need to graduate. I would not graduate without the school giving an opportunity of 96 credits per year when it would be impossible to graduate in a regular school gives 60 per year. Without it, I would be in after schools even night schools just to keep up. I would have probably dropped out and stated working. Grace High School has opened my mind and opportunities. I was not interested in going to college. Over the time being I have interest in going to college to become an artist.   |
| 93 | 10/27 | Imelda Reyes,<br>Grace High School Student<br>persica.mimi7@yahoo.com      | 32 | Grace is my school. I am going to graduate because of Grace. I am so happy because I am in Grace. Dear sir or madam you don't really know me but you could know that Grace for me means a lot to me because of Grace my family is going to be happy because I am going to graduate. This is the place where I am getting my credits. Where I am getting back in track. Grace is for me because I get better help from my teachers in Grace than in a regular school. Please don't take our school away.   |
| 94 | 10/27 | Jan VarnBuhler<br><a href="mailto:jvarnbuhler@src">jvarnbuhler@src</a>     | 53 | Librarians and Students advisors are important to the education and safety of our students. DON'T CUT THEM!   |

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|     |       | <a href="http://s.k12.ca.us">s.k12.ca.us</a>                                     |         |  |
| 95  | 10/27 | Jessica Perdeu,<br>Grace High<br>School Student<br>quality_freak@h<br>otmail.com | 32      | Back when I was attending Rancho Cotate, I had such a bad attitude towards school. I had all Fs and I caused so much trouble that none of my teachers would even let me in the classroom. I sat in ht office from 8 am to 3 pm, everyday, and would get suspended at least once every 2-3 weeks. Since I started at Grace Small Necessary School, I actually enjoy going and being at school. (Honestly, it's really weird!) I made a ton of new friends, and now have a B average! Neither one of my siblings graduated from high school, and I'd really like for my parents to experience at least one graduation ceremony. If Grace is closed, then I have no way of earning the rest of my credits. I love Grace and I'm sure all of the other students at other Small Necessary Schools are in similar situations, please keep our students on track to graduate and save the Small Necessary Schools!  |
| 96  | 10/27 | Jesus longoria<br>machi622@gmai<br>l.com   | 10      | Please do not cut out the student advisor position from the Santa Rosa city schools. Student Advisors are very crucial to the safety of the school. They are the second hand of the administration and are very instrumental in helping with attendance and truancy issues.  |
| 97  | 10/27 | JM<br>jmm198022@ya<br>hoo.com  | 14      | I was just reading about the possible budget cuts for the 2010-2011 year. I was so upset to see that the Supplemental School Counselors are on the chopping block. When the that money was put into place, it was the first time that I had ever seen anyone acknowledge what a school counselor does on a daily basis. It was about time that someone realized how important these group of people were. This program has employed many hard working counselors throughout California. Then recently it was decided that schools can use the money however they wanted in their general funds and that was the biggest slap in the face to those counselors. As I continued to look through those proposed budget cuts I did notice that other than Custodial or Clerical positions, no big cuts are coming from higher paid positions at the District level. The question is why? Why do they need to be paid 6 figures? How is their job any more important than that teacher or counselor? How much more are you going to cut from these kids? These schools are running on limited resources and you want to cut counselors??? They are the people that see these kids daily. Does anyone even think about what a counselor does? With one student alone, you have to deal with 6 or 7 different teachers, parents and possibly administrators. Not to mention all of the transcripts they have to monitor and credits they have to account for. How about those letters of recommendation for colleges? If you cut those support counselors, not only are you taking away a support system for those students in need, you are making it hard for the other counselors to do their job and help all of the students. I am appalled by this! California will continue to be one of the worst in education with cuts like this! The counselor is sometimes the only advocate for a student. They are the one person that everyone looks to when a student needs something. The student comes to them, the parents are calling them, the teachers are seeking them out and the administrators are counting on them to mediate. There has to be a better way of taking care of these reductions. My vote is salary reductions starting from the top. There is no need for anyone to be making that much money when you have everyone struggling below. |
| 98  | 10/27 | Joan Fox<br>joanfox@sbcglo<br>bal.net  | 53      | #1 I am appalled by Mr. Wakefield's comments in the Press Democrat today. He is, "comfortable" with cutting libraries because they might not be used effectively. Where do you get your information? You certainly haven't visited my school and seen how we are using the library. Not all students have access to technology at home. There is more to research than Google and students need instruction in research technique and the library is a great place for this learning to take place. Also, have you ever shadowed an assistant principal? They are busy from the moment they walk out of the parking lot and into the building. Please Mr. Wakefield, educate yourself before you speak! #2 I really want to see more cuts at the District Office. The cupboards at the sites are bare. If you expect teachers to give up five days pay then it better be across the board from Dr. Liddell on down.  |
| 99  | 10/27 | John Cortopassi<br>jcorto&@yahoo.<br>com   | 48      | 9 Million in cuts proposed and only \$300,000 at district office???? How can that be? #49 k-3 is listed at 665,000, #50 elementary prep is listed at 574,000. #55 high school ratios are listed at 455,000. #2 9th grade reduction is listed at 501,469 and #14 supplemental counseling is listed at 675,560.I was at the meeting last Spring when the board told Mr. Bower that they wanted to see cuts at district office next time. THIS IS NEXT TIME. The students and the schools took the brunt of the last hits and the district office has grown yet again . . . What is wrong with this picture? I keep hearing we are a PI district and we have to get out of PI. What changes have been forced on the schools, teachers and students and yet we are still in PI. These proposed cuts will not get us out of PI.   |
| 100 | 10/27 | John Cortopassi<br>jcorto7@yahoo.c<br>om   | General | Last time the director of ARTQUEST job was listed as a proposed cut and this time it is not present. Neither is the director's secretary. Why is this? Has the board thought about suspending the pathway requirement until budgetary times improve? If the board cuts supplemental counselors, the other counselors will need time to counsel their students. This would also free up money on the district office side because whoever is responsible for pathways will no longer have that responsibility   |

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| 101 | 10/27 | John Cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:jcorto7@yahoo.com">jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 7  | If program was terminated who can be opposed to taking the funds?   |
| 102 | 10/27 | john cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:jcorto7@yahoo.com">jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 14 | Why were these counselors hired in the first place? To help the neediest students in the district graduate and if their test scores improved and got us out the test score mess we are in so be it. Cutting these counselors and therefore driving up the ratio of the others and watching our graduation rate drop is not the answer. Wasn't the federal stimulus money meant to save jobs? Why not use some of it to save these jobs and do the right thing by the students.  |
| 103 | 10/27 | john cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:jcorto7@yahoo.com">jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 17 | Can't this money or at least some of it be replaced by transferring money that is in the reserved textbook fund? That fund sits at about 4 million.   |
| 104 | 10/27 | John Cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:Jcorto7@yahoo.com">Jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 19 | I say cut it.   |
| 105 | 10/27 | john Cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:jcorto7@yahoo.com">jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 20 | I say cut it.   |
| 106 | 10/27 | John Cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:jcorto7@yahoo.com">jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 47 | How does the public know if this would be good thing or not without any numbers behind it? How long have we been working on this?   |
| 107 | 10/27 | John Cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:jcorto7@yahoo.com">jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 49 | You already increased them this year and created more combo classes. Last year SRTA made a presentation to show you what that meant and the board expressed sympathy. What do you think that will do if you push the class size from 22 -29? I suggest that before you vote to cut this that you actually spend time in an elementary class so that you can see what a 22:1 looks like and how difficult it is to teach something like reading so that when you jack it up to 29:1 and you go by to visit next year you can see the horrible mistake you made. Remember your logo at the top of this page says "Excellence is our Common Ground".   |
| 108 | 10/27 | John Cortopassi<br><a href="mailto:jcorto7@yahoo.com">jcorto7@yahoo.com</a>            | 55 | Before you start with increasing the ratios and ask for input, what does it mean that classes will be closed if enrollment levels are insufficient? At what number is enrollment insufficient? How concrete is that number? Does that mean that AP classes will be closed as well as other classes? Why are AP, Career Technical and IB specifically identified and not ARTQUEST? I know from experience that at SRHS core teachers are seeing a many more students per day than ARTQUEST teachers. The limited number of students they see impacts the number I see. Our overall ratio might be 28:1, but I have two classes of 37 and one of 36. You would be hard-pressed to find that number in any ARTQUEST class except for music. It is not right to say you will cut AP, IB an Career Technical and give ARTQUEST a free pass   |
| 109 | 10/27 | Julie Natalini<br><a href="mailto:jnatalini12@comcast.net">jnatalini12@comcast.net</a> | 33 | While specific schools are not mentioned under this item (yet) everyone is aware that the schools with the most underprivileged students are being targeted. While it is true that those schools also have the lowest number of students, the reason for this is the open enrollment policy of the district. If no transfers were allowed from these schools (at the middle school level), our district would likely have more heterogeneous populations at all schools which would better serve to educate our young people in areas outside of the classroom. Although I have been an employee at Comstock for over 10 years, I am not concerned about saving my job, but about saving a community school in this area of town. We have made great advancements in the test scores of our students because we know them and their needs. Our staff has developed a systematic way of identifying each and every student and their struggles. Many of our parents do not drive, so to ask parent to be involved in a school outside of their neighborhood will be an incredible hardship. We are close to exiting PI which will be good for the district as well as this population. You are guaranteed to lose ADA to Piner-Olivet, Oak Grove and Roseland charter schools if Comstock were to close. The savings would likely be a wash and the chance of getting out of program improvement would be diminished. The alternative is to apply for the millions of dollars available in grant funding through the federal government. Much of the work for the grant has already been done by a task force that met for over a year and a half. The grant funds would more than pay for the program and, over time, draw more students into our district. This is a time to be creative and hopeful while still being responsible. It would be a shame to not consider all possibilities for our students, particularly |

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|     |       |  |         | those that are often overlooked.   |
| 110 | 10/27 | Keir Robertson,<br>Grace student<br>quality_freak@h<br>otmail.com  | 24      | Hello my name is Keir Robertson. I'm a 5th year senior at Grace High School. In the past years I have messed up more than a lot of kids, and I thought I would never have the chance to graduate. But now since I'm at Grace I will graduate on time and get my high school diploma instead of my GED. Grace is a great place. You can earn 96 credits in a year instead of the 60 at every other high school. Grace has a family feel to it and a great teaching staff with teachers that are willing to stay after school to help you. Also I can still play basketball for Piner High and go to Grace. That is the best thing: it helps me keep the faith of college in my eyes. Every kid at Grace wants to walk across that stage and because of Grace we have that chance. Even though I'm done after this year I still don't want Grace to be cut. Because it's something that's needed. Cause I don't want the next kid to lose the faith cause he doesn't have a chance to go here. Grace is saving a lot of kids and giving them a second chance. So let's keep giving our future kids the same chance.  |
| 111 | 10/27 | Kurt Kruger &<br>Kristi Erickson<br>Piner High<br>School<br>Geospatial<br>Technology<br>Pathway<br>kruger@srcs.k12<br>.ca.us | 23      | We are hopeful that the Board reconsiders the 80% cut in our SSP funding. Please consider the following: 1. The SSP funding was a competitive grant awarded to Piner High School to implement an innovative, one-of-a-kind Career Technical Program to encourage students to pursue STEM careers. The Geospatial Technology Pathway's importance in drawing students to Piner High School and SRCs cannot be overstated. Our goal of redefining Piner's presence on the West side of Santa Rosa is critical in drawing students back to their neighborhood school instead of attending Windsor, Analy or El Molino. Retaining even one student at Piner High school who would have otherwise gone outside the district would off-set the additional funding we are requesting below. 2. Our Grant included a minimum \$100K/\$60K/\$40K 3-year cycle. When the State SSP department was suspended, we were awarded funding based on our first year funding rate (\$100K) minus 15.4% for a total of \$84,600 through the 2012-2013 fiscal year ("Specialized Secondary Programs has been suspended (SBX3 4) until 2012-13" (Jeanne Geiser)). In our second year cycle (2009-2010), the District and Board granted us our \$63K funding and absorbed the remaining \$21.6K into the General Fund. We are grateful, as this has allowed us to continue with our 5-year build-out plan. 3. Development and Build-out of the GTP program rely on SSP funds. Our 5-year build-out-plan requires funding to maintain program integrity and to implement the three year curriculum. Year three (2010-2011) introduces our Trig/Survey/Statistics course including the implementation of Total Station and Survey Equipment. Year three also introduces our intern program, which places students out into the community working on authentic GIS projects. Year three also includes our GTP students working on the Peterson Creek stewardship. All of these endeavors, along with other student-centered activities, require continued funding. 4. SSP funds were to also help build-out the Piner High Geospatial Technology and Science Center, which tentatively begins construction in summer 2010. The Geospatial Science Center will need numerous pieces of equipment to outfit the new GIS lab, Observatory and Planetarium/Presentation Theater/Project Room. Perkins funding will also be an asset, but will not be able to provide all needed resources. 5. Sponsorship/partnership opportunities currently being pursued, as well as additional grant resources, require the continued build-out and growth of the GTP program. 6. With the impending budget cuts, we would like the opportunity to re-evaluate how our funds are spent including possible suspension of the coordinator release period so that needed supplies, equipment, professional development; pathway planning and program outreach may be completed. In the spirit of cooperation, Kristi and I would like to request an alternative budget plan. We suggest that the \$86.4K SSP funding be reapportioned and we respectfully request that our funding level be reinstated to a minimum \$40K level, the third year allocation of the SSP grant, for the 2010-2011 school year. We understand the critical nature of the current budget crisis and understand the need to pursue tier 3 funding opportunities, but we also have a passionate investment in our Geospatial Technology Program. In the long run, we believe the investment will pay off many times over. Thank you for your consideration. |
| 112 | 10/27 | landerson<br>landerson@srcs.<br>k12.ca.us  | 18      | My only concern would be which subjects already have old books. With only \$100,000 to work with it won't go far.  |
| 113 | 10/27 | Lee Vandever<br>lvandever@srcs<br>.k12.ca.us   | General | I am writing to urge you to support the arts in the Santa Rosa City Schools by leaving the Art and Music Block Grant funding intact. This money was intended to provide funds so that teachers could provide paint, books, instruments and other supplies necessary to make these classes run. The long history of art teachers being fundraisers for their classes looked as if it may come to an end with the block grant and now we find our money being taken from our hands. This is unfair. We are now back to the days of spending money out of our own pockets, begging parents and businesses for donations and using pencils until they are one inch long. There is no money for water color paper, let alone new watercolors and instruments are worn thin. I urge you to keep this money as it was intended: to provide the students of the Santa Rosa City Schools equitable access to Arts and Music. Please support the Arts!!!   |

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| 114 | 10/27 | Lisa Anderson<br>landerson@srcs.k12.ca.us                                  | 47 | Classified - I can't really imagine have fewer classified at SRHS. They are working very hard as is and taking away even just one of their jobs will be very difficult for the others to fill in on top of their own work.   |
| 115 | 10/27 | Lisa Anderson<br>landerson@srcs.k12.ca.us                                  | 50 | Taking away elementary prep periods is taking away P.E. and music, that I know of. Yes it would lead to more instructional time but at the cost of losing P.E. and music? I know these are both important for the students and to me, as a parent. I want my child to be exposed to the music and have to learn about the different sports and other health issues related to P.E.   |
| 116 | 10/27 | Lisa<br>landerson@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 14 | These kids need all of the support they can get. The counselors are already overburden as many of us are. For the sake of these students lets keep the counselors to have a strong focus on assisting these students.  |
| 117 | 10/27 | Lore Loucks<br>lloucks@srcs.k12.ca.us                                      | 10 | After reading the Press Democrat, I learned that Santa Rosa City Schools is considering eliminating the positions of Student Advisor. On November 1st I will have been employed by Santa Rosa City Schools for 25 years. I have been employed as a Student Advisor for 15 of those years. When I first was hired at Montgomery High School there were two Student Advisors. Because of budget cuts, there is currently only one Student Advisor at each of the Junior/Senior High Schools. As Student Advisor, at Maria Carrillo High School, some of my responsibilities include are listed below. For a complete list of all my job duties, please refer to that attached document. ·Detentions in the mornings, which are in lieu of a suspension from school. ·Supervision: 1.Before school campus supervision: 7:15 – 8:00 am 2.Break supervision: 10:30 – 10:55 am 3.Lunch supervision: 12:40 – 1:25 pm 4.After school supervision: 3:00 – 3:30 pm · Conference with students about referrals, and then assign appropriate low level consequences for each student's actions. Phone call home to parents and guardians as it relates to referrals. ·Record all disciplinary actions into E-Schools Plus. ·Process all tardy referrals: 1.Input all letters into E-Schools Plus 2.Generate a letter for all students who have missed two or more tardy detentions 3.Student conferences for those students who haven't shown for detentions 4.At five tardies, students are placed on a Notice of Concern 5.Students and parents are conference for excessive tardies 6.On the sixth tardy detention no show, students are given a Suspended Suspension of five morning detentions. 7.Three copies of all documents are created; parent letter, advocate's mailbox, and one for discipline file. ·Demerits: 1.When a student reaches 10 or more demerits, I issue a letter that is sent home to parents, advocates mailbox, and one for discipline file. 2.Conference with parents on all 10 more demerits. ·Home Access Center: With parent access to each of their child's disciplinary records, both myself and school administrators are receiving more phone calls from parents. Consistent positive school to community relations with parents is a vital part of our success here at Maria Carrillo High School. ·With four male administrators, one male campus supervisor, and one male Resource Officer, I am the only female who can assist investigations that require a woman to access girl's bathrooms, girl's gym, etc. ·All Expulsion and ARPC packets. (See attached document) ·Facilitate intervention meetings for all students who have engaged in minor disagreements. Act as an advisor for students who need help coping with difficult situations at school. I feel that if the position of Student Advisor is eliminated from all Junior & Senior High Schools, as a district we will be risk the safety for our students and staff. Students will lose the accountability for their behavior. Please don't cut the positions of Student Advisor, everyone's safety is very important for our students to get the education they need and to keep our schools running smoothly. We have already had a Student Advisor position cut, and at Maria Carrillo High School our enrollment is higher. I know that the Assistant Principals are extremely busy with more and more responsibilities placed upon them. I care about the students, staff, parents and community members that I serve at Maria Carrillo High School. Please don't eliminate the Student Advisor positions; we are a vital part of the success at each of our secondary schools. Lore Loucks, Student Advisor |
| 118 | 10/27 | Michael Mook<br>Grace High School Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com     | 24 | I go to Grace High School, a Small Necessary High School. I think that if you close Small Necessary High Schools that the rate of kids graduating will drop enormously. These schools help kids graduate so much and without them it would just change the rate of kids graduating.  |
| 119 | 10/27 | Miguel Rodriguez<br>Grace High School Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com | 24 | I'm telling you how important Grace High School is. It's not just to me but to other people too. Grace High School is important because this school helps us make up credits that we are missing. If we go to a normal school, most of us won't pass or graduate on time. Most of us will just give up if you close down Grace. Grace to us is like our last chance to make something out of our lives. So please don't steal our only chance to do something with our life. Grace is my future and this school will help other students that are missing credits. SO DON'T CLOSE GRACE.   |
| 120 | 10/27 | Nancy Lozada   | 32 | When my parents found out that there was a chance I wouldn't graduate and had to attend Grace, they were disappointed and asked  |

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|     |       | Grace High School Student quality_freak@hotmail.com |         | me, "What is Grace? What is Grace going to do for you?" My answer was that it was an opportunity to see not only their daughter graduate but see her happy and proud of herself. I knew in the beginning that Grace was going to change the way I look at school and I was right because now that I'm in Grace it has made me realize how important education is. What it can do for me. It has also made me realize that I'm not alone. Others have made the same mistakes I did. We are all here because we didn't care about school, thought that there were other more important things out there. This is something I have accepted only because it's the truth. Grace is the only place that was open to give me and others a chance to turn ourselves around. Gives us a chance to finish our education like it is meant to be. Here at Grace everyone is like family: we help each other by listening and working together. The teachers are supportive and understanding. The whole environment of Grace is calm and makes you feel like you're part of something. If there was no Grace I know that there wouldn't be a graduation ceremony, no cap or gown on me and I wouldn't be able to see my family with tears on their faces waiting to hug me and tell me how proud they are. If there was no Grace, I honestly think I would have dropped out from school. Grace is the support that makes us work hard to not give up. It's a blessing for me and I guarantee you it's for the rest also. This is what Grace is to me and will always be. |
| 121 | 10/27 | Penny Sirota psirota@srcs.k12.ca.us                 | General | Income generation idea: Attendance is crucial for student success. Can we make a suggestion to parents who take their children out of school for family vacations that they contribute the equivalent amount of income to the school that we lose by not having the student on our attendance rolls?  |
| 122 | 10/27 | Penny Sirota psirota@srcs.k12.ca.us                 | General | Energy Conservation: Can we partner with PG&E or other green energy companies to have our schools retrofitted with energy conserving windows and insulation? It seems like it would be a great PR move for some energy companies to help schools become more energy efficient. We may be able to save a good deal of money if we get a bit smarter about our energy usage.  |
| 123 | 10/27 | Penny Sirota psirota@srcs.k12.ca.us                 | 48      | I am curious why there are not more high level administrative positions on the list. We are all being asked to do more with less. I am wondering how the District administrative offices experience this trend. No significant cuts to higher level district personnel are obvious on the list. Its easy in times of limited resources to become closed in and protective of our own realm - and yet - these challenges demand that we work better together. That each of us does what we can to work smarter and leaner. Leadership that encourages and models generosity, ingenuity, flexibility- while it may be happening- is not obvious down at the site level as a teacher. What is the administrative team willing to do to help us through these challenging times? What are they willing to give up?  |
| 124 | 10/27 | Penny Sirota psirota@srcs.k12.ca.us                 | General | Perhaps a think tank would be a useful model with the idea of bringing together creative thinkers to brainstorm revenue generating ideas. We cannot continue to cut and cut and cut and still try to do business as usual. It seems like a time for some bold action: Perhaps closing some schools, perhaps opening more charters, perhaps creating a district wide foundation that could be supported by our most successful and influential industries in the area.   |
| 125 | 10/27 | Penny Sirota psirota@srcs.k12.ca.us                 | 10      | It does not seem wise to put these two different positions together in this item. The police officer is rarely on our campus. The loss of this position would not have a big impact. BUT the loss of our student advisor WOULD BE TERRIBLE! The student advisor performs an invaluable job of enforcing our day to day, hour to hour, discipline policies. They are an integral part of the system that holds students accountable for their behavior and responsibilities. The position is "cheap" compared to the service they provide to the entire system on site. I can't imagine how a student advisor would be replaced. To put these two positions into the same line item is a mistake.  |
| 126 | 10/27 | Penny Sirota psirota@srcs.k12.ca.us                 | 18      | Which curricular area will this impact? Who is up for the next round of textbooks? How would this difference be made equitable across disciplines in the future?  |
| 127 | 10/27 | Penny Sirota psirota@srcs.k12.ca.us                 | 59      | I hope that District Administrative staff would also lose 5 days of pay to help share the pain with the teaching staff.   |
| 128 | 10/27 | Peter Finch mrpcf@att.net                           | 2       | At SRHS the 29:1 ratio is erroneously manifested due to MANY very small class sizes. Indeed, there are some academic classes of over 40. If, for example, the small ART QUEST classes were combined, as core classes are asked to do, that would allow core academic classes to be more sensibly in the lower 30's.   |

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| 129 | 10/27 | Peter Finch<br>mrpcf@att.net   | 55                         | Already at SRHS there are academic classes at approx. 40:1 ratio. This is academically irrational. If, for example, some of the ArtQuest teachers who have small classes of approx. 10-15 could combine classes, as MANY crucial academic classes had to do this year, the core and academic classes at SRHS could actually realize the "official" 29:1 ratio.  |
| 130 | 10/27 | Phil Weil<br>oct696@att.net  | General                    | The Board needs to get public support for any reductions to staff and programs. The best way to get them is to reduce administration. When the citizenry sees that those farthest from the classroom are willing to be cut as much if not more than those closest to the classroom, there will be more support for cuts that are made.  |
| 131 | 10/27 | Regina Brennan<br>rbrennan@srcs.k12.ca.us  | General                    | Four days to digest the fine points of recent budget proposals is unreasonable. The proposed cuts, if implemented, will undermine the very essence of education. The arts and librarians are necessities. Many of my students do not have home computers and do not have a quiet place to study. I encourage you to visit SRHS library throughout a typical entire day to witness students using a much needed safe haven before, during and after school. It is time to consider drastic reductions at the district office. . .A shorter year perhaps?   |
| 132 | 10/27 | Ricardo Olvera<br>Grace High School Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com                     | 24                         | I want Grace to stay on Piner campus because it will help me and many other students graduate. High School has not been the easiest thing for us for personal reasons. At Grace, I make up 96 credits instead of 60. This is a great opportunity for students who need to graduate and are really trying to so they can get a future job.   |
| 133 | 10/27 | Robert Camm<br>Santa Rosa High School<br>rcamm@srcs.k12.ca.us                                | Career Technical Education | I am hoping you can clarify an item on tomorrow's Board Agenda, as it may relate to our current fiscal difficulties. Under Item E2, the Board is being asked to retroactively approve the submission of two Proposition ID Grants. If funded the grants will provide up to almost 1.9 million dollars in matching funds to support career technical education at Piner and Elsie. My question is simple. If we are awarded the grants, where will this matching money come from? Will the District be required to find an equal sum to fund this program? I have read through the 41 page document and am unable to determine the fiscal impact to the District if the grants are approved. Given our difficult financial straights, I would like to know, if this item is approved, is the Board giving tacit approval to providing the funding should we receive the grant?   |
| 134 | 10/27 | Shiree Picciau,<br>Grace High School Student<br>quality_freak@hotmail.com                    | 24                         | My name is Shiree Picciau, I am currently a student at Grace High School (Small Necessary High School). I completely understand the need for money in California but it concerns me that Small Necessary High Schools are considered being cut. Grace High School plays a major part in me being so close to graduation. I moved to Santa Rosa two years ago from Atlanta, GA. I had no clue how my transcripts looked until I was told I was not on track to graduate. So I went a complete school year worried about graduation until I enrolled into Grace High School. Grace is here to assist students who have had mistakes in the past, or their credit/units do not meet graduation requirements. Without Grace I'm sure that I would not have ever been able to graduate. Graduation means so much to me. Now I am completely caught up and ahead. There is no way I could have done it without the support of Grace. The counselors really understand and don't judge you because of your past. They let you know where you stand, and work as hard as possible to get you to graduation. If there is any alternative to cutting the Small Necessary High Schools, please use them. Other students' futures are in jeopardy if the Small Necessary High Schools won't be available. |
| 135 | 10/27 | Tina Rogers<br>footballguy60@comcast.net   | 12                         | My son is attending art and video classes and SRMS. I am the way I am today because of art programs. It is because of these programs that inspired me to become an artist. I think that the kids should be able to have these electives and experiences the way I did. If you could at least leave 50% of the funding? If we have no funding we have no artistically advanced students and kids. Please Contact me for any questions, comments, or concerns.  |
| 136 | 10/27 | wendy anderson<br>wanderson@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 59                         | I would be supportive of a 5 day reduction if it would support keeping our staffing at the same level. Spreading out the impact so that we won't have to reduce staffing seems worth the 5 day pay loss if it helps keep most of us employed.   |
| 137 | 10/27 | William Lyon<br>SRHS English<br><a href="mailto:wlyonsrhs@gmail.com">wlyonsrhs@gmail.com</a> | 35                         | Just a reminder: my classroom gets vacuumed once every 7-10 days. Cutting custodians just makes things dirtier and the schools are already dirtier than anybody wants them to be.   |

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| 138 | 10/27 | William Lyon<br>SRHS English<br>wlyonsrhs@gmail.com   | 50      | This is a very hot button issue. Elementary teachers have smoke coming out of their ears when this subject comes up. This is a two fold no-no: elementary teachers teach math, science, reading, writing, spelling, social studies, geography, and life skills; many of them have combo classes which mean their prep is double. Asking them to add music, art, and PE to their preps will shortchange music, art and PE as well as further overburden these teachers. None of those problems are mitigated by paying teachers \$80 a week extra.   |
| 139 | 10/27 | William Lyon<br>SRHS English<br>wlyonsrhs@gmail.com   | 53      | Yikes. Some of the comments in the paper this morning are extremely concerning. Librarians are extremely important. Teachers and students rely on help from the librarians. As an English teacher, I work closely with our librarian all the time. Our librarian was a driving force in establishing an Accelerated Reading program at SRHS. This program has increased circulation by around 500%. This is huge. Kids who did not read before are now reading. What happens to that program without a librarian? I invite you to come to the SRHS between 7:30 and 8:00 in the morning and see how underused it is.  |
| 140 | 10/27 | William Lyon<br>SRHS<br>wlyonsrhs@gmail.com   | 14      | Our counselors are already overworked. Increasing their workload from 430 to 500 plus students will cause major problems. Children will be left behind. Remember, the support counselors are the ones working with the at risk kids; these are the kids that are bringing down the test scores. They are the ones most likely to fall through the cracks. Also, consider all the schedule changes that happen in the beginning of the year at a high school. This year I had 115 schedule changes the first five weeks of school. There are nearly 100 teachers at SRHS and we all had tons of schedule changes late into the year. Each child that comes to class two, three, even four or five weeks late come into class running with weights on her ankles. This is compounded by larger class sizes which makes for less classes which makes for less options for counselors to move kids around. We know class sizes will go up, lets continue to support the at risk kids with support counselors. |
| 141 | 10/27 | Zack Wright<br>Grace High<br>School Student<br><a href="mailto:quality_freak@hotmail.com">quality_freak@hotmail.com</a> | 24      | Grace High School is a Small Necessary School. The students who attend here are people who messed up in the beginning of their first years in high school. Since, they either didn't do their work or didn't go to school, they became short on credits. Grace is a great program because unlike Piner which you can receive 60 credits a year, at Grace you can get 96 credits. Everyone that goes here needs to in order to graduate.   |
| 142 | 11/28 | Rena Wang<br><a href="mailto:renamerica@gmail.com">renamerica@gmail.com</a>   | General | Thank you for coming tonight, staff, students, and community members. I wish I could be there as we embark upon this difficult journey, but I am glad that so many of you are present for healthy dialogue about these decisions. We make these difficult decisions as a community, though I must tell you that budget cuts of this severity pains students of all grades. From a student perspective, I'd like everyone to keep in mind two questions tonight: how will the cuts affect student achievement? This is one of the most important realities and considerations from a student point of view. Also, how will such cuts affect the attractiveness and competitiveness of our school district. From my conversations with students, this is also one of the greatest concerns. Thank you and I'll see you at the Town Hall in a few weeks.   |
| 143 | 10/28 | Bambi Isetta<br>bisetta@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 24      | The comprehensive high school does not meet the needs of all students. I have witnessed students actually being "saved" through their attendance at Mesa High School. I truly believe that attendance at Mesa was the only way these students could earn a diploma. Please reconsider this cut.   |
| 144 | 10/28 | Bambi Isetta<br>bisetta@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 32      | Please leave the small necessary schools alone; they may be small, but they are necessary! The students who succeed in them have already failed in the comprehensive high school.   |
| 145 | 10/28 | Bambi Isetta<br>bisetta@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 53      | Librarians are necessary to libraries and to schools. The ordering, distribution, and selection of books takes an inordinate amount of time and a high level of training. Librarians are necessary to the education of our students.  |
| 146 | 10/28 | Chris Bertozzi<br><a href="mailto:cmbertozzi@gmail.com">cmbertozzi@gmail.com</a>  | 59      | I support this reduction as both a parent and a teacher.  |
| 147 | 10/28 | CLAUDIA<br>ORTIZ  | General | NOBODY SHOULD TRY TO CUT ANYTHING FROM EDUCATIONAL THINGS. ART IS EDUCATIONAL. MUSIC IS EDUCATIONAL. LIBRARIES, OF COURSE, ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN SCHOOL. IN THE LIBRARY WE GET  |

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|     |       | lilsmi3ly@hotmail.com   |    | MANY INFORMATION THAT HELPS US, THE STUDENTS(THE FUTURE), BE INFORMED AND LEARN. LIBRARIES ARE A LEARNING CENTER AND SHOULD NOT BE CUT. EVERYONE THAT IS NOT TEACHING OR HELPING US, THE STUDENTS, DURING SCHOOL TIME SHOULD BE FIRED. THE DECISION OF MAKING RICH THE PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT NEEDED IN THE EDUCATION OF US ,THE STUDENTS, AND NOT GIVING THE FULLEST TO HELP US IN EVERYTHING IS NOT A VERY SMART DECISION. ME, LIKE ALL STUDENTS IN SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL AND ALL SCHOOLS IN SANTA ROSA OPPOSE TO THE DECISION OF CUTTING OUR NEEDED SUPPLIES FOR OUR SCHOOLS THAT ARE GOING TO TEACH US EVERYTHING. REMEMBER THAT THE STUDENTS ARE THE FUTURE AND THAT EVERYTHING IN OUR SCHEDULES ARE IMPORTANT AND NONE, I REPEATED NONE, SHOULD BE CUT!.  |
| 148 | 10/28 | Cynthia Dunford<br>cdunford@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 53 | Our certificated librarians are a vital part of the Santa Rosa City Schools community. As a Library Technician, I can run an elementary school's day-to-day operations, but a certificated librarian has the knowledge and expertise to oversee the depth and breadth of the entire collection. This specialized training allows her to order new books and materials based on the needs of the collection, and catalog them, something technicians are not trained to do. Certificated librarians have expertise and knowledge that technicians simply do not have and without them, our students and the libraries will pay a heavy price. They will not run as efficiently and information for our students may be limited. At a time when our students are asked to become "Proficient" or "Advanced Proficient" readers and test takers, to reduce their access to the school library and librarians makes absolutely no sense at all.   |
| 149 | 10/28 | Dawn L Baskin<br>teacher<br>dbaskin@srcs.k12.ca.us                                      | 49 | I have been a classroom teacher for the past nineteen years. My colleagues and I believe it is essential to maintain class size reduction in the elementary classes K-3 in order to maintain high academic achievement in to all our students! We understand that you are up against a devastating economic crisis, but academic success it at stake with this proposal. When teachers spend more time with crowd control, and behavioral interventions, they spend less time teaching to the standards. This is what will happen if our class sizes go up to 29.75 in grades K-3. Teachers predict this will have a divesting impact to our school district, and test scores district wide, K-12. What a travesty it would be! I propose that you implement a shortened school year rather than increase class size in K-3. In this scenario we would have a more a productive school climate for 175 days per year, rather than less productive, crowded, and stressful classrooms for 180 days per year. Studies show adult/student ratio to be one of the most important predictors of success in the classroom. We cannot afford to allow the quality of education to be so adversely impacted. We need to provide the highest quality education to ALL our children. Smaller class sizes insure adequate time and attention for all our students, thus providing the highest quality education possible. PLEASE do not increase class size in grades K-3! |
| 150 | 10/28 | Deborah Salomon<br>dsalomon@sbcgl-obal.net  | 12 | Music and art education speaks to our students' souls. For many students, electives are the reason they continue to attend school. Numerous research studies show a correlation between success in the arts and academic success. Sweeping 100% of the art and music block grant funding into the General Fund negates the value of these programs. We need to keep the budget cuts away from students and away from the classroom. Freezing art and music funding is not the answer to our budgetary woes.   |
| 151 | 10/28 | Deborah Salomon<br><a href="mailto:dsalomon@sbcgl-obal.net">dsalomon@sbcgl-obal.net</a> | 49 | Kindergarten through third grade is critical years for establishing success in school and for implementing early intervention strategies. Increasing class size in the early grades to 30 would be a dire mistake. Small class sizes in the early years are an essential component for student success.   |
| 152 | 10/28 | Deborah Salomon<br>dsalomon@sbcgl-obal.net  | 54 | I understand that substantive cuts are necessary to create a balanced budget. Increasing class size, however, should be a LAST priority. Teachers and students both are incapable of optimal functioning in oversized classrooms. It is impossible to provide individualized help with a 40:1 student to teacher ratio. Our ELL students and special needs students will simply fall between the cracks in classrooms with increased class sizes. If our goal is to move the district out of program improvement, this is a step in the wrong direction.  |
| 153 | 10/28 | Deborah Salomon<br>dsalomon@sbcgl-obal.net  | 59 | Last night, at the Board Meeting, we were asked to state not only our opposition to cuts, but also where we felt that cuts could take place. I support a five day reduction in the school year calendar - with a caveat which requires a somewhat lengthy explanation. I returned to teaching in the '08-'09 school year, accepting a 20% teaching position at Santa Rosa Middle School. I was hired in October; my class had had a succession of five long-term substitute teachers by the time that I arrived. The first ten weeks of teaching had been lost to them; reclaiming their attention and energy for academic pursuits was challenging. My class was formed after school started due to a failure to accurately predict the number of students (and therefore, the number of teachers) that would be needed for  |

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|     |       |   |         | <p>that academic year. This year, the District worked hard to not underestimate the staffing needs at Santa Rosa Middle School. We started with adequate staff. However, two weeks into the year, my Core English-History class was dissolved and my assignment changed to teaching Strategic English. Ten instructional days were lost, not only for my original students but for the vast majority of the seventh grade, as schedules were altered in order to appropriately place students in English and Math support classes. Both years, a failure to adequately prepare for the school year led to a loss of far more days than the five days that are currently on the table for budget cuts. My proposal is that we cut five days from the school year calendar. However, we attach this cut to a promise, bound by contract negotiations, that students will be appropriately placed before school begins. The major, systematic shuffling that seems to happen as a matter of course at the secondary level in the first month of school would not be allowed to happen. If we could accomplish this, not only would we save 2 million + dollars, we would also save instructional days from our current approach. I understand that counselors do not have CST scores prior to August and that placement is based upon these scores. However, the vast majority of students who require support classes did not suddenly start functioning below the level of proficiency in sixth grade. We need to use 5th grade data in order to create placements prior to the start of the school year. We also need to improve communication between the middle schools and the feeder schools to get this data in a timely fashion. Cutting five instructional allows for a significant expense reduction without eliminating any one program. Cutting art and music funding, increasing class sizes exponentially, reducing GATE funding, cutting library funds, eliminating zero period -- all of these, and other proposals, seriously undermine our educational purposes and force one segment of the population to bear the brunt of the budget cuts for everyone. The one aspect of equity that is missing in this proposal is District Office cuts. As expressed by Dan Evans last night, a \$300,000 cut in District Office spending is not adequate given the amount of cuts teachers and students are being asked to swallow. Along with the five day reduction in the school year calendar, I urge you to look for fat in the District Office's expenditures. At a time when we are contemplating horrific budget cuts, it is very dispiriting to find out that Santa Rosa High's principal has been reassigned to the District Office mid-year. Thank you for your time in reading this lengthy commentary and for your care in dealing with an extremely difficult financial situation.</p> |
| 154 | 10/28 | Diane Gunderson<br>mrs.gunderson@sprynet.com  | 48      | I am VERY concerned that the majority of potential cuts will DIRECTLY impact classrooms. I wonder why more cuts are not proposed for the district office where classrooms would not be directly affected. No one wants to lose a job, but it seems STUDENTS should be the primary focus and cuts at the district level ( I am not referring to maintenance and food service, but rather administration) will have less impact on our students.  |
| 155 | 10/28 | Gaye LeBaron<br>gayeleb@sonic.net   | 11      | The all-hallowed testing results show that schools with strong art and music programs test higher than those without. Wouldn't it be pennywise and pound foolish to eliminate them?   |
| 156 | 10/28 | Gee Gee Connel<br>gconnel@att.net   | 53      | The mission of SRCS is to educate our students. Accordingly, certificated librarians at each site are essential, and should supersede any and all moneys for competitive athletics. It is shocking to me that this should even be considered a choice; complete library services should be mandatory.   |
| 157 | 10/28 | Jane Vosburg<br>bjb@sonic.net   | General | As a teacher of the Santa Rosa School District for 27 years, it is one thing to work for a state that places such little value on public education, however, I am appalled at the disconnect between two of the board members and the conditions required for an acceptable learning environment. Wally Lowry's comment about his relative ease in raising class sizes to 40, and Tad Wakefield's observation that libraries are mainly places to hang out, just demonstrate how little they know about the needs of students and teachers in the schools they run.   |
| 158 | 10/28 | Jeff Green j<br>Dept.<br>Chair/Teacher<br>Special<br>Education<br>HCMS<br>jgreen@srcs.k12.ca.us | General | <p>With the lack of available funding and revenue in the SRCS budget, I know how difficult the task you all face in deciding how to solve the shortfalls. I appreciate the effort you all make in carefully considering all of the options. My recommendation focuses on how to generate revenue. At Comstock Middle School last year, we drafted proposal to create a magnet school that would focus on Science &amp; Technology. To date, the proposal has yet to be formally presented to the board. As a staff, we are wondering why this has not happened. Some of the reasons why the magnet school would be so successful include: 1)our innovative and progressive staff 2) student-centered instruction 3)and our strong emphasis on literacy including computer literacy. A few of our outstanding programs that make Comstock so unique and that would also build an excellent case for designing &amp; implementing a high-level/competitive magnet program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•(3) state of the art computer labs currently in use</li> <li>•EL students daily use of the Rosetta Stone computer program</li> <li>•All Language Arts students accessing the Accelerated Reader program</li> <li>•Math classes utilizing the Apangea math computer program</li> <li>•Music Recording &amp; Editing lab using the Pro Tools software (no other school in our district and/or county has implemented such a</li> </ul>   |

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|     |       |  |         | course: these courses are typically offered at the college and/or university level – SFSU Music Recording Institute & Expression College for the Digital Arts) •Student/parent computer literacy program (evening classes) •The only middle school with a grant to fund an After School Program • + 54 pts! Star testing 2008/2009 • And much more..... Your time is important, so I must limit my input. At Comstock, we are very aware that more students attending our school would generate more revenue. We strongly believe that a magnet program focusing on Science & Technology would be a prime solution for these difficult times and, in turn, would generate revenue vs. cutting costs by potentially closing schools). Thank you for considering the many options being made available to the Board!  |
| 159 | 10/28 | Karin Demarest<br>kdemarest@artscouncilsc.com  | 12      | Sweeping 100% of the Arts and Music Block Grant funds is a negligent act, denying students of their fundamental educational rights. The arts are a core subject, and provide our students with critical skills for entering a 21st century workforce. In our new work paradigm, arts are no longer considered an "extra", but provide essential skills for college and workforce entrance. The state kept the Arts and Music Block grant funds intact for one reason, to sustain these subjects in our schools. Please follow their lead; please consider retaining these funds for their stated purpose.   |
| 160 | 10/28 | Kenny Barclay<br>k5b5blue@yahoo.com  | General | I have recently been informed of the drastic cuts that must be in 2010 and 2011. I understand that this is a very difficult time in education and other social services due to state budget cuts, but I hope as a district that the cuts that are being considered are truly looking at the impact on our under-privileged students. All too often lower income students and students of marginalized communities suffer the brunt of the cuts. I have heard of school closures, minimizing school library services, and cutting band and art program. This catastrophic for all students, but for the students that live on the West side of Santa Rosa or in other poorer neighbors this impact is worse, because their families don't have the economic means to find other options. What I'm getting to is that when the board is making cuts I hope they consider if the impact is fairly distributed throughout the district. Thank you for considering my opinion. Sincerely a concerned voter.  |
| 161 | 10/28 | Lily<br>lilyeric@juno.com  | 49      | Please don't do this. Please don't force the littlest kids to bear the burden of the economic crisis. Taking the prep and increasing class size is going to be catastrophic to the children of Sonoma County.   |
| 162 | 10/28 | Lynda Tatrai<br>cybersis@comcast.net   | 90      | Cut the athletic program by 50% when kids need to lose weight in America? Also, sports are needed to help kids build their self esteem, keep them involved with their community. Don't cut here!  |
| 163 | 10/28 | Lynda Tatrai<br>cybersis@comcast.net   | 59      | I think you can save money here by shortening the school year. School should not start until the day after Labor Day and end in the first week of June. You'll also save in air conditioning costs!   |
| 164 | 10/28 | Mancillas<br>nbmancillas@yahoo.com   | General | As a Piner high school teacher, if you cut which would reduce campus security is ridiculous because the gang violence would only tend to continue and get worse. Also we are at bare bones and the students aren't even provided with paper towels or soap during the swine flu time so cutting any of this would go from being ridiculous to the absurd. My only suggestion would be to cut the number of teacher work days, anything else would be crimpling to our school  |
| 165 | 10/28 | Mavis Jukes<br>computer prep,<br>Hidden Valley<br>and Burbank<br>Elementary<br>schools<br>mavisjukes@aol.com | 50      | #1. Would like to note that if 15.4 prep teachers' positions are eliminated -- the prep teachers themselves won't necessarily be eliminated. Many prep teachers are senior to classroom teachers and those prep teachers who are senior and properly credentialed will bump classroom teachers. All teachers and principals should be made aware of this. #2. Prep teachers teach PROGRAMS. We don't just relieve teachers. I teach computers to 800 elementary students each week. At one site, Burbank elementary school, very few children have access to computers at home. These children should NOT enter junior high or middle school without advanced computer skills. Also, the prep program at Burbank supports English language learners with the tutorial program LEXIA, among other programs -- including EDUPLACE, the Houghton-Mifflin educational web site which supports classroom teachers with vocabulary review, spelling, and other essential language arts and math skills. Eliminating prep means eliminating PROGRAMS -- as well as teachers. #3. While I am a computer teacher, I also fully support the art, music and PE prep programs -- all essential to the healthy development of our students. In addition to my other comments (please see my first e-mail): Would elementary school teachers lose all of their prep time and secondary teachers lose none of it? If so, seems unfair. |
| 166 | 10/28 | Owen Patrick   | 53      | The Board should be ashamed of themselves cutting libraries. This will not be tolerated. You are obviously out of touch with reality  |

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|     |       | owen274@yahoo.com                            |         | and what our students need.   |
| 167 | 10/28 | Paola Hernandez<br>vanessadiosdado@ymail.com | 32      | First of all I would like to start by saying that this new budget cut is ridiculous not only are you guys making a mistake but if you do that you are running a lot of kids lives. I think that schools like MIDROSE, GRACE AND MEZA are really Great schools. I'm attending MIDROSE right now and even though this is my last year there I wouldn't want to see it close Midrose has really helped me in my life when I started attending midrose I realized how great the school was and how good it was for our community to have that school. I made up so many credits there and thanks to midrose and all its teachers I'm GRADUATING if you guys were to remove all the small necessary school it would just make kids not graduate I GUESS YOU GUYS ARE DOING IT TO SAVE MONEY, BUT WHY TAKE AWAY THE SCHOOL I THOUGHT THIS COUNTRY WAS ALL ABOUT KIDS SUCCEEDING AND GIVEN THEM OPTIONS NOT TAKING AWAY OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES IF SAVING MONEY IS WHAT YOU GUYS WANT WHY NOT TAKE AWAY THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER LIKE STARBUCKS BURGER KING AND THINGS LIKE THAT WHY TAKE AWAY SCHOOL THAT'S NOT RIGHT AND ITS NOT FAIR !!!!!!! MOST OF YOU THAT THINK THAT GETTING RID OF THE SCHOOLS IS A GOOD IDEA LET ME TELL YOU GUYS.... YOU GUYS HAVE KIDS AND ONE DAY WHEN YOUR KIDS FALL BEHIND AND YOU GUYS MAKE THE MISTAKE OF TAKING ALL THOSE SCHOOLS FROM THE KIDS YOU GUYS ARE REALLY GOING TO REGRET IT BECAUSE YOUR KIDS ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITIES THE ONLY THING THAT I ASK FOR IS TO THINK ABOUT THE IMPACT THAT THIS IS GOING TO BRING TO ALL THE TEENAGERS FUTURES!!! PLEASE BEFORE YOU GUYS MAKE A MISTAKE THINK ABOUT IT !!!!! BECAUSE MAYBE THE KIDS THAT CAN ATTEND THESE SCHOOLS ONE DAY CAN HELP THE COUNTRY SOLVE PROBLEMS!!!!!! |
| 168 | 10/28 | paul Osserman<br>posserman@srcs.k12.ca.us    | General | I have been teaching at Comstock for 10 years and I have seen a lot of changes over that period of time. Until about 3 years ago, there was a decline in our student population. Since then, it has started to grow. Last year, our STAR test scores increased more than any other school in the district. This is due to the tremendous effort by our entire staff. We have support classes in math and English and more of our students are proficient than ever before. Many of our families are socio-economically disadvantaged and we have a high number of EL students. Over the years there has been talk of closing Comstock, and now, more than ever, we need to make every effort to keep the campus open and available to the residents of Northwest Santa Rosa. In addition, we need to keep our elective classes intact. As it is, we have eliminated our music program, Spanish classes, and computer classes, leaving only Teen Living and Foundations, art (only 2 periods), and AVID. These classes are great for our students, but the class sizes are enormous. The proposed cuts in the fine arts will make it very difficult to provide supplies for our art students and Teen Living classes. We should keep at least half of the designated funds so students will have the best opportunity to have a rigorous course with sufficient materials. Many times, it is these elective classes that keep students coming to school and they provide a great opportunity for students to develop their creativity. I hope that the school board will keep these facts in mind as they consider their options.  |
| 169 | 10/28 | Phil Weil<br>oct696@att.net                  | 48      | Cut far from the class. The community expects that administrative cuts will happen before children's' programs are reduced or deleted. Start at the top.  |
| 170 | 10/28 | Phil Weil<br>pweil@srcs.k12.ca.us            | 48      | Before cutting at school sites, be sure and cut at District level. Nearly everyone in the community wants schools a priority, administration secondary.   |
| 171 | 10/28 | Randi Megorden<br>rmegorden@sbcglobal.net    | 49      | An increase in test scores and student learning cannot be a result of larger classes in the elementary grades.  |
| 172 | 10/28 | Sheila Lichirie<br>slichirie@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 64      | As we are being faced with draconian, across-the-board cuts, it would seem only fair to students, teachers, classified staff and the community at large that costs also be made at the administrative level. At a minimum, it would seem that all administrators who make over \$100,000 per year should take a 10% cut. Granted, this would not save the district financially, but it certainly could save student advisor positions and possibly help with support counseling position. In addition, the message it would send would be overwhelmingly positive and help to restore some confidence in district policies.   |
| 173 | 10/28 | Steve Thorns                                 | 49      | It is important in these difficult times to focus on the basic mission of schools: education. Before cutting school days, increasing class  |

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|     |       | mstrmom@sbcgl<br>obal.net   |         | sizes or laying off teachers the board should cut out all extracurricular activities that are not specific to providing a general education. Unfortunately that means sports and the arts. Remember, the first job of SRCS is teaching reading, writing and arithmetic.  |
| 174 | 10/28 | Steve thorns<br>mstrmom@sbcgl<br>obal.net                                 | 30      | SLIP funds are one of the few resources that parents have say in at the local school level. This money is very important to individual schools to fill needs left out of district level budgets. It is a small amount per school, but it makes a huge difference!  |
| 175 | 10/29 | Amy Catania<br>ACatania@wccu<br>sd.net                                    | 53      | I was very disappointed to see this item included. Often people misunderstand what librarians do and think they only check out books. Let me enlighten you. I am a research expert. I teach information literacy skills, which include how to search the Internet effectively, how to evaluate resources, and how to utilize those resources in the most effective manner. I teach MLA formatting and stylistics, as well. I work with staff members from every department on projects and help them find resources for their units and lessons. I, also, handle all of the cataloging, ordering, and fundraisers for the library. The cataloging is very important as few people understand MARC records, save librarians. In addition, I run the Book Club, coordinate Battle of the Books, organize Poetry Slams, and help students find books and resources for projects. Also, I do subject specific PPT presentations on matters in which I am considered an expert, actually going to classrooms. Then, of course, I do have the pleasure of helping students find books for outside reading and check them out, but this is a small part of my job. I do many other things, as well, such as running trainings for teachers and staff on Web 2.0 applications, Google documents and features, etc., maintaining the library's website and blog, and maintaining the computer lab. I am a living resource that, when used effectively, augments literacy in all its many forms. As a side note, I have anywhere from 80 to 100 students in my library at lunch, and they are all doing work related to school. They consider it their safe haven, and I am a friendly, reliable resource who is not giving them a grade. I help students with everything from word processing to chemistry at lunch. When you decide to cut teacher librarians, you are ultimately hurting the students by taking away a valuable resource, and shooting yourself in the foot, as students will not be well-prepared for college without information literacy skills, and that translates to the greater world once these students graduate from college. |
| 176 | 10/29 | angie toepf<br>Parent & Small<br>Business Owner<br>angietoepf@msn<br>.com | 32      | As a parent of a Grace High student, I cannot possibly tell you how valuable the Necessary High Schools are. My student spent 2 years @Maria Carrillo....what we now call the lost years and he was not in a supportive or learning environment that met his needs. So without the Necessary High Schools he would have been destined to fail. He is not a gang member nor has he ever been through the juvenile court system for infractions of any kind. To cut Grace and Mesa's programs would be a disgrace and harmful to our community. As so many students will be on the streets, changing' out (which leads to trouble), instead of in a classroom where they can have the opportunity to get their diploma and continue at SRJC or become a part of the work force in any one of the surrounding cities. I strongly urge SRCS to be extremely aware of the BIG picture and just think of the negative impact cutting these 2 schools will most likely have. If SRCS can afford to keep paying Jim Goddard's(formally a waste of payroll @ Maria Carrillo) \$125K and then pay the Interim Principal \$500 a day I wonder what other kind of ridiculous Administration money is being wasted. The eyes & ears of the community are all on this decision as our children's future is in your well compensated administrative hands.  |
| 177 | 10/29 | Christopher<br>Doyle<br>cpdoyle@sbcglo<br>bal.net                         | General | To me, it makes sense to cut out 5 or more entire school days. This kind of cut affects everyone equally and does not target any specific programs. I heartily urge you to cut out entire school days and not specific programs. Please do not take away art, music and sports. In my childhood, art, music and sports are what got me through, they were the reasons I got up and went to school. And now, my middle school age son is heavily involved in art, music and sports. I can say that if you decide to raise class sizes to 40, we will not be sending our child to middle school or high school through the public sector. Speaking as a licensed psychotherapist and as an ex-private school teacher, 40 kids in one class is just too many kids. That option hurts everyone. Please do not increase class sizes. I think a lot of families would seek alternative education if class size increases. Please see where you can cut administratively. Again, please make your cuts by eliminating whole school days. It is the fairest, most productive option I can think of. I'd be happy to talk to you further if you would like.   |
| 178 | 10/29 | Connie Peters<br>cpeters@conejo.<br>k12.ca.us                             | 53      | I beg you to reconsider reducing teacher librarian positions in your school district. I am a library technician at Thousand Oaks High School in southern California. I work with a full time TL in a school of 2,500 students. It is absolutely essential to have the 2 working the library in order to have collaborative teaching with other staff, AND a vibrant, organic library program that is customized for our students and staff. Without my TL, our library would be no more than a glorified book store. As the BIGGEST classroom on campus, we cater to, and care for the whole population, teaching and reaching a diverse group. TL's are an important and extremely necessary ingredient in a dynamic learning environment!  |

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| 179 | 10/29 | Diane Alexander<br>dapa@comcast.net          | 53 | Your school librarians teach the information literacy skills necessary for today's world. They also encourage reading. It has been proven that schools staffed with credentialed teacher librarians have higher test scores. Santa Rosa will be taking a huge step backwards if they eliminate this necessary position.   |
| 180 | 10/29 | Donna Riddell<br>donna.riddell@g<br>oAAA.com | 32 | Hello, I am disappointed to see that Grace is on the list for budget cuts. We chose for my son to go to Grace as we heard what a great program it was. My son was struggling in the high school environment and wanted to try this school to see if it would be a better fit for him. My son is a senior this year and will be graduating from Grace. This program gives kids a second chance at getting their high school diploma and not dropping out of school when they are discouraged or having a hard time in school. Although my son would have graduated regardless, I have seen many kids succeed in this program and get a second chance. The teachers are great and truly care and the small classes are a good fit for a lot of students struggling. I have had the experience of working with a couple teachers, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Barry and the counselor and Mr. Negri this year and they truly care about teaching these students academically and also for these kids to succeed. They give them the chance and work with their different obstacles and personalities and from what I have seen, this program really works! It would be a shame to see these kids lose this opportunity. Often kids get lost in the shuffle with the bigger schools, although they are good schools it can happen quite easily. I hope my comments will help to convince all of you that these Continuation schools are vital for our students and a special call out to keep Grace High School and not cut them. Thanks for your time and consideration. |
| 181 | 10/29 | Joy Millam<br>joymillam@earth<br>link.net    | 30 | Please do not sweep the Library Improvement block grant funds into the general fund. Libraries are chronically underfunded. We rarely get support at the District or School site level. This is precisely why we did not want to be funded in a block grant with schools. District's when given the opportunity to take funds will do just that, and leave libraries underfunded and unable to give students books and resources that are current and up-to-date. The national average for library books per student is 20.0 in the state of California the average is 7.0, if we are continually underfunded we will never make up the gap and California will continue to be ranked 50th in the nation in school library spending. Numerous studies have been done and all conclusively show that there is a direct correlation between school library funding, staffing and student achievement. If you want students to achieve you need to keep monies and Credentialed Teacher Librarians in your libraries! The more kids read, the better they achieve! Please find other ways to cut your budget, preferably ones that will not impact your students directly. School libraries affect every student.  |
| 182 | 10/29 | Joy Millam<br>joymillam@earth<br>link.net    | 54 | Reducing your current number of full-time equivalent school teacher librarians is a catastrophic choice! You are already understaffed by two-thirds and to reduce to just one for the district is disastrous. You will effectively remove all teaching that occurs in the library by library professionals. Teacher Librarians teach students how to sort information and with this generation it is a critical skill. Kids are inundated with erroneous information from the Internet all day long. Without someone to teach them how to navigate the web thoughtfully they will be sorely lacking a skill that will leave them unprepared for the "real world." Teacher Librarians are an essential on school campuses. There are other ways to save money. You will be harming the kids irreparably if you make this reduction!  |
| 183 | 10/29 | Julie McClelland<br>gzuslovesu@yah<br>oo.com | 53 | The shortsightedness of releasing your School Library Teachers is incredible as these positions are the ONLY constant indicator of overall school success. Reading is fundamental, and these librarians are the KEY to the whole plan. Do some research to see that this data is true nationwide, and find that many states have Master's level credentialed Librarians in EVERY school in their district, not just the secondary level. These are not 'extra' positions that are able to be cut without serious ramifications in your testing scores. Looks elsewhere...I'd recommend dumping the "librarians" at SCOE who do nothing to help the librarians in their everyday work. I know that for a fact as I was previously the Head Librarian at Sonoma Valley High. I know it's tough right now, but this is NOT the place to make these cuts unless you want your test scores to go even further down the drain. Reduce positions that are the furthest from the classroom level, mostly at the district office.  |
| 184 | 10/29 | Kit Hein<br>misscalih@comc<br>ast.net        | 53 | The idea of eliminating teacher librarians is a foolhardy one. More and more students need the connection that teacher librarians give between the regular curriculum and the skills necessary to be a 21st Century learner - adept at accessing and using information in all formats, print and electronic. One teacher librarian for an entire school district can do nothing except administrate. Classroom teachers themselves are burdened with their content curriculum. The person properly trained and educated to teach students information literacy is the teacher librarian. Please reconsider this proposed reduction.   |
| 185 | 10/29 | Lance Tycot<br>ltycot@yahoo.co               | 14 | As a retired educator and guardian of a local student, I felt compelled to advise you. After hearing your comments at last night's board meeting "tell us what to cut" I will do just that. I am familiar with education, and your system through the student in my house and self  |

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|     |       | m                                    |    | <p>interest. I have combed through your proposed cuts and am seeing some things that just don't add up. Support Counseling in particular. This is the second biggest budget item on this list. Correct me if I am wrong, but last I heard you are a Program Improvement district mainly because a few subgroups of "At-Risk" students that are putting you in that status. So please, I beg to ask Mr. Bower (who compiled this report) why it would be suggested that you eliminate counseling, when they are the ones that are on the front lines of meeting with these "At-Risk" students and their families multiple times through the year, providing guidance, resources, proper placement and time to talk. If anything you should be utilizing all of the \$675,000 of funding to hire MORE counselors, rather than just 7 FTE. Moreover, where has the rest of the money going from that source been being used? \$675,000 should be funding more than 7FTE..... In these dire times, counselors are needed more than any other time. They are already strapped with time as it is. Yet every time I have needed my student's counselor, she has been helpful, resourceful and accommodating. I can't imagine how hard her job is, yet you plan on making it worse. Save your counselors! I beg you to tell me how all these people in the District Office are more useful than counselors, or teachers or Librarians. How? Please inform me! In these dire times, why do we need luxuries like Pathways and pathway coordinators. Why is there a highly paid Career Pathway coordinator when we are in these hard times? This is the first thing that should be cut. You asked for specifics.....if you are eliminating the alternative education schools, why do you need an Alternative School Director for those schools making over \$100,000 per year? If you are eliminating professional development, why do you need a Professional Development coordinator? It sounds to me like you are relying too much on the information being provided to you from Mr. Bower and the other Assistant Superintendents, and not enough from your staff that actually deal with students everyday. Those that have experience working with students. It sure doesn't seem like your advisors know what its like to work at a school. Have any of them actually worked in high school? Serious question. According to your website, under departments, you have 41 administrative personnel on staff in that district office. With an enrollment in your district of approximately 17,000 students, that's a ratio of 414 students to one district administrator, who never deals with students. Counselors, who see students daily have a ratio of 500:1. At my student's high school, they have 4 administrators that are there everyday. With an enrollment at about 1500, that's an enrollment of 450:1. How is that fair? According to your website, under departments, you have approx. 175 people that work in that district office that do not have a job that asks them to see students everyday. The ratio for people in that office that do not ever see students, to your enrollments of 17,000 students in your district, is a ratio of 97:1. Yet teachers have a ratio of 165:1 in your district. The ones that are on the front lines have a higher ratio than those in District office and never see a student? Makes no sense from a taxpayer's perspective. I beg you to tell me why you, as a board have not looked at this further and are proposing to cut things from people that meet with MY STUDENT DAILY, and not people that do not? Please, as a taxpayer, I want to know. Why? You want specific things to cut? Start with things such as Pathways and its Coordinator, then down to Alternative Education Coordinator, then onto Professional Development Coordinators, then onto advertising budgets which are plentiful, then start pulling the perks like transportation money every month from your highest officials.....start doing these things. It is ok to get rid of a teacher, but keep paying your District administrators through the summer and paying for their cars too? You wanted specifics...and you got them. Maybe you should try and return that big, expensive computer system I read about a year ago. What did that cost? Millions? Additionally, I watched the board meeting last night on TV and couldn't really see what the slides said that were presented. But from what I gathered, your accountants are hiding money from you. It doesn't seem like they are giving you an accurate picture of what is in your reserves. Maybe you don't even need to cut things with all that left-over money you haven't asked about. Don't ask me to pay more money in taxes, while your accountants are hoarding the money we already give you for a rainy day. Guess what???? That rainy day is here, use the money they hoarded. You are tired of people blaming you and we should start blaming the state, I understand that. But the truth is, we as taxpayers have no faith that the people you are getting your information from are honest and doing the best for our kids. Period. You want us to look to the state? We want you to start looking at those you get your information from. Once you do that, the fingers will stop being pointed at you. I want what is best for my student...and eliminating counseling, and libraries are not what is best. I hope you read this and it goes into the back of your mind while you are making these unnecessary cuts. Good luck with these horrible decisions you have to make. I hope you make the right ones.</p> |
| 186 | 10/29 | Leone Bratcher<br>leone@kreysler.com | 32 | <p>I am a parent of a Piner High School student who is trying to get enrolled in to Grace. I have heard great things about Grace, and know that it has value to the students. This is the last chance for many students who are having a difficult time in High School, and may be the only way for them to succeed in the endeavor to learn. I, for one, would be very disappointed if you were to close the continuation schools. I understand that budget is a concern, but shouldn't the first concern be the children? They are, after all, the future.</p>   |
| 187 | 10/29 | Lydia Smith-                         | 53 | <p>I am so grateful there are schools that recognize the benefit to students and the Academic program as a whole, with a credentialed</p>  |

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|     |       | Davis<br>lydia.smith-<br>davis@lhsoc.org                              |         | librarian on staff.... Digital citizenship, creative content, copyright, intellectual property, plagiarism, citing sources, information literacy, materials selection, collection development, cataloging, inquiry, reading and more!  |
| 188 | 10/29 | Rosalie Abbott<br>rosalie_abbott@c<br>omcast.net                      | 53      | I am a community member with a child attending public school in Sonoma County. Libraries are essential for many reasons including the fact that they house amazing collections of valuable resources that constantly need to be maintained. Librarians are teachers, they educate students and facilitate learning and quality research in schools every day in the 'trenches'. Scientific research has proven that there is a direct correlation between student success and the quality & quantity of Library Resources and professional employees (possessing a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science as well as a Teaching Credential). Removing Professional Librarians from their posts would be a crime committed against the children of today, and the future of our society. A decision to cut such valuable resources that directly influence the success of our children would be a mistake that would be looked back upon with embarrassment. I realize that there aren't any 'good choices' in this bleak climate. However, it is essential to make difficult choices that will protect our children and their right to a decent education.  |
| 189 | 10/29 | Sarah Bosler<br>daydream.queen<br>@gmail.com                          | 53      | As the internet provides a deluge of information to (often unprepared) learners, Teacher Librarians and support staff are needed more than ever. Research overwhelmingly shows a link between achievement and library staffing and instruction. Don't leave our kids behind. See this one page summary of recent research. <a href="http://caschoollibraries.pbworks.com/f/CA_School_Libraries_Count1.pdf">http://caschoollibraries.pbworks.com/f/CA_School_Libraries_Count1.pdf</a>   |
| 190 | 10/29 | Stephanie<br>Bigham<br>sbigham@srcs.k<br>12.ca.us                     | General | General suggestion from an employee: Perhaps savings could be realized by offering classified employees retirement incentives.   |
| 191 | 10/29 | Strong School<br>Library<br>Advocate<br>librarylady8430<br>@gmail.com | 53      | California's School Libraries Make a Difference It's about equity. Strong school libraries help give our students the best chance to succeed. California public schools with strong school library programs outperform those without such programs on the state's STAR tests. This is true regardless of the school community's parent education and poverty levels, ethnicity, and percentage of English language learners. Increases in the following library program elements correspond to increased STAR test scores at the elementary, middle school and high school levels: •Total hours library open •Total technology available through the library •Total services provided by library staff •Offering a program of curriculum-integrated information literacy instruction •Informally instructing students in the use of resources •Providing teachers with information about new resources •Providing reference assistance to students and teachers A strong school library program is one that provides •A full-time teacher librarian and a full time paraprofessional. •A robust, up-to-date collection of digital, print and media resources with a budget to support it. •Liberal access to the library's facilities, technology, and resources. Greater Staffing = Stronger Impact Our research shows that the strongest relationship between school libraries and STAR test scores occurs at the high school level, which has, as a percentage, over 3 ½ times more fully-staffed libraries (a full-time teacher librarian and a full-time clerk) than the middle schools, and over 25 times more fully staffed libraries than the elementary schools. The school library program is a better predictor of scores on the high school English Language Arts STAR test than other school variables such as teacher experience and teacher salary. On the U.S. History test, the library program is a better predictor of scores than both school variables and community variables, including parent education, poverty, ethnicity, and percentage of English language learners. Nearly every element of a high school library program positively correlates with STAR test scores, including all of the elements listed above, as well as •Teacher librarian staffing levels •Total staffing levels •Budget •Collection size In elementary, middle school and high school libraries, teacher librarian staffing and total staffing are strongly related to the level of services provided. What's more, increases in library services are related to higher STAR test scores. Staffing is key in creating strong school libraries. The bottom line? It's about equity. Strong school libraries help give our students the best chance to succeed. Source: Ph.D. dissertation by Doug Achterman, "Haves, Halves and Have-Nots: School Libraries and Student Achievement," University of North Texas, December, 2008. See <a href="http://www.csla.net/bestsellers/CA_School_Libraries_Count.pdf">http://www.csla.net/bestsellers/CA_School_Libraries_Count.pdf</a> Strong School Libraries... ..Build Strong Students and Lifelong Learners A strong school library program is the cornerstone of a healthy school. School libraries require buy-in from administrators, programs based on state standards, enactment of state and national literacy standards, high visibility, and strong, committed advocates – like you! Here are five questions you can ask in order to better understand if a school has a strong library program. Does the library have: •A full time, certified school Teacher Librarian and a full-time paraprofessional working as a team? This allows the teacher librarian to collaborate with teachers in co-designing instruction which incorporates information literacy into the curriculum. •Lots of carefully selected books, databases, and other learning resources? Resources must reflect the school curriculum and student recreational reading needs. •A program which provides instruction and activities for students to use the research process in finding the information they need? Research is a process, not an end product – |

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|     |       |  |    | <p>it is the thinking process which the students benefit from, not the ultimate "find." The "find" is generally forgotten – while the process remains with them forever. Technology, including computers networked to the community and the Internet; sufficient eDatabases, DVDs, audio and video technology related to the school curriculum? Its doors open before, during and after school hours, with liberal circulation policies? This means access to the school library, its resources, and staff. Know the key elements of a strong school library. Ask key questions and build strong school libraries for California students. Knowledge is power. Students deserve equitable access to library resources. Not all students have access to a library program, let alone a strong school library program. California is developing standards. This is great news, because standards provide blueprints for strong school libraries. Complying with standards is a local decision. Help schools make the right decision for students. See <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/WhyStrongSchoolLibraries/">http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/WhyStrongSchoolLibraries/</a> 1. Improve student achievement* 2. Foster literacy 3. Produce a tech savvy workforce 4. Nurture life-long learning 5. Create engaged citizens *Research: See <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/research.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/research.asp</a> For more information, contact the California School Library Association at <a href="mailto:csla2team@yahoo.com">csla2team@yahoo.com</a> Draft Model School Library Standards for California Public Schools School Library Standards are now available for field review. See <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/">http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/</a> The draft School Library Standards include: Model School Library Standards for Students that delineate what students should know and be able to do at... each grade level, K-6, or grade span, 7-8 and 9-12 Model School Library Program Standards that describe the staffing, collections and resources, including technology, expected in an effective school library that will enable students to achieve the School Library Standards for Students. The field review period continues through December 18, 2009. The School Library Standards are expected to go to the State Board of Education for approval at its meeting in March, 2010. If you have questions, contact either Barbara Jeffus, School Library Consultant, 916-319-0445, <a href="mailto:bjeffus@cde.ca.gov">bjeffus@cde.ca.gov</a>, or Susan Martimo, Administrator, 916-319-0446, <a href="mailto:smartimo@cde.ca.gov">smartimo@cde.ca.gov</a>.</p> |
| 192 | 10/29 | Zita Eastman<br><a href="mailto:eastman@sonoma.lib.ca.us">eastman@sonoma.lib.ca.us</a>   | 53 | <p>California does not fare well in comparison to other school libraries nationwide. Further reducing them and their services will put a burden on the public library system that it simply cannot carry since its resources are limited. And once again, it's the children who will be shortchanged and deprived of quality education. Please do not limit the resources of the school libraries.</p>  |
| 193 | 10/30 | Angie Krout<br><a href="mailto:sanranch@sonic.com">sanranch@sonic.com</a>  | 53 | <p><a href="http://extracredit.blogs.pressdemocrat.com/11159/cut-libraries-not-so-fast-says-oconnell/">http://extracredit.blogs.pressdemocrat.com/11159/cut-libraries-not-so-fast-says-oconnell/</a></p>  |
| 194 | 10/30 | Anthony Doyle<br><a href="mailto:tudoyle@muhsd.k12.ca.us">tudoyle@muhsd.k12.ca.us</a>  | 53 | <p>Cutting librarians is cutting reading. Librarians are trained to connect kids with books. Site librarians know the collection and they know the kids. Librarians are also trained to teach 21st century skills-- skills that will be essential for your graduate's economic survival. No other teacher in the school has the breadth and depth of knowledge in those two critical areas.</p>   |
| 195 | 10/30 | Becky Safarik<br>PUSD Librarian<br><a href="mailto:bsafarik@pusdk12.org">bsafarik@pusdk12.org</a>  | 53 | <p>Loss of librarian positions-As the only librarian for all 6 of our district's schools, I see that you are considering going down a disastrous path and I would like to warn you off. A librarian's work is amazingly invisible and yet amazingly supportive to our entire success as public educators. There is no possible way that 1 librarian will have any relevant effect when spread so thin as to be covering all 24 of your district's schools. Librarians are some of your most effective money spent as they positively affect the academic success of an entire student population. They aid teachers, lowering teacher burn-out, and they aid students in how to learn, lowering student frustration and failure. These effects however will disappear if you have only 1 librarian per 24 schools. My suggestion: don't pretend. If you don't value information literacy, the sanity of your teachers and the success of your students, fire ALL of your librarians. Keeping only 1 is nothing more than ridiculous.</p>  |
| 196 | 10/30 | Bonnie Raines<br>3rd grade teacher<br>Santa Rosa<br>Charter School<br>for the Arts<br><a href="mailto:braines@srcs.k12.ca.us">braines@srcs.k12.ca.us</a> | 49 | <p>I realize the board has an immensely difficult task of cutting funds. The item closest to my heart is class size. Having taught many years with a class of 32 students, and then 9 years with class size reduction, I have a mountain of anecdotal evidence relating to the advantage of a smaller class. With 20 students,(alright, 22 now), I can truly be tuned in to the pulse of each student. I can better meet individual needs with regard to learning style, emotional well being, academic ability and a myriad of other important issues in the day to day life of a child. For children k-3rd, this extra attention translates into stronger students who are more likely to carry a sense of responsibility and academic strength with them into the intermediate grades. With the state money portion, it isn't as much of a big ticket item and will also help keep parents in our district and attract others from outside districts if others around us raise class size. I am begging for class size reduction to be maintained. Thank you for considering my opinion.</p>   |
| 197 | 10/30 | Danitsa Finch<br><a href="mailto:dfinch@srcs.k12">dfinch@srcs.k12</a>  | 53 | <p>I would just like to say that I have been teaching high school for 30 years, both English and Spanish, and I use the library facilities at least 2 to 3 times a semester for a week for research and projects. I always have to work around all the other teachers who also sign up</p>  |

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|     |       | ca.us  |         | to use the library, since the "Use Calendar" fills up quite quickly each semester. I also assign students to check out books and do reports on their own, each semester. Economically disadvantaged students appreciate our time and use of the library, since they have no computers at home nor can they buy books for assignments. Closing libraries would be an elitist decision that would drastically affect all students, except the most wealthy.   |
| 198 | 10/30 | J B centarii@aol.com   | 53      | In this era of research based instruction and accountability, I am amazed by the ignorance of school administration by even considering cutting their school libraries. How foolish! Countless research papers and studies point to the absolute necessity of school libraries and the librarians that staff them. Fully fund our schools libraries and student learning increases dramatically. Cut them and students suffer. How stupid can school officials get?   |
| 199 | 10/30 | Karen Andresen<br>Teacher Librarian<br>Petaluma Junior High School<br>kandresen@pet.k12.ca.us                    | 53      | Please reconsider your proposal to eliminate all but one school librarian. A library without a teacher librarian cannot provide students with the skills they need to be successful or provide encouragement to students to read. Karen Andresen, "Research from eleven states and over 4,000 schools documents that credentialed librarians raise achievement scores anywhere from 8-20%. Support personnel alone in a library do not raise achievement. Why? Because the librarian concentrates on teaching and learning rather than on managing a warehouse. a€□ -Loertscher, David V. with Ross J. Todd. Evidence-Based Practice for School Library Media Specialists. Salt Lake City UT: Hi Willow Research & Publishing, 2003.  |
| 200 | 10/30 | Katya Anderson<br>katyamom@sonic.net   | 10      | With the presence of gang activity at all the schools how can this item even be considered. Our children need to feel safe at school AND the kids making those questionable decisions need to be called out and hopefully helped to make better choices. This item should NOT be cut.   |
| 201 | 10/30 | Katya Anderson<br>katyamom@sonic.net   | 12      | There have been many studies over the years that show a direct correlation between music and academics, specifically math. Students who participate in music do well in academics. Music is an avenue to pull all the disciplines together: the structure, the emotion, the story and the window to art. Eliminating music in the schools is an atrocity .. a "choice" that should never be considered.   |
| 202 | 10/30 | Katya Anderson<br>katyamom@sonic.net   | 14      | Our high schoolers are being asked to perform at a much higher level than ever before, yet they are still only 14-18 years old. How to maneuver in this world, make the right choices, find the right career path, find the right college, deal with all the issues surfacing as one moves from child to adult is quite overwhelming. To take away counseling support, or reduce it to such a level that it's as good as gone is appalling. Do NOT cut this area.   |
| 203 | 10/30 | Michael Powell<br>Librarian<br>Library Services Manager<br>Sonoma County Office of Education<br>mpowell@scoe.org | 53      | As the County Librarian of Record for the Public Schools of Sonoma, I wish to offer a viewpoint from the County level. I certainly appreciate the fiscal constraints facing districts. But I also, see the effects of lack of qualified teaching librarians in the County of Sonoma. California State Standards state that students must be successfully prepared to meet the demands for information analysis. This is the role that a teacher librarian fulfills. Additionally, in March 2010 the State Board of Education will initiate and place into California State Standards a rigorous set of principals for student learning that is based on those skills taught by a teacher librarian. By decreasing the number of teacher librarians in the District the task of educating students will be seriously impacted and it will be very difficult for the District to abide by future regulations and standards. Again, I do appreciate the economic climate and its' forcing hard choices on schools. But teacher librarians are teachers and the library as an essential component of education is noted in over 60 nation wide studies for the positive benefit on student achievement. |
| 204 | 10/30 | Nicole Rochelle<br>nicolerochelle7@gmail.com   | General | Where are the reductions of principal/superintendent salaries? Where are the plans to unify some of the MANY tiny school districts, some of which have only 1-3 schools, who are playing superintendent salaries in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 range? Most of all, where is the oversight of the regulation of charter schools who are bleeding ADA from county schools. I have quite a story to tell about Insight Schools of the North Bay, an online charter school who operate in 7 counties in the North Bay, chartered by tiny Windsor Unified School district and whom I am filing a due process case against for multiple violations of Federal and State law. I have notified the State Board of Education and Sonoma County SELPA about this school's violation of special education laws, all to no avail. They refer me back to WUSD who are doing nothing. I would like to know where to turn next.  |
| 205 | 10/30 | Sara Oster<br>Comstock   | General | I want to let you know how pleased I am that you are not considering closing Comstock Middle School. Your choice to keep a public middle school in the Northwest quadrant of Santa Rosa open reflects your respect for the spirit of NCLB. You have seen from our   |

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|     |       | Middle School<br>soster@srcs.k12.<br>ca.us                              |         | student's CST scores what amazing things a dedicated staff can do with these disadvantaged students. Your choice will have a meaningful impact on many student's lives and on the vitality, cohesiveness, and hope for this entire community. Thank you! I also want to say that I would much prefer losing five or even ten days of pay rather than close a school. Even though I live to the penny every month on my salary, that choice is a no brainer. I have heard this is in debate but it is truly hard for me to believe that it is even an issue. I know your choices are VERY difficult and I'm sure losing library staff is a hard call. I appreciate your choice to keep them open at least with minimal staffing.  |
| 206 | 10/30 | Sue Harrison<br>wflytyer@sonic.<br>net                                  | 53      | Please don't consider eliminating school librarians. They are teacher librarians trained to help students find the information they need. Students need this help. They are learning how to research. It's not instinctive, they have to be taught. Librarians are essential in this process. School libraries support the curriculum. Librarians collaborate with teachers to include certain books that will provide adequate information for research projects. In our school district, students in elementary schools see their librarian only twice a month. This in itself is irresponsible. However, one librarian overseeing the entire school district is totally unacceptable. How can we do this to our children?   |
| 207 | 10/30 | Trish Terrell<br>English teacher<br>MCHS<br>tterrell@srcs.k12<br>.ca.us | 53      | I am appalled to hear that there is a possibility of cutting our teacher librarians (Sonja Bedford at MCHS) in the district. Our librarians are valuable resources in a world where technology and finding resources are increasingly important, not only to daily life, but in most jobs and careers. The school librarians help us classroom teachers instruct students on how to conduct research in texts, databases, and on the web, with lessons like teaching MLA citations and determining reliable sources. In addition, every year, the librarians conduct a freshman orientation, which introduces students to each area in the library, how to find a book, how to use the online catalog, and how to use resources like our computer lab. Students learn that the librarians are also there to assist them with typing and printing assignments, which is especially important for students who are not fortunate enough to have computers at home and computer literate parents to teach them how to use computers. We are also supported when we ask students to read for SSR (which I believe is a component at both MCHS and RVMS, if not other schools in the district). There is no way that I can keep up with current literature at both the adult and teen levels, AND do my job of teaching, planning, grading, etc., so it is vitally important that we have educated staff in the library to help students find books appropriate to their reading level and interests. Finally, every year I bring my classes several times to the library and computer lab to complete research projects. As we all know, research and proper citation are important skills used at all levels in high school, and more importantly, students are expected to have these skills firmly intact by the time they get to college. It would be criminal to take these opportunities away from students when we have the building, the books, the computers, the online catalog, and the expertise of our librarians. Please reconsider cutting our librarian positions. We are already operating with less than desirable hours because our librarian has to be split between two schools. There is no way we can give our students what they need to succeed and be prepared for life, careers, and college if we don't have functional libraries. |
| 208 | 10/31 | debra bodan<br>debrabodan@att.<br>net                                   | General | Schools and teachers are one of the best things that can happen to kids. Cutting programs is the worst. I could never spend 6hrs a day with, in Middle School, approx 90 kids, I'd rather put a pen in my eye. The teachers are saints and their different programs like art, music, pe and sports may be the only class that can reach a particular kid that is struggling everywhere else. These are the classes that bring out creativity, friendships, (you're not sitting down trying to be quiet), successes, smiles and laughter. Isn't that important for self esteem and joy at....school?! Couldn't that make the rest of the day tolerable to a struggling student. Take home message...don't cut the stuff!!   |
| 209 | 10/31 | Laura Harper<br>harperl@sbcglo<br>bal.net                               | General | You have a tough job at hand. I trust you will make the right decisions regarding budget cuts that are affecting all of our schools and children. I know you have to cut all the FAT and then some, and I know all of us will feel it on some level. I hope as we recover, which will take sometime, we can all be more conservative and spend our funds wisely.   |
| 210 | 10/31 | Susan Burch<br>sooz@sbcglobal.<br>net                                   | General | There are no justified cuts when it comes to education. But they are especially bitter when a principal is moved to a different position, keeping his salary, while a "NEW" principal will be hired and another salary will need to be paid. Considering the dark shadow that hangs over the schools right now, it seems the sensible thing to do would have been to keep Mr. Goddard and make clear exactly what was expected of him. He came to SRHS on the heels of a much beloved principal who's shadow still hovers over the school. It looks to me like Mr. Goddard couldn't satisfy anyone. So much money is wasted and poorly spent in the Santa Rosa Schools that it's shameful. We don't have a working score board or a snack shack for our baseball teams but we have salaries for two principals. Many families in the school feel that Mr. Goddard got a very unfair deal and you need to take a good look at your decision. His goal to get attendance up and get test cores raised speaks money to the schools. He didn't know the students as well as Mr. Negri but SRHS was finally   |

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|     |      |   |         | being looked at with some respect from the rest of the community. You all ought to be ashamed of this distasteful decision.  |
| 211 | 11/1 | John Rugebregt<br>jrugebre@mcn.org  | 53      | I am a Humanities and English teacher at Maria Carrillo High School. Without the expertise of our librarian I cannot imagine continuing with the level of instruction and research that has prepared our past students so well. Whether it is assisting students with basic print research, aiding in computer research, or just instilling a love of reading, our librarian's knowledge and experience is irreplaceable. She and I have collaborated on orientations for my ninth graders, on lessons in curricular areas such as country reports, on research in global issues, and on fostering reading. I do not have the awareness of all the materials at our students' disposal nor the time to introduce them to the terrific collection our library has amassed since we opened. Social Studies and English instruction without the support of a qualified library staff is a hobbled horse unable to reach the finish line of academic excellence.   |
| 212 | 11/2 | Jennifer Nash<br>Library Technician,<br>Proctor Terrace Elementary<br>jwannash@srcs.k12.ca.us | 53      | I am the Library Technician at Proctor Terrace Elementary. I am also the parent of two students at the school. I have held this position for a short time but as a Library Technician, I can say eliminating the Teacher Librarians would have great consequences to the limited program already in place at the elementary level. I encounter students on a daily basis that require assistance just to get the books they want. They know how to look up books in the computer catalog, but cannot translate the information from the catalog to locate books on the shelves. Having a Teacher/Librarian in the library, teaching the students how to take advantage of everything their library has to offer, can only benefit the students. Second, as a Library Technician, I can say an email-only system, with one person supporting multiple schools, will not be enough to sustain the library program at the elementary level. I've held the position for a short time, but in that short time, various issues and situations have come up that needed a live, actual person, to resolve. Would the Board ask one person to be the principal at 11 schools, with only email support for the teachers? It is not feasible to do this. I recognize we are in a budget crisis, but there must be another way to balance the school budget. Thank you for your time.   |
| 213 | 11/2 | Jennifer Nash<br>shnookie@sonic.net   | 53      | I am a parent of two students, a 4th grader and 1st grader, at Proctor Terrace Elementary. As a parent, I can say what a huge benefit it is for my children to have access to a library at school. While we can and do use the public library, there are times it is much easier to find new books to read at our school library. As a parent, I am concerned there is no teaching element in the library program. My 4th grader can look up books in the computer catalog, but has no idea how to use the information she obtains from the catalog to locate materials on the shelves. I see this both at the school library and the public library. When I asked the librarian at the public library about teaching kids how to use the catalog and Dewey Decimal system to locate books, I was told it is not their job to teach the kids how to use the Dewey Decimal system, they rely on the schools to teach the kids how to do this. It seems like the schools are relying on the public libraries to do their job for them. Elementary school libraries are not a place for kids to "hang out", which was the words quoted by one Board member. At my children's school, the kids are not allowed in the library at all except for their designated library time, which is once per week for most teachers and only for 30 minutes. Some classes, including my own child's class, only come every other week. As a parent, I look to librarians for suggestions and assistance to find new books to help motivate my children and get them excited to read. Taking the librarians away would only hurt the students. Thank you for your time, |
| 214 | 11/2 | maribeth<br>mforsyth@k12.ca.us  | 10      | Schools need to have campus supervisors. The police will always be on call but the minor discipline issues need the attention of a campus supervisor. School administrators are way too busy to tackle all the discipline. Maybe these two things should be separated into two items instead of one.   |
| 215 | 11/2 | maribeth<br>mforsyth@srcs.k12.ca.us   | General | You have got to be kidding. This number is way too small for admin positions being reduced. Sure lets get rid of librarians and keep all the big salaried people in their positions. Get rid of some of the people at the district administration offices. I am sure that there could be more money saved in that category. It should be a priority that the things closest to the students should be saved and the things further from the students should be considered first for cuts   |
| 216 | 11/2 | maribeth<br>mforsyth@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 1       | We need to have summer school for those students that are trying to graduate. It is not always their fault that they fail. There are some teachers out there that are on a mission to get students ready for college and forget that they are high school teachers. There are other reasons too but this one just irks me.   |
| 217 | 11/2 | maribeth<br>mforsyth@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 36      | The wait time for getting delivery of supplies is crazy now. I don't think we will be able to have one less person in this department, unless you want us to go out and pick up our own supplies and miss teaching class.  |

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| 218 | 11/2 | maribeth<br>mforsyth@srcs.k<br>12.ca.us                 | 47      | With the new attendance system it would be very hard for anyone to be relieved of their present positions. It takes all of the staff to make this school run efficiently. We need to have a person in charge of finances. A person to be secretary for the admin group, an attendance person and a counseling secretary. I can not see that any position can be eliminated and have the community not coming down your throats complaining about inefficiency at our site.   |
| 219 | 11/2 | Patricia<br>Schuermann<br>blink182.always<br>@yahoo.com | General | To say I am disappointed in the Santa Rosa City School Board is putting it lightly. Recently, reassigning Principal Goddard, and creating a job for him and taking money our schools need away for him is a big upset. Being a senior at Santa Rosa High it makes me sad to see my school go by the wayside so the bureaucrats can have more money for themselves and create meaningless jobs. I cannot express in words how happy I am to be graduating at the end of this school year. Things like taking away classes are another outrage. Even thinking about taking away music or other specialty non-core classes is ridiculous. Having been a music student at school since a very young age and being a violinist at Santa Rosa High School, and being in the Art Quest Program, it upsets me greatly that other students will never get the opportunities I have had, all because the DO is taking away money for themselves. Seeing kids want to participate in music and not having the opportunity to me is heartbreaking - either they don't have music at their school at all or they cannot afford to pay for it. And they shouldn't have too - music and all other non-core classes should be available to all students at no cost. They are just as important as science, math, English and history. Let's face it, we're not all going to be linguists or engineers, and we should be able to explore all options. And students in the arts are proven to have higher test scores and higher scores in general, after that, how could the arts even be considered for elimination? Having read the quote made by a board member in the Press Democrat last week, about eliminating libraries, I was furious. I am President of the Santa Rosa High School Library Club and can be found studying in the library everyday: during and after school. I need the library to study because of its resources and accessibility. Closing the library would be a shame. Many people are in there studying everyday, not goofing off as said, or they would be kicked out. If it's at the point where libraries are being considered for a cut; then there is something seriously wrong with your priorities. If this goes any further, I will fight, as long as it takes, even if I will have graduated, to keep libraries in schools, because I know how influential they have been in my life and I understand how important they are. I will fight as long as it takes to keep the arts in school because they have broadened my horizons, and made me a better person and because I know how important they are to so many students. Whatever it takes, I am willing to do it - I will not see this school, or any schools in this district go down in flames. I intend to fight it, to any extent. I am saddened to see amazing teachers let go, classes being cut, and our school[s] not having enough money for books or supplies and having to be in classes with 30 or so people. Students and schools do not deserve this; it is not fair to anyone. And to see it happen for such ludicrous reasons makes it all even worse. If things do not change soon, the district will lose many students. The Santa Rosa City Board needs to reorganize its' priorities. If any board member or even the Superintendent spent even a day in any school they might understand what we are going through. At this point none of the Board understand, but understanding is the first step to solving the problem. |
| 220 | 11/2 | Sierra Bradley<br>sierrabradley@y<br>ahoo.com           | 11      | The arts are an integral part of any well-rounded education. Parents and students are in dire need of what little our district still offers in this regard. The amount, while small, is all we have left keeping the arts in our schools and it MUST remain.   |
| 221 | 11/2 | Sierra Bradley<br>sierrabradley@y<br>ahoo.com           | 25      | As a graduate of the BTSA program, I saw many ways the program was wasteful in its use of resources. Binders, file boxes and dividers were all provided for participants and papers created for us were printed on high-gloss and triple carbon paper. While I know that the program is state-mandated and cannot be eliminated, I suggest that the program's budget be reviewed to see how unnecessary expenses can be limited to reduce the overall cost of this program.  |
| 222 | 11/2 | Sierra Bradley<br>sierrabradley@y<br>ahoo.com           | 30      | Unfortunately for most students, a school library is the only library they have access to. Our libraries are already seriously understaffed and mostly unavailable to students during the school day. How can we expect our students to be readers and researchers when the materials are increasingly unavailable? How can students be asked to learn how to use a library if they're only allotted a 20-minute slot of time to check out an outdated book?   |
| 223 | 11/2 | Sierra Bradley<br>sierrabradley@y<br>ahoo.com           | 50      | The loss of our elementary prep teachers would be an incredible loss to our school site. In addition to offering general ed teachers much needed time to prepare, prep teachers at SR Charter for the Arts offer an invaluable resource to our students, offering them a consummate education in the arts.   |
| 224 | 11/2 | Sierra Bradley<br>sierrabradley@y                       | 59      | I am disappointed that every item listed on the potential reductions affects teachers and students, but it appears the administration will not be sharing the brunt of the budget shortfalls. Every line item listed takes precious resources directly from our sites and our  |

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|     |      | ahoo.com   |    | students. Before any of these frightening cuts go before the board, the board should consider how much money could be saved by becoming more efficient at the district office level. The budget crisis is very real, but it is unreasonable to ask our students to take the full weight of our budget woes without our fearless leaders taking some of the losses themselves.   |
| 225 | 11/3 | Linda Torres<br>lindatorres66@yahoo.com  | 53 | It is obvious to me that the people who want to cut money from the library budget never actually use the library. If they did, they would appreciate just how valuable a resource they would be destroying. Looks like another attempt to dumb down society. Teach the kids how to use the resource - to really use it - make it accessible to them and make the place inviting. Let's keep the kids off the streets and in an environment where they can actually develop their minds. What a concept!   |
| 226 | 11/3 | maribeth<br>mforsyth@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 58 | Please do not cut the zero period classes. It has been incredible for our elective courses. Students who choose to take band or Spanish or another elective can have two. Also, students that are pulled out of electives for support classes and get no elective unless they have a zero period are really at a loss for their ever growing brains to experience creativity and choice.  |
| 227 | 11/3 | maribeth<br>mforsyth@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 60 | Athletics is crucial to school spirit, attendance and to the self esteem of the kinesthetic learners of the world. The students need to be able to participate in competitive athletics and the community needs to participate in competitive athletics. It takes a village and there is no better way to get the community to our schools than through the sports activities. It is what binds our community together.   |
| 228 | 11/3 | Nancy Lozada<br>Grace High School Student<br>lozadanancy@yahoo.com                             | 32 | When my parents found out that there was a chance I wasn't going to be able to graduate and had to attend Grace, they were disappointed and asked me, what is Grace? What is Grace going to do for u? My answer was that it was an opportunity to see not only their daughter graduate but see her happy and proud of herself. I knew in the beginning that Grace was going to change the way I look at school and I was right because now that I'm in Grace it has made me realize how important education is. What it can do for me. It has also made me realize that I'm not alone, others did the same mistakes I did. We are all here because we didn't care about school, thought that there were other more important things out there but we were wrong This is something I have accepted only because its the truth. Grace is the only place that was open to give me and others another chance to turn ourselves around. Give us a chance to finish our education like it is meant to be. Here at Grace everyone is like family, we help each other by listening and working together. The teachers are supportive and understanding. The whole environment of Grace is calm and makes you feel like your part of something. If there was no Grace I know that there wouldn't be a graduation ceremony, no cap or gown on me and I wouldn't be able to see my family with tears on their faces waiting to hug me and tell me how proud they are. If there was no Grace, I honestly think I would of dropped out from school. Grace is the support that makes us work hard to not give up. Its the place I needed to get me out of the mess I was in and show me that I'm not a failure. Grace is a blessing for me and I guarantee you its for the rest also. This is what Grace is to me and will always be  |
| 229 | 11/3 | Julia Starling<br>English Department<br>Maria Carrillo High School<br>jstarling@srcs.k12.ca.us | 53 | I have recently been made aware of the fact that our teacher librarians in the Santa Rosa City School District are up for elimination. It should be needless to say that I was utterly appalled that a school district that is in Program Improvement: year two would think that the manner to alleviate this situation and help insure that our students improve, would be to get rid of a vital resource in our schools. I understand the need to cut our budget, but we should be looking at our schools, administration, and certainly all district workers to shoulder some of the burden instead of making our students suffer by taking away a vital resource for them. The standards state that by twelfth grade, students are expected each year to read independently two million words of running text. While students receive several (approximately eight) novels a year, students will not be able to meet the standard requirement without doing outside reading assignments. My students are required to do multiple (a minimum of four) out of class reading projects from assigned genres to help meet this standard. The library (and more importantly, our librarian Sonja Bedford) is a necessary resource for my students to succeed in this area. Many students (if not the majority) only read when they "have to." They do not find reading enjoyable and thus, when told to get a book, are lost. At the start of each unit, my students go to the library and our Ms. Bedford does a book talk about several new authors and books that would interest them thus, hooking them in to find a book they will actually want to read. While I do a great deal of reading outside of work to keep up with current trends in literature, there is no way I could do as good a job as our librarian assisting students in finding the perfect book for them and thus, helping them meet this standard. Additionally, I have done many research projects (standard writing application 2.3 as well as reading comprehension 2.2, 2.4) that require not only the use of the library, but the librarian to help aid students. I have given cultural research reports about myths (standard 1.3: Word Analysis, 3.2 Literary Response) from various parts of the world where Ms. Bedford had already picked out useful books then helped students find the appropriate texts and search the internet for more references. I have also done research reports on fables and folklore in the African culture that students researched. Ms. Bedford helped me determine the criteria for this assignment based on our library resources and |

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|     |      |  |    | then assisted students as they worked on it. I have also taught web-quests in the library on such topics as McCarthyism where she assisted students in this task. Ms. Bedford has also done workshops with my students on the correct way to cite references in research papers (another standard: 1.5). Additionally, if our librarians are cut, some students will have no access to a library which is an obvious necessity for assignments. Many students have to work after school or take care of family members and thus have no means to go to a public library. More importantly, our librarians serve a different role than public librarians. Our librarians instruct our students on how to use resources and find books for teenagers. Our librarians concentrate solely on our teenage students, finding books appropriate for their level and interests. Our librarian, Ms. Bedford, has also built our library around the needs of our particular students making them of more use to our student population. Ms. Bedford also does a Freshman Orientation for all incoming freshman that explains how the library works, how to gain access to various tools in the library, where certain books are located as well as more mundane topics like their hours. This is extremely valuable to incoming students who will be expected to know where to go and whom to ask for help when doing their work in the future. Clearly, the librarians are a much used and vital resource to the success of our students and a major tool we can tap into in our quest for exiting Program Improvement. The last thing we need to do at this point is cripple our students' chances to succeed in their academics and to lose a resource that could inspire a life-long love of reading and learning. Please take these words into consideration when making the decision whether or not to eliminate our cherished librarians.   |
| 230 | 11/3 | Susan Harrison<br>MCHS library<br>technician<br>sharrison@srcs.k<br>12.ca.us                         | 53 | Please reconsider eliminating district librarians. Our librarian at Maria Carrillo has valuable knowledge of the library through her experience and education, and it would negatively impact our library if we are to lose her. Yes, I will be able to run the day to day process and keep the doors open, but the library could change from being a place of learning to being "a place to hang out". Our students will be at a disadvantage without their essential resource--the librarian.  |
| 231 | 11/3 | Nancy Persons<br>npersons@santar<br>osa.edu  | 53 | I ask you to reconsider putting the school librarian positions on the list of items subject to elimination. School libraries and librarian efforts are central to student success - students in every class at every level are negatively affected by the absence of a strong library instructional support program.   |
| 232 | 11/3 | Ken Emery<br>Social Science<br>Teacher<br>Maria Carrillo<br>High School<br>kemery@srcs.k1<br>2.ca.us | 53 | As a social science teacher, I cannot even begin to imagine how the lack of a Professional Librarian would negatively impact my teaching and my students' learning. Each time I begin to plan a research assignment; I consult with our librarian, Sonja Bedford, to ensure that the time spent in the library will be productive. In my 11+ years at Maria Carrillo, I cannot count the number of research assignments Sonja and I have consulted on, created collaboratively and revised. Who better knows what resources are available in any library than the person who is responsible to maintain the collection and keep it up to date? I endeavor to not only have my students conduct relevant research, but to learn the process of research and this requires the guidance of a trained professional. Without this guidance, I might as well go back to the days of simply passing out an assignment with a due date and hope for the best. I am very proud of the high level library collection we have at Maria Carrillo and without someone to maintain it I fear it will crumble into mediocrity. Each time I take my class to the library, I know that the resources they will need will be there, because I have had a prior consultation with our librarian to ensure this. In addition, before the students begin their research, she explains to them, not only what resources would be most relevant, but also where they can be found either in the library collection or in the library's electronic resources. Also, since we have consulted she can pull many of these resources and have them readily available on a cart, so that the students time spent in the library will be productive—this allows them to walk away with a sense of accomplishment rather than frustration. Sonja also helps to answer the unexpected questions that arise and give students one-on-one help in finding what they need. Through collaboration with our librarian my students have been able to learn and apply the following Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills as stated in the History-Social Science Standards. Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View<br>1.Students distinguish valid arguments from fallacious arguments in historical interpretations. 2. Students identify bias and prejudice in historical interpretations. 4. Students construct and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate, and employ information from multiple primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations. Historical Interpretation 1. Students show the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments. 2. Students recognize the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitations on determining cause and effect. 3. Students interpret past events and issues within the context in which an event unfolded rather than solely in terms of present-day norms and values. 4. Students understand the meaning, implication, and impact of historical events and recognize that events could have taken other directions. Below is a list of recent assignments that Sonja and I have consulted on. 1.Sonja has instructed my students on how to evaluate web pages and decide between accurate, relevant pages versus inaccurate. She showed them a very realistic, but inaccurate web page and guided them to see how they can check for authenticity. (Historical Research, |

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|     |      |  |         | <p>Evidence, and Point of View 1, 2) 2. We consulted on developing a PowerPoint Presentation project on the various ethnic groups of Africa. She and I worked together to determine aspects of culture they could use. Last year, she also helped individual students to prepare their PowerPoints during Advocacy (Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View 4) 3. Earlier this year, when my World History students were researching historic people from the Age of Enlightenment, she introduced them to the Biography Resource Center, which is available through the Sonoma County Library website. (History-Social Science Content Standard (10.2.1) 4. Last year she instructed my Freshman Humanities students on the use of the electronic resource eLibrary, which can seem intimidating at first glance, but after her instruction they were easily able to navigate this database successfully. One of these students recently commented “eLibrary Rocks” when he was doing some research for me this year. (Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View 4) 5. Last year she also instructed my students in the use of the database Global Issues in Context and Country Watch, as the freshmen were preparing for the International Economic Summit and the sophomores were preparing for their What is the Driving Force? project. (Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View 4) and (History-Social Science Content Standard 10.11) 6. Each year, she helps me to update and locate current resources for my Modern Day Middle East research paper. (History-Social Science Content Standard 10.10) 7. We have collaborated on my Who’s Who and What Did They Do? A Biography Research Project by developing an extensive list of subjects for students to research, which our library collection can support. (History-Social Science Content Standard 10.10) 8. Likewise, we have collaborated on developing my Academic World History Research Assignment with the library collection and electronic resources in mind. (Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View 4) and (Historical Interpretation 1, 2, 3, 4) 9. In the past, when I assigned independent reading for my Humanities students she provided book talks, in which she introduced students to book they likely would never have picked up to read on their own. These are just a few of the positive experiences both I and my students have had in the library with the instruction and assistance of an experienced, trained, Professional Librarian.</p> |
| 233 | 11/4 | SANDRA ANGEL<br>sangel@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 32      | <p>I would like to comment on your looking at closing the small necessary High Schools. I believe you are making a terrible mistake in doing this. I am associated with Grace High School and have seen over the past years, the remarkable improvement of attitude, skills, maturity, structure and many other things associated with students that are too numerous to mention here. You can't imagine how many times I have had tears in my eyes where I have seen first hand, a student associated with Grace High School turn his life around because he is surrounded by caring teachers and staff. We here at Grace know the responsibility of taking kids and giving them a second chance at life. All of us that are part of Grace believe in what we are doing and the kids that we are guiding. If you close the school, these kids will suffer the most. I have even asked many of them what they would do if Grace had not been here. All of them have said they would have just dropped out of school. Please don't let this happen to these young men and women who are the future of all of our tomorrows. In closing, let me also say that a student who came back to Grace last year and talked about how Grace High School had influenced her life is now in a doctorate program as she is studying cell biology. She was proud and inspiring to the kids that she spoke to as she said she had made some stupid mistakes in her life, but upon entering Grace High School, she realized the second chance she was given and turned her life around. Again, please don't cut us out of the lives of so many kids that deserve a second chance in life. We, the staff at Grace High School are dedicated to helping all men and women that want and need a second chance in life!</p>   |
| 234 | 11/4 | Jake Hook<br>spiceybaconator@gmail.com | 53      | <p>I am a student at Maria Carrillo High School that is satisfied with the current Library system. I find the staff to be incredibly welcoming and helpful, not only to myself but to my peers. The staff effectively inculcates new students on how to use the Library, and I found this to be helpful. The staff alerted me as well to the selection of books they have, and due to their encouragement, check out books to read regularly. I personally learned how to use PowerPoint from the staff. The library is an important resource to me in general, for schoolwork and my personal interest, and the staff is integral to this, and any change in the current system would be detrimental to my educational progress.</p>   |
| 235 | 11/4 | Jake Hook<br>spiceybaconator@gmail.com | 53      | <p>I am a student at Maria Carrillo High School that is satisfied with the current Library system. I find the staff to be incredibly welcoming and helpful, not only to myself but to my peers. The staff effectively inculcates new students on how to use the Library, and I found this to be helpful. The staff alerted me as well to the selection of books they have, and due to their encouragement, check out books to read regularly. I personally learned how to use PowerPoint from the staff. The library is an important recourse to me in general, for schoolwork and my personal interest, and the staff is integral to this, and any change in the current system would be detrimental to my educational progress.</p>   |
| 236 | 11/4 | Sheila Lichirie<br>smnjdanty@sbcg      | General | <p>This is a general comment regarding the proposed budget and cuts. Understanding that cuts must be made and that teachers, staff and students will all suffer (either by reduced salaries due to shortened school year and fewer days for students to learn!), the question is</p>  |

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|     |      | lobal.net   |    | why isn't District Administration "biting the bullet." Recommendation is that all administrators making over \$100,000.00 per year take a voluntary, temporary 10% pay cut. The administration MUST step up to the plate. Cuts to staffing of librarians, student advisors, etc. cannot be made with any degree of ethical weight without administrators taking their share of burden.   |
| 237 |      | Greg Carroll,<br>Grace High<br>School Social<br>Studies Teacher<br>gcarroll@srcs.k1<br>2.ca.us                      | 32 | My name is Greg Carroll. This is now my second year teaching at Grace High School. When I heard that the Small Necessary Schools might be cut, I was reminded of a story I once heard. It goes something like this: A man, after finishing a long day of work, strolled to the beach. It had been a long day and the beach always relaxed him. As he drew near, he noticed that the beach was covered in starfish. Thousands of the beautiful creatures lay suffering and dying on the sand. The man sighed, and continued his walk. Along the way, he saw a boy walking toward him. Every few feet the boy bent over, picked up a starfish and threw it back into the sea. When the boy came close enough to the man, the man asked the boy what he was doing. The boy replied, "Helping." "But there are so many, how can you possibly make a difference?" asked the man. The boy bent, picked up another fish and held it up for the man to see. "You see this one?" the boy asked as he threw it into the sea. "I made a difference to him." This is the story of Grace. We continue to pick up our students and give them a chance. We may not reach all of the kids we need to, but we do help a great deal of students. We make a difference for each student/child/starfish we see. If we no longer exist, if we are cut, we don't have a chance at reaching these kids. They deserve a second chance and all of them take advantage of that chance. Thank you for giving us the time and consideration we deserve.  |
| 238 | 11/4 | Andrew Jowers<br>English and<br>newspaper<br>teacher<br>Maria Carrillo<br>High School<br>ajowers@srcs.k1<br>2.ca.us | 53 | When I taught 9th grade, our school librarian proved invaluable on two major assignments. In the planning stages, she helped me figure out which available resources, both hard copy and database, would best help students meet the objectives and standards; and, once students were in the library, she taught them how to access and use those resources with a discriminating eye. The assignments were an I-Search, in which students research a field of particular interest to them; and a presentation as "ambassador" from a country in Asia.  |
| 239 |      | Amy Hoover<br>ahoover@srcs.k1<br>2.ca.us  | 43 | At Special Services we have one clerical person doing all of the computer input so that we are able to keep track of students and get funding from the State and Federal government. She also does backup for telephone and walk-in questions. The other support person answers all of the telephone calls, does some clerical support to the school psychologists and most program managers; she manages the files, incoming and outgoing and handles walk-in parents and professionals among many other tasks. The director has a clerical support person who also supports some program managers, the department orders (including teacher orders) and so much more that I cannot list. We lost a part time clerical support person years ago when budgets were cut. Since that time, due to the fact that we are bare bones for clerical support, the psychologists type all of their own reports, letters, meeting notices, IEPs etc. We set up our own meetings through numerous telephone calls and emails. We do our own zeroxing and mailing and distributing of communication and re-file the files we use for students we are working with. Having the psychologists spend so much time on clerical tasks has very specific costs to the district. Clerical work that can't be handled by the persons hired to do those jobs (because there is too much work and not enough people delegated to do it) is costing the district the per hour pay of a certificated person. Additionally, the more paperwork and clerical tasks that the psychologists have to spend doing, the less time there is to do direct work with and for the students. As our caseloads grow and grow, we cannot meet the needs of the department in compliance with the State and Federal mandates. In summary, our department needs more clerical and support staff, not less! Thank you for your consideration. Amy Cohen Hoover, School Psychologist (of 30 years) |
| 240 | 11/5 | Pamela Devlin<br>pdev1@prodigy.<br>net  | 53 | My favorite writer, Toni Morrison, once said that "Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission." To eliminate the teacher librarians in the Santa Rosa City School District would severely limit this "access to knowledge" that Morrison praises. At Maria Carrillo High School, teacher librarian Sonja Bedford has been a collaborative partner working with me - and others in the English Department in particular - in helping students meet the ELA content and performance standards (as evidenced by our continual rising test scores). With her professional expertise and guidance (which would be severely compromised by a classified staff member overseeing the library, as some have proposed as a "replacement" for a librarian), students have been better served in myriad ways. The following are illustrative of the ways in which she has enriched my teaching and my students' learning: purchase of literary criticism to augment AP students' extensive research project on a poet of choice; book talks to spark 10th and 12th grade student interest in both extended and recreational reading assignments; compilation of an extensive poetry collection to compliment the  |

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|     |      |  |         | award-winning 12th grade Senior Poetry unit; research for auxiliary materials (such as an essay or short story) to support a curriculum unit... I know you are faced with difficult choices. As you may recall, I previously emailed each of you to express my opposition to any increase in class size and my resolve on this issue has not wavered. However, I implore you to look at other proposed reductions, such as Administrative Services staffing, competitive athletics, school closures..., and leave the 7.6 FTE library media teachers' positions intact. This "supreme act" on your part would have long lasting, positive ramifications for all members of our school community.  |
| 241 | 11/5 | Joanne Macchia<br>jmacchia@att.net               | 15      | I think this CAN be cut. I have 3 boys who were identified as GATE but I don't feel that they particularly benefited from any articular GATE program. The skill of the regular classroom teacher and class size was more important.   |
| 242 | 11/5 | Marjorie Grossman<br>mgrossman@san<br>tarosa.edu | 53      | In this age of information overkill and given the lack of authority and accuracy in much of the information available on the internet students definitely need a knowledgeable person to teach them how to access reliable and appropriate information. To be ready to take on the role of citizen in a democracy our students need to know how to get accurate information. Classroom teachers do not have the time to include this information in normal class activates. I strongly urge you not to cut the teacher/librarian positions from the schools.  |
| 243 | 11/5 | Betty Rowell<br>browell@srcs.k1<br>2.ca.us       | General | As a Classified employee of SRCS, I would like to suggest that a possible savings to the District could happen if a Retirement Incentive/Golden Handshake be offered to classified employees of both CSEA #75 & #367. In the past 5 years a retirement incentive was only offered to classified employees once and then only to employees who had at least 20 years in the district, where as certificated employees were offered an incentive every year the past 5 years. A recent survey sent to CSEA #75 employees asking if they would consider retiring in 09/10 or 10/11 if offered a retirement incentive seemed to have a lot of positive response. This could perhaps create openings that would not have to be filled or could be filled with classified positions that are on the cut list. In the past it has been shown to be a savings to the district to offer a retirement incentive but classified employees are rarely given this opportunity. Please consider this option for a possible savings. |
| 244 | 11/5 | Pam Wilsey<br>pamw423@yaho<br>o.com              | 53      | Please don't eliminate our school librarians - they are a vital part of keeping the flow of information alive in our schools.   |
| 245 | 11/5 | jill permutt<br>jillperm@gmail.c<br>om           | 53      | Please do not get rid of our school librarians. big mistake   |
| 246 | 11/5 | Leah Pickar<br>HurleyGurley@s<br>bcglobal.net    | 53      | Please do not eliminate the librarians from our schools! They are an essential part of the library, a system that benefits students and assists teachers daily. The librarians give informational presentations to underclassmen to help them learn how to use the library catalog, online database, how to find reliable information, and more. These are valuable tools and resources to use not only in high school, but especially in college. I am a senior at Maria Carrillo High School, and I beg you to please keep the librarians. Without them, an incredibly, important resource (the library) will become useless. A library cannot function on its own!   |
| 247 | 11/6 | Sheila Lichirie<br>smnjdanty@sbcg<br>lobal.net   | 53      | A school system without librarians? Isn't that like teaching math without numbers? Librarians perform crucial educational functions (beyond what clerical staff can do) for our students. Teaching not only research skills but making all kinds of literature connections for students. Keep our librarians!!!   |
| 248 | 11/6 | michael pointer<br>mpointer@srcs.k<br>12.us.ca   | 53      | I'm a Social Science instructor at Maria Carrillo High School. Our Librarian Sonja Bedford is a wonderful resource to the school, teachers, and students. She assists me with my classes on a regular basis helping students find information for projects and research papers. The student and teacher experience at Carrillo would be greatly diminished with the absence of a qualified librarian like Sonja Bedford.  |
| 249 | 11/6 | Debi Stanley<br>Dstanley@rrmgi<br>nc.com         | 32      | I noticed that Grace High school is one of the schools that may be eliminated, as a parent of a student in Grace High School that really concerns me. What happened to NO KIDS LEFT BEHIND? Without out Grace High School my son would not graduate, he is a bright child that does not fit in with the large classrooms because he has ADHS ( he is medicated) with out the assistance and ability to retrieve credits he could not make in normal classrooms my son will not graduate. The staff provide assistance to children who need it   |

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|     |      |  |         | and give them a curriculum that allows struggling (but responsible students,- good attendance and attitudes) the change to graduate on time and feel successful and provides them the opportunity to have the start the law allows them under no child left behind. Schools like Grace should be expanded not considered for cutting because I had to wait several months to get my son enrolled even though the counselors and teachers knew this would be a better fit for my son. Please reconsider your budget and do what you can to keep these schools open... allow these children to get the education they deserve.  |
| 250 | 11/6 | Bob Tait<br>bobandsassy@yahoo.com  | 53      | I know that tough decisions are required for the financial health of any school district. But I urge you to take a more refined look at the value of librarians on our school campuses and think twice before eliminating any librarian positions. I've observed our librarian, Sonja Bedford, on numerous occasions welcome classes of freshmen to the Maria Carrillo Library and provide thorough orientations. As she questions the students about their knowledge of how to use the library, it's obvious that many of them lack the where with all to utilize the resources available to them. The elimination of creditable elementary school library programs and services certainly has had an adverse effect on the ability of students to use the library proficiently. Students come to high school noticeably behind where they should be in their functional library skills. Thank goodness we have qualified credentialed librarians to pick up the slack at the high school level. Maria Carrillo has a wonderful computer lab which is a popular room with students researching subjects and processing assignments. There are many students who still need basic instructions and support on how to use the computer proficiently. Even students with computer savvy enhance their knowledge through the demonstrations our librarians provides on site. A credentialed librarian is an expert in her or his field and has a depth of knowledge on many subjects and authors unmatched by others on a school campus. Using their skills, librarians effectively direct and assist students in gathering information on point. This kind of service would be hard to duplicate by others who don't have the education and professional experience of a librarian. Librarians are the life blood of a library, without them the library would lose its pulse. They make the difference with their capabilities, not only with the services they provide in the library, but with the support and guidance they provide to students and teachers in the classroom. For some, it seems, it's hard to measure the influence librarians have on student success, but I believe it's very significant especially when you consider the volume of students they come in contact with on a yearly basis. It would be an irreplaceable loss to take the draconian actions to eliminate the librarian positions currently being considered. I know these are very challenging times, but don't disproportionately and drastically eliminate librarian positions without considering the very real consequences. I'm hopeful that you will take what I've written in good measure and reconsider your proposed stance and retain our teacher librarians. |
| 251 | 11/6 | Maria Ptucha<br>macrpt@comcast.net   | 53      | I am a student at Maria Carrillo High School in Santa Rosa. I frequently utilize the school library. Often when I am using the library, I will be searching for a book or other resource on the school's catalog and will need the help of the librarian to come up with proper search words or to verify which section the book can be found in. Countless times my French, History, and English classes have come into the library for class projects and the librarian has already spent the time to pick out books about our research topic which she knows to be very useful. Without their help I would not be aware of many of the libraries available selection of books. The librarian is also very good at giving recommendations for outside reading choices and is very knowledgeable about the books in the library. The great wealth of library books is due in large part to the librarian's awareness of our school's educational interests. I sincerely hope that the school district does not eliminate the teacher librarian position. Thank you for your time.  |
| 252 | 11/6 | Richard Gregus<br>Economics teacher<br>Piner High School<br>rgregus@srcs.k12.ca.us | General | I have taught for the Santa Rosa City Schools since 1978. I have served as a teacher, coach, department chair, community coordinator (Piner), SAT coordinator and campus supervisor. I know that there are at least 40 teachers that are eligible to retire this year. I also, know that there was an agreement reached last year about retirement incentives. But times of budget crisis, this agreement does not make any economic sense. I made about \$93,000 last year as teacher, department chair, golf coach (2 teams) and campus supervisor. So if I retire with an incentive, the district saves 2 beginning salaries or can hire 2 teachers in my place. If you can convince 40 teachers to retire the savings in the long run are enormous. Economically speaking, I know the short run is important right now but over time the incentives to retire will save the district millions of dollars. You need to think out of the box here. An incentive can be a combination of several of things, such as an extra year or two on the years served plus \$25,000 buyout or 2 years of service and \$20,000 in the DBS account, if that is possible. I would like to retire with some kind of show of gratitude from the district for my 32 years of service. My mother, who was a contract negotiator for her union always told me that you don't negotiate yourself in a corner. She said that good faith negotiations leaves some "wiggle room" on both sides. My mother was a very wise woman who was always able to bring contract negotiations to a successful conclusion between labor and management. So please consider offering the potential retiree's some incentive so that we can end our career with dignity and the district can save money, in the long run, with the budget and continue to offer quality education to children in Santa Rosa.  |

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| 253 | 11/7 | john cortopassi<br>jcorto7@yahoo.com     | General | I hope the school board is listening. I just read through the 235 comments posted as of 11/4 and there are plenty of suggestions for cuts and pleas for programs to save. I understand the board is in a difficult position, however now that some of the public has provided input through the Press Democrat, this website and letters I am sure you have received, it is time to have you tell us what you are willing to cut. The next school board meeting of 11/18 is the perfect place for the board to publicly comment on the proposed list of cuts and tell the citizens of Santa Rosa what specific cuts it supports. Without providing specifics, such as which schools it would consider cutting or what programs should be cut, the scheduled town hall meeting on 11/30 would not have the same impact.   |
| 254 | 11/7 | Linda Carpenter<br>linda@mojoluthier.com | 53      | It appears that our appointed decision-makers re where to make budget cuts are, themselves, victims of poor critical thinking. Libraries are much, much more than simply warehouses for book storage. While on-line research is a terrific scholar's tool that greatly aids research and learning, as a stand-alone tool it is severely lacking. Yes, many young students are more attracted to the internet than they are to the library. However, those of us who are successful later on in higher education and in life know that our success has very little to do with our ability to Google search, and a lot to do with our willingness and ability to integrate the many services provided by libraries into our academic efforts, and later on into our real-life endeavors. Especially today, when it is increasingly clear that success in our society will depend on our ability to continually adapt throughout our lifetimes to changing economic/employment circumstances, we must ensure that our future generations understand all the ways they can use our libraries to be the best that they can be. Public school libraries are not an item that should be cut at this critical juncture. They are strong learning tools that should be reassessed as to how to make them even more powerful tools for success in life. Anyone who falsely thinks that the internet should replace the library in our modern society is exhibiting exactly the kind of non-critical thinking that we should be avoiding at all costs. Get them out of these discussions and back into gaming and searching for the best deals on eBay.   |
| 255 | 11/7 | Matthew Gollub<br>mgollub@sonic.net      | 53      | Trimming library staff, hours and capability may save dollars in the short run but is an exceedingly short-sighted approach to balancing school budgets overall. Numerous studies suggest that academic achievement suffers when access to library materials is curtailed. Students need HOOKS to learn and stay engaged in school. The media instructors staffing the libraries are in a unique position to guide and stimulate students in ways that over-stretched classroom teachers cannot. Cut executive pay and pensions; withhold stipends paid to School Board members. But DON'T limit access to libraries and library instruction! That would be counter-productive to the goal of raising intelligent, productive citizens who can later sustain public schools in the future.   |
| 256 | 11/9 | Lexi C<br>ladyyingyang@hotmail.com       | 31      | Hello there, My name is Lexi Calixto. I'm a Senior here at Maria Carrillo and I just wanted to establish how much help the librarians have been these last few years. Without them, I would not have been able to find anything that I needed to research for any of my classes. Sure, access to a computer is easy to get, but that won't matter if I didn't know HOW to research my given subject. Our school librarian has been an ideal person to help me and my fellow students with our ever growing workload. She's also there as a resource herself and can easily find materials that we need in hand or online. Thanks to our librarian, we've been able to keep our library in tip top shape rather than the chaos that it would have been with only one volunteer working the area, if we even got that volunteer. Please understand that if you take away our librarians, later generations will lose a valuable tutor in resource and the manager to keep everything in order. We won't be getting any new books that have been deemed well enough for our growing student body, nor will we have the chance to meet with authors, or guest speakers who can talk with us about things going on in the area of certain things. I know for a fact that many of my fellow students are aspiring to be authors of their own books, and who better to help them with that goal than the librarian who can get them the chance to meet with well known and open minded authors such as Jodie German and Jonathan Straud? Sure, we might be able to keep the library going with some volunteers, but really, what parent is going to take the time out of their busy life to take over a job that they aren't even trained for? In all honesty it will better benefit everyone to keep the librarians who have taken care of our beloved libraries for so long and who have been able to help in our times of (studious) crises. Please allow us to keep our librarians and friends, |
| 257 | 11/9 | Tiffany Bronzan<br>tbronzan@comcast.net  | General | I'm very concern about the potential of cutting school libraries. I feel this would be very detrimental to students, teachers and the community. When you start cutting libraries you cut the ability to teach children to read for research and pleasure. Grades will suffer as well. You are cutting professionals who are taught to help teachers with research and students how to read for school and pleasure. You are taking away opportunities. You are taking away from the education process. Please re-consider closing down school libraries, the schools need their libraries to be successful.   |
| 258 | 11/9 | Vandy Tompkins                           | 53      | To cut our school Librarians is a step backward in the education of our students. OUR public. Please reconsider.   |

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|     |       | vandy@sonoma.l<br>ib.ca.us  |         |   |
| 259 | 11/9  | Victoria<br>Meredith<br>notorious57@sbc<br>global.net                     | 49      | I think that this would be a mistake for the board to make this decision. Studies have shown that lower class sizes have improved student learning. If the class sizes increase then the student achievement will go down. With the stresses made on student achievement and learning and the AYP and API scores being THE thing to improve increasing class sizes will only make our district go into a deeper hole. This would be a grave mistake that will last for many years and cost our district even more money.  |
| 260 | 11/9  | Lynn Dorsey<br>williamdorsey32<br>1@comcasrt.net                          | 61      | School Bus Transportation: Please do not eliminate the bus route to our neighborhood. We live on Crimson Lane off of Brandee Lane. We would not be able to pick up our son after until 5:30 pm & do not want him hanging out at Maria Carrillo where he will be in 9 <sup>th</sup> grade next year. Thank you. L. D.  |
| 261 | 11/10 | Donna Hokanson<br>dhokanson@srcs.<br>k12.ca.us                            | 39      | Like most clerical positions, this position has a specific rhythm--lighter work flow at the beginning of the week--increasing as the week progresses. It involves ordering food for the following week. Instead of "6 hours per day"--the change should read "30 hours per week--specific hours to be determined by the CNS Department". This would make the change much more efficient and workable.   |
| 262 | 11/10 | Katya Anderson<br>katyamom@soni<br>c.net                                  | 55      | Increasing enrollment in classes and eliminating classes if enrollment doesn't meet a specific target number (which I assume would be 2/3rds of the "standard" enrollment) is a detriment to our kids. Study after study has shown the direct correlation to learning and class size. Eliminating classes (as history as shown these tend to be the honors and AP classes) is harming kids who need extra challenges to develop to their full potential. Do NOT approve this agenda item.   |
| 263 | 11/10 | George Spinas<br><a href="mailto:gspinas@saber.net">gspinas@saber.net</a> | 10      | Tim Gilligan, the student advisor at Ridgway High School, is a vital component in the daily operation of their school. Please consider other cuts at this site if any cuts are deemed necessary. Thank you.   |
| 264 | 11/10 | Cynthia<br>DeMoore<br>cindy_demooore<br>@yahoo.com                        | 32      | The state of California plagued by economic struggles, unemployment and uncertainty, is also currently faced with another factor on the rise, high school dropouts. The number of students leaving high school before graduation has grown exponentially. In today's society, very few are looking forward with optimism. Many families are experiencing financial difficulties along with layoffs and unemployment. When economic pressures are added to possible academic struggles, I believe many students lose the drive to complete high school. If they cannot graduate in four years due to failing a class or non-transferable credits, many will simply give up rather than make the extra effort. There are also students who simply do not understand the need for higher level education in the modern world. Many do not realize how difficult they make their lives when they decide to quit on themselves. For the state of California the rise in high school dropouts has an extremely negative effect. Most who leave high school before graduation will never make enough money to pay taxes; therefore, those who do diligently finish high school and college are forced to pay more. I believe there is a rise in violence, young single mothers, and criminal activity in alignment with the rise in high school dropouts. This outcome costs the state a significant amount of money coming directly from the taxpayers. Santa Rosa, we need more of these necessary high schools not less! Clearly the students attending Mesa, Midrose, and Grace would fall through the cracks at the larger high schools. These students rely on smaller high school settings where teachers and counselors are more individually involved. Please, let's not contribute to this rising statistic by closing these valuable and necessary schools. |
| 265 | 11/10 | Arlene Kallen<br>arlenekal@yahoo<br>.com                                  | 53      | I am writing to oppose eliminating 7.6 FTE current library media teacher positions from the District schools. In this day of information overload, school librarians are more important than ever before. Students need them right in their local schools: librarians who teach them how to navigate and evaluate results when they try to use the Web for research; librarians who guide them to the best books and help make reading a fun and lifelong activity. Please don't eliminate these most valuable members of your education team.  |
| 266 | 11/11 | Rose Morgan<br>zenithh@aol.com  | General | Sorry I missed Wally Lowry at Burbank on Friday in the staff room at noon. Was too busy assisting students at lunchtime with their work. Some suggestions to assist with the 2010-2011 budget crisis: In order to provide the best education for students and protect current jobs and avoid closures of schools, as well as attract new students, I submit that publishers of adopted curriculum provide trainings for all teachers gratis at staff meeting times so that this is accomplished during contractual time and no additional monies are required from the general budget- and no release days or substitute teachers are   |

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|     |       |   |         | necessary, as trainings are provided by publishers, implement a temporary freeze on book adoptions, furlough days to take place for two days during Thanksgiving week, and use of volunteers to provide after school support for students.   |
| 267 | 11/11 | Steve<br>Mx5Racr@gmail<br>.com                                | 11      | 58K spread amongst the Districts elementary schools is already ridiculously low, given the importance of engaging the left side of the brain in creative endeavors, which has been shown time and time again in numerous studies to have a clearly positive impact on a student's ability to learn and apply complex functions.  |
| 268 | 11/12 | Linda Katlarz<br>Slater Middle<br>school<br>Wolfwmn48@aol.com | General | I'm an employee of Santa Rosa City Schools and work at Slater Middle School, in Child Nutrition. IM aware that the Golden Handshake is on the negotiation board and I'm really hoping the board will vote yes on it. Those of us old timers with 20 years or more, some with less, are hoping this incentive will pass so we can retire with a little extra added on to our years. We know times are tough right now, but in the long run this would save you money to offer this to those of us who have been waiting for years for this to come around again. I know for a fact, many in food service would retire if this was offered. Please consider voting yes on the handshake.   |
| 269 | 11/13 | C. Louise Lash<br>llash@srcs.k12.ca.us                        | 53      | Please do not cut the Librarians. I work as a library technician at Hidden Valley Elementary and Hidden Valley Satellite. I have had the privilege of working with Sonja Bedford the last few years. Not only does she work as librarian at Maria Carillo High School, she works with elementary schools in our district sharing her knowledge, love of books, expertise in children's literature, and management skills. With my nine hours a week at both sites, Sonja's little time with us allows us to keep our elementary school libraries running smoothly and efficiently. We need her. Thanks   |
| 270 | 11/14 | Victoria Paul<br>tpaul@srcs.k12.ca.us                         | 33      | Instead of considering closing a school due to declining enrollment, the school district should stop granting transfers to other schools and other districts. This open enrollment policy has created unbalanced and segregated schools. Some campuses are packed to the seams while other sites have empty rooms. Demographically, the school sites are very different. The district should make decisions about site capacity and redistribute the students to reduce impact on crowded campuses and to create more diverse student populations that reflect the real world. The initial decision to allow transfers seems to have been made in a cooperative spirit, however, times are tough and we are in competition with outlying school districts. By allowing unlimited transfers we have created an image of some schools being more desirous than others. Perhaps even attendance boundaries need to be updated and reconsidered to take into account changes in neighborhood populations and development. Well balanced schools with diverse populations are healthy and realistic. This balance will positively affect test scores across the district and will help bring us up out of program improvement. Students who attend their own neighborhood school develop a sense of community. These positive changes will in turn attract families to their neighborhood schools and stop this vicious cycle of "flight"   |
| 271 | 11/14 | Victoria Paul<br>tpaul@srcs.k12.ca.us                         | 49      | In order to effectively meet the academic needs of elementary school students, it is important to have both whole group direct instruction and small group instruction at the specific level of the students. At the Kindergarten level, an effective size for small group instruction is from 4 – 6 students, depending on the level of focus, maturity, and independence of the individuals. I have been teaching kindergarten for 15 years. When I first started teaching K, I had 32 students in my class, a team teacher and a full time instructional aide (LA Unified). When it was time to have small group instruction, I could have half the class working with an adult- 3 groups of five- and half the class working independently. We would do this twice a day during reading and math time, and work with different groups each time. So, every child had small group contact with an adult every day. Now things are very different. The academic expectations are much much higher. When I first started teaching K, students were only introduced to material that they are now expected to master. I am now teaching what was then first grade. Kindergarten students learn to read, write, add and subtract. Kindergarten is not playing in the sandbox and snack time. We are setting the foundation for their entire school experience. Often times, our students begin kindergarten already very behind. If a student has not gone to preschool, they are at a terrible disadvantage and need more practice and individual instruction. Now, however, I do it all alone. There is no team teacher, there is no aide. So, logistically when I have my small group time, I can work with 5 students while the other 15 (oh, I mean 17) engage in independent activities. As you may well imagine, it is challenging getting 17 five year olds to engage cooperatively in independent activities so the group with the teacher can work effectively. So, this small group time is short, before we must clean up and move on to the next task. Again, I do this twice a day during language arts and math and see a different group each time. So, now, only half the class can have a small group lesson with me that meets their specific learning needs each day. However, if class size were to be increased by another 7 students, that changes everything. It increases the group size and creates a whole other group, decreasing the |

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|     |       |   |         | amount of small group differentiated instruction each student is receiving. Instead of every other day, some students would see the teacher every third day. This is not enough practice and reinforcement for these students. We have such high expectations for our students, if we want them to succeed we must provide them with the tools they need and the opportunity to receive the instruction at their developmental level. Please do not increase class size any more.  |
| 272 | 11/16 | Donna Hokanson<br><a href="mailto:dhokanson@srcs.k12.ca.us">dhokanson@srcs.k12.ca.us</a>                          | General | Please consider offering the Golden Handshake.   |
| 273 | 11/16 | Holly Ramos<br>Library Technician<br>HCMS/PHS<br><a href="mailto:hramos@srcs.k12.ca.us">hramos@srcs.k12.ca.us</a> | 53      | As both a mother of two children in elementary school and as a library technician assigned to Hilliard Comstock Middle School and Piner High School, I am profoundly troubled by the proposed cutting of our district's librarians. I have witnessed firsthand how essential our librarians' services are to both students and staff, and I feel they are crucial to the academic success of our student population. I endeavor to be helpful and competent in my job as a library technician, but I am not qualified to teach the students how to write a bibliography or conduct a proper research. I don't know how to help them sort through the quagmire of internet sources for legitimate information. I am not a credentialed teacher. As staff, we consistently urge students to work hard and to strive for academic success. We encourage them to look towards college and higher learning as attainable goals. How then can we deny our students access to the very services that will help them achieve these goals? As a mother, I am alarmed at the prospect of my children going through middle school and high school without access to a librarian. As a district, can we afford to sacrifice the vital services our librarians provide our students?  |
| 274 | 11/16 | Casey Carl<br><a href="mailto:ccarl@srcs.k12.ca.us">ccarl@srcs.k12.ca.us</a>                                      | 74      | My name is Casey Carl and I am the Counselor for Mesa High School. I support many students who have not been able to make it in a traditional comprehensive high school setting. Many of my students are at-risk. They have personal issues which they are handling in addition to their goal of graduating high school. Last year my position was reduced by ten percent and this made a huge difference in my availability to support them with their needs. It would be a terrible loss to these students and their families if my time or position was reduced further or severed all-together. These are the students who need the most support. They are the students of our district who have been identified and sent to Mesa to receive additional services and support. Please find other ways to make the reductions that you must make. Please do not take from these students that so desperately need the services. This may very well be their last opportunity to graduate high school and pursue a positive future. Thank you sincerely for your time.  |
| 275 | 11/16 | Casey Carl<br><a href="mailto:ccarl@srcs.k12.ca.us">ccarl@srcs.k12.ca.us</a>                                      | 24      | My name is Casey Carl and I am the Counselor at Mesa High School. I have been working with at-risk teenagers for over ten years. I have worked as a Counselor and a Teacher everywhere from Juvenile Hall to Home Hospital Programs. Mesa High School is unlike any program I have seen offered. At Mesa, we support students that would not have otherwise made it to graduation in other traditional high school settings. Daily, I have parents, students, teachers, and other community members tell me what a difference this program has meant to a child and/or a family. Mesa High School has changed the lives of their students for the last seventeen years. Mesa has taken students of our district who pleaded for additional support and assistance with their lives, issues, and family. Mesa has offered them a safe place where they can be part of the community, an active citizen, and a cared for, important individual. Many students who needed extra one on one instruction have learned material that they might not have ever been able to in another setting. This is reflected in our incredible test scores. At Mesa, we have the ability to focus on the individual student and help them pursue their goal of graduation and look into their dreams of their future. Many people have said that Mesa is a model for what education could and should look like. Please don't close this school. It serves as a safe haven for so many students and their families. It remains a place where graduates come back to and a place that has a waiting list for students who wish to be here. Every time a new student and family enroll here they thank us. They say there has never been a time when their student enjoyed coming to school so much. We take the coercion out of school and empower students to succeed for themselves. It is similar to their future in college. They will be expected to be independent and given choices in life. At Mesa, we give them the freedom to begin that journey here. Please consider some of our proposals to keep our school open. Thank you for your time. I can only imagine how difficult it must be to have to make the decisions that you are faced with. |
| 276 | 11/16 | Shawn Garrity<br>Counselor<br>Santa Rosa High School  | 14      | My name is Shawn Garrity and I am a support counselor at Santa Rosa High School. It is my 3rd year in this position and this year's seniors were sophomores when I began at SRHS. Nothing has given me more pleasure than hugging my seniors on graduation night, especially those that have had a rough road to accomplish this goal. This year I will have that awesome honor again and even more so after being with these senior for 3 years now. I am also in my 4th year as a football coach for Maria Carrillo High School.   |

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|     |       | shawn.garrity@sbcglobal.net             |         | I am forced to write you this e-mail because my job and all that it means is on the chopping block due to the abnormal financial situation we are in. I understand that you have asked for suggestions on things that I feel should be cut. I am absolutely not in a position to offer those suggestions for varying reasons. Even though I cannot give my opinions on what you should cut, I can ask that you deeply consider the repercussions of cutting more counseling for our high schools. Our 500:1 ratios are already very high in comparison to other state averages (please see this link <a href="http://asca2.timberlakepublishing.com/files/ratios%281%29.pdf">http://asca2.timberlakepublishing.com/files/ratios%281%29.pdf</a> ), and the support counseling program offers a very viable, effective and necessary resource for not only the at-risk students it directly serves, but also the relief it provides all students, in all categories. This money lowers the ratios for counselors to have the time to assist a student when they need someone to talk to about things such as college entrance, social difficulties with friends, what pathway they need, or even the loss of their parent or close family member that has flipped their world upside down. These are very common topics and all important. We barely have time with the support counseling program to reach these student needs. Taking it away would be more than a huge detriment to the district's goal of "Knowing every student by name and need". This, in fact, would actually increase our already difficult chances of meeting that mission. We would lose more students in the cracks, have fewer resources for those students in need and suffer the consequences of this choice. As a support counselor, I meet daily with the students that are putting our district in Program Improvement status. I am on the front line dealing with these students and families. I serve them daily in many ways. Without this program, these students would go unnoticed, under served and continue to fall further behind, as will our district. The domino effect will cause this to hurt other students that are not at risk, as they will lose more resources because our district will be penalized. I understand that you are in a no win situation. I ask that you please try and save this program and as many programs like this that directly affect students daily. These adult problems and inadequacies can no longer harm our students. They don't have much left and have less people to turn to for help. I am one of the few left. Please make the decision to protect this. Please feel free to call me anytime to discuss what I do and how many students I serve. I will be elated to share. Work 535-4782 Cell (530) 604-2999 |
| 277 | 11/17 | Kendi Aliff<br>kendialiff@yahoo.com     | 32      | Hi my name is Kendi Aliff and I'm a student at Grace High School. I'm writing you because I don't think its right that you are trying to close are small necessary schools. If it wasn't for Grace and Midrose I wouldn't be where I am today. I am a senior on my way to Graduation. I graduate Dec 18, 2009. If it wasn't for these small necessary schools I would of dropped out and be on the streets probably shooting up and drinking and not caring about my future my life. But now I'm in school soon to graduate. Caring about my life because of fellow students, teachers, our principal and, most of all my counselor. They have showed me what life is all about and have encouraged me to go to college. So when I'm done with school in December I am going to start at the Jc. I'm going to take Culinary classes because I want to be a Pastry Chef. So I hope you read these letters and take them into consideration.   |
| 278 | 11/17 | Tim Tobon<br>tbone1193@att.net          | 32      | I think that if you close Grace it causes many students not to be able to graduate. I went to Piner and I didn't go to school very much. Now going to Grace I have learned that in order to graduate I have to do my work and have better attendance.  |
| 279 | 11/17 | Nikolai S. Muniz<br>jberry@srcs.k12     | 32      | Please don't shut Grace down. It gives kids the opportunity to get on there feet and start there life. They get a second chance and may determine whether there futures are good or bad. Grace has given me that second chance. Before Grace, I was failing high school. I can honestly say, if Grace didn't exist, I believe by now I would have been a drop out.   |
| 280 | 11/17 | Max<br>jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us            | 32      | Shutting down Grace high school would not be a good decision. If Grace high was shut down there would be a large number of students including myself that wouldn't be able to graduate. When you look around Grace you will see that all of the teachers do there jobs well and all of the students work diligently. The reason for this is because the only people that get into grace are people that really want to graduate and make changes in their lives. Grace will kick you out if you don't try to graduate and they have a strict 90% attendance policy so people who ditch a lot will also get kicked out. Grace high school helps a lot of students so it would be bad for everyone if you did decide to shut down grace high school  |
| 281 | 11/17 | Diana<br>jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us          | General | I am a junior at Grace high school. Grace has helped me earn my credits so that I can catch up and graduate next year. If it wasn't for Grace I would have to get my G.E.D. So please don't close grace high school!   |
| 282 | 11/17 | Randy Rivera<br>kingsnation10@yahoo.com | General | I attend Grace high school, and I think it would be a disaster to close down Grace; I don't speak just for myself but for the rest of the students in the other necessary schools. Grace gives us the second chance we need; Grace is a special place because here all ethnicities can talk and get along. In Piner you would never know those people existed. Because of the small number of students, teachers get   |

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|     |       |   |         | more time to help and talk to each individual student in their needs for success. I also feel that if the necessary schools close it would also end the dreams of most people. This is a last resort for many people like myself. I didn't go to school half of my freshman year because of difficult family problems in Mexico, then a big surgery in my sophomore year only giving me 40 credits. Here at Grace I can make up all the credits and get back on track to graduate and later attend college. I can change my life drastically at Grace, please allow me to do that!  |
| 283 | 11/17 | Mark<br>jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us                             | General | Please don't close down Grace. Grace is very important to me because I need credits to graduate. Grace has done a lot for me even though it's my first year here. My grades are better and I'm coming to school. I use to stay home all the time and It messed up my grades because I never made up the class work I missed. If the board closes down Grace I won't get those credits I missed. Please don't close down Grace.  |
| 284 | 11/17 | Robert Gayda-McCall<br>jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us              | 32      | If you decide to close Grace High I probably won't be able to graduate and then I would have to drop out of school. When I came to Grace I had a second opportunity to make what I didn't do at Piner. My dreams after graduating are go to a community collage or a trade school working on vehicles and buildings. It would be a big mistake to close down Grace High because this is where people like myself make a difference in life and correct mistake they once made.  |
| 285 | 11/17 | Landon Reher<br>jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us                     | 32      | I think it would be a horrible thing if Grace were to be shut down! I am a new student at Grace and I really need to be here to make up credits. If Grace gets shut down there is no way I'll be able to graduate on time. So far that is all I know I want to do. I don't know what job I want or anything, but I know I want to graduate on time. This is a really good school; you can tell from the minute you start. It has a great staff that cares, and all the students here want to graduate and are really trying. So PLEASE DON'T shut down Grace!   |
| 286 | 11/17 | Edwin Zaldivar<br>Grace student<br>chevecha17@hotmail.com | 32      | Grace is very important to me because they help me to get my credits for my graduation and the teachers are very good whit as because we need a lot of help of them that why I feel so sad Grace doesn't going to exist no more and I wan Grace forever because they are going to help another people of other schools I never feel better in other school but in Grace I feel so comfortable they help me to learn a lot of thing what I don't know that why I toll you please don't close Grace thanks  |
| 287 | 11/17 | Maria<br>browneyez1335@yahoo.com<br>alcazar               | 32      | I go to Grace high school. I have learned so many things in this school. I think you shouldn't close the small necessary schools because some student really need that education. I have been struggling very hard my past years and thanks to Grace now I'm doing way better in all my classes. If you close the schools I don't know what I would do. I would probably have to drop out because there is no way I'm going to get all my credits by the time I graduate. The teachers at Grace are so cool. They have been the most wonderful teachers in my whole life. Grace is the only place I get to really concentrate on my work. I love being at Grace, please I'm begging you not to close the only opportunity I have.   |
| 288 | 11/17 | Edgar S.<br>jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us                         | 32      | I am a Jr. at Grace high school this year. I've been struggling with school as far as I could remember. Ever since I got to grace my grades have changed a lot I went from d's and c's to a B average. I really want to graduate with my class in time. And if I go back to a regular high school I won't be able to graduate in time and ill just be another drop out. None of my brothers ever graduated from high school I want to be the first one to make my parents proud of me for getting my diploma and walking with the rest of my class in 2010. If you guys close down Grace high school a lot of students will not be graduating in time some will be dropping out so please please please don't close Grace high school.  |
| 289 | 11/17 | Cindy Cortez<br>jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us                     | 32      | I attend to Grace high school, and I think that if you close every opportunity school it will affect all of us that go because we are learning and trying our best to graduate and make our family's happy that we made it. but if they close it there's no point of trying because grace helps me a lot and would be there for me when I need them so I think you should not closed grace high school because my teacher's understand what I'm going thru and will help me make it and tell me not to fall back. and without grace I wouldn't get all my credits to graduate and I want to graduate to make my dreams come true and be proud of my self by making it and to thank grace for helping me get all my credits. So I'm here to tell you to please not close Grace high school because without Grace I don't know what ill be doing rite now. so please don't closed down the only opportunity I have in my life I only have one chance and I want to graduate to go to college and become a detective and a good cook because that's what I want to be when I grow up. So please don't do this to us don't close down Grace high school.... |

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| 290 | 11/17 | Rodrigo solorio12786@yahoo.com  | 32 | I just recently heard about the possibility of our small necessary high school (Grace) being shut down. When I heard this I got really upset because like many other students I benefit from this school in many ways. For example with out this school I wouldn't be able to graduate. Grace High is a very helpful school that has helped many students graduate. Like my older sister graduated on time because of Grace. Grace High is a very helpful school that has helped many students change the way they looked at school in a very positive way. My older sister started Grace with only 25 credits on her junior year. Nobody thought she would graduate. But with the help of Grace and a little hard work she managed graduated on time. Which made my parents happy and proud. I would also like to make my parents happy and proud so please don't close Grace High!   |
| 291 | 11/17 | Kendra Gonzalez jberry@srcs.ca.us                                     | 32 | It would be very sad to many students trying to get their education if you closed down Grace High. It might seem like just another school, but it is much more than that. Before I attended Grace I was at Piner High, and I was not doing well. It is not that I am a bad student, it is that I need extra help and grace provides the help that I need and therefore I am succeeding. School has never really been easy for me but once I came to grace it thought me to appreciate school. If you shut down Grace, many many people will be devastated. This decision will strongly affect us students' future.   |
| 292 | 11/17 | Jessica Perdew jberry@srcs.us   | 32 | If small necessary schools were to be shut down, many students won't be able to get the education credentials they need to be successful in life. I don't understand why the board would want to cut such an amazing program that encourages students to attend school and gives kids a second chance. Please Save our schools and keep our students Educated!   |
| 293 | 11/17 | Jordan Pigg jberry@srcs.ca.us   | 32 | It would be very disappointing to see Grace High School gone next year. As a senior, I feel that both my years at Grace have been very helpful in giving me a second chance to finally be back on track to graduate. I'm sure if you asked any other student here the same question, they'd say the same thing. Some of the students here have made great progress with their grades but need these small necessary schools to graduate and be able to move on next year and do something with their lives. If these schools were to be cut that means that the hope of many students to graduate will be cut also. Every student at these schools has to have 90% attendance or else they are in danger of being dropped from the school. The demands that are made on us are a positive thing and I feel I am making real changes in my life. I owe this to Grace I hope that you will take these thoughts into account when you make your decision.   |
| 294 | 11/17 | Miguel jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 32 | I heard about the budget cut n please don't shut down our school. Grace high is an opportunity for us to make something of our lives and we lost all hope when we found out that they are trying to close our school. If our school gets shut down I won't be able to graduate on time and make my family proud they will be devastated if I don't graduate on time. Ill need to stay in school for two more years and that will make my life hard. I regret not trying during my other school years and grace has given me back that opportunity. Please don't seal my last door to make something of myself  |
| 295 | 11/17 | Edgar Lugo jberry@srcs.k12.ca.us                                      | 32 | I know the state has to cut down school budgets and they're thinking about shutting down small necessary schools. I just want to say that they shouldn't do that because I'm a student at Grace High School, which is a small necessary school behind Piner High School. Grace School has helped me a great deal. It has helped me in catching up on my credits and my attendance. Before I was enrolled in Grace High School I was at Piner High. I was struggling and didn't have all the credits that I needed to have at that time. Then I came to Grace High and it helped me get the credits I needed to have and get me back on track. Before I was missing a lot of things to get on track, but I caught up with everything and now I just need to worry about my senior classes. Everybody deserves a second chance and having the necessary school is their second chance. They can't take away schools for students who want to learn and get on track to change their lives around and do well in life.                                      |
| 296 | 12/8  | Kara Myers MCHS Teacher/Coach/Athletic Director kmyers@srcs.k12.ca.us | 60 | I am concerned with cutting 25% from the athletic budget when it includes huge pool costs. The board has heard a colleague of mine express his concerns and question why athletics is being charged a \$95,000 pool fee, I won't be repeating his email to you. We are being grossly overcharged for the pool if this contract is for swimming alone. One way this amount has been explained to me is that the entire \$95K should not be taken only out of athletics, but it is an accounting issue and it is simpler to take it from one place. My question is why are we letting this accounting issue affect our student athletes? The athletic budget is a very small portion of the overall budget, I've been told less than 1%. However, it could create major cuts to athletic programs at all our schools! I'm including some research findings. I spoke of at the second town hall meeting. Many students perform better when they have something to motivate them, athletes have sports. The North Coast Section has shared their findings of |

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|     |       |   |         | <p>a research done comparing student athletes to non student athletes. I was pleased to see how well our student athletes do in school! I realize that we have come upon hard times with state budget cuts and you have some big decisions to make. I don't want to unfairly punish the many students who benefit from our athletic programs. Their benefit help to motivate them to be successful students, almost 1/3 of the population at our high schools participate in athletics.</p> <p>GPA average:<br/> Athlete 2.86 Non-Athlete 1.96</p> <p>Absences:<br/> Athlete 6.52 days Non-Athlete 12.57 days</p> <p>Discipline Referrals:<br/> Athlete 30.51 Non-Athlete 40.29%</p> <p>Drop-out Rate:<br/> Athlete .07% Non-Athlete 8.98%</p> <p>Graduation Rate:<br/> Athlete 99.56% Non-Athlete 94.66%</p> |
| 297 | 12/9  | Patrice Moore<br>all5moores@gmail.com   | 50      | No prep period means cutting art and P.E., and I am against this cut. A rounded education is what we should be aiming for, and often it is in these classes where children blossom. And in light of the drastic increase in childhood obesity, the last thing we should cut is physical education.  |
| 298 | 12/9  | Patrice Moore<br>all5moores@gmail.com   | General | In this budget crisis, it is time to think outside the box and reevaluate the way things have been done in the past. How about testing every other year instead of every year. Wow, the savings on paper and printing alone would be huge, not to mention the savings of implementing the testing protocol. And where are the district cuts? How many high salaried administrators need a car allowance? Cutting that actually may save a few teachers jobs, and for California to become a leader in education, more teachers is what is needed, not less.   |
| 299 | 12/9  | Patrice Moore<br>all5moores@gmail.com   | 49      | As a parent of a 6th grader, a 2nd grader, and a kindergartener, I am opposed to any increases in class sizes in the K-3 grades. Research has shown that small class sizes increase a child's ability to learn, and allows the teacher to focus on individual children versus just providing crowd control. I challenge any one on the school board to spend a day with 29.75 kindergarteners and see how much standards based teaching can be accomplished.  |
| 300 | 12/9  | Paul Moore<br>deadcoldfish@yahoo.com  | General | It seems that there should be a reduction of District Staff to match the proposed reductions of Teaching / Classified Staff. This should be accomplished by increasing the span of control and reporting assignments for the District staff, as is normally done in the Corporate world. Also, any proposed pay cuts should also apply to District staff, and I would suggest that any incentive programs be examined and suspended for the duration of the budget crisis. It seems foolhardy to compromise the direct education component, while retaining all District level staff.   |
| 301 | 12/10 | Patty Mede<br><a href="mailto:mmede@comcast.net">mmede@comcast.net</a>            | 31      | Do Not cut libraries  |
| 302 | 12/10 | Lore Loucks<br><a href="mailto:lloucks@srcs.k12.ca.us">lloucks@srcs.k12.ca.us</a> | 10      | I have noticed there are no public comments posted past November 17th. Have Board members received more recent comments that the public cannot view? Is there an electronic glitch? Please respond if you receive this.   |
| 303 | 12/11 | Gal Cohen-Sandler<br><a href="mailto:jcohensand@aol.com">jcohensand@aol.com</a>   | 1       | This is one item that can be cut.   |

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| 304 | 12/11 | Gal Cohen-Sandler<br>jcohensand@aol.com  | 21         | This is one program that should be expanded at the expense of another language such as French. If we are to compete with the rest of the world educationally teacher a language that is used by close to 1 billion people worldwide makes more sense than teaching a language that sounds beautiful but is not practical in today's world market.   |
| 305 | 12/11 | Rick Robison<br>rick.robison@sonoma.edu  | Librarians | As an academic librarian at Sonoma State University, I see the advantage that students have in higher education who have been taught information literacy skills and been able to use a well maintained library collection. For this reason, I am writing to ask the school board to reconsider the cuts of credentialed librarian positions. Librarians play a key role in working with teachers to craft engaging lessons that use library resources and spur independent learning by students. Librarians also teach students key information literacy skills, such as how to develop research strategies, evaluate information, form research questions, and how to avoid plagiarism. Although libraries are invaluable to students as places to "hang out", study, and concentrate, libraries true value is found in the experts who guide students and maintain these facilities and collections. Cutting credentialed librarians is a shortsighted approach that may save the district money now, but will end up costing students over the course of their academic careers.        |
| 306 | 12/11 | Lore Loucks<br>lore.loucks@att.net       | General    | Close all schools and district office from July 1 through July 30.  |
| 307 | 12/13 | john cortopassi<br>jcorto7@yahoo.com     | General    | Now that you have heard from the public at least 2 school board meetings and 2 "town hall" meetings, is the board willing to tell the community what it is willing to cut before the next school board meeting in January so that the public can give feedback on real cuts? 64 or 65 proposed ideas is one thing, a list of what the board wants cut vs what the board wants saved is what the community DESERVES at this point. Whatever happened to the direction given to district office to bring back a report on what \$600,000 cuts at district office would look like. I sat through the hours of board meetings and town hall meetings and that district office was mute on the subject. Does the community deserve to hear what that impact would be?  |
| 308 | 12/14 | Lynnette Casey<br>Lcasey@src.k12.ca.us   | General    | I question the necessity for all non-credential staff to be given mandatory health insurance - regardless their need for it. I understand that originally the union negotiated a lower rate premium by including ALL classified staff. I know (just in my work location alone) at least 3 clerical staff whom do not need this coverage. The district is paying \$500+- per month per employee each month. In my office alone the d.o. would incur a savings of \$18,000 per year. I think the district should circulate a survey of classified employees and find out who needs this coverage and determine if there would be a savings.   |
| 309 |       | Lynnette Casey<br>Lcasey@src.k12.ca.us   | General    | I think it may be time for the Santa Rosa City School District to consider merging with one or several of the 8 other school districts in Santa Rosa. Most cities or towns in California have 1 -2 school districts -there is no need for Santa Rosa to have 8 districts. Having this many districts is an amazing waste of \$\$ and resources. Considering salaries for the administration and staff alone is amazing. SRCS has had an attitude of being better than... and I believe it is time to join "them" and combine our talents instead of spending \$\$ working against each other (different districts) at the expense of our students and staff.  |
| 310 | 12/14 | Nicky Gisonno<br>ngisonno@srcs.k12.ca.us | 43         | The special services department currently runs on a minimum of support staff. When one of the support staff is absent, the department can barely handle the additional workload and it takes days to clear the back log of telephone inquiries, record requests, walk in requests, computer input etc. The impact on reducing the support staff by one position would be detrimental on every person providing special services to the student in SRCS. As a school psychologist, the direct support provided to me by the support staff is limited due to their work load and work duties. However, I am grateful for what support I do get from them. Part of my work week is spent writing reports, letters, meeting notices, IEP's; setting up meetings through email's or telephone calls; making copies, mailing and distributing various communications instead of providing direct services to students. Cutting a position will yet again result in further reduction in direct services provided to students and ultimately affect funding from the State and Federal government. |
| 311 | 12/14 | Sheila<br>scasey@srcs.k12.ca.us          | General    | If our district would realize they could very easily save money by allowing Monroe School to honor the Willie Brown Job Share in our contract, we would all be happy. By hiring someone to take our place who makes less money than us old teachers do, they could SAVE MONEY. Please encourage them to allow us what every other school gets to do. We have been waiting for 4 years to hear the verdict.  |

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| 312 | 12/14 | Jennifer Rousseau/cns warehouse precus@sbcglobal.net | 37      | My first comments were lost in space, so here I go again. I have been with CNS for over 16yrs, but in the warehouse for over 8yrs. CNS is trying to increase the sales on campuses by providing more varieties of food, both breakfast and lunch. Yes, we did lose 2 contract accounts, but it doesn't really impact the warehouse. We still have the same amount of trucks coming, those products have to be received and put away. We still have the secondary sites we pull orders for and deliver, and the kitchen that we pull orders for daily. The loss of revenue does impact our department but, not in the warehouse. This job needs 2 people to be able to operate efficiently.  |
| 313 | 12/15 | Susie Kiraly skiraly@srcs.k12.ca.us                  | General | Again, provide an attractive monetary incentive for retiring teachers. You will save money by hiring new teachers who don't cost so much to pay on a monthly basis.   |
| 314 | 12/15 | Tom Montan tmontan@copperbook.com                    | 53      | I am deeply saddened that this proposal is even a consideration. As a long time tax payer and local businessman I am keenly aware of the budgetary considerations that must be before you. Regardless of the many pressures, I firmly believe that the critical connection that students have to the vastly changing world of information rests firmly on the librarians shoulders. Elimination of this critical conduit on any level seems extremely short sighted.  |
| 315 | 12/15 | David Bertrand david.bertrand@att.net                | General | I am writing to address the proposed budget cut of small and necessary schools. I have three sons one that has graduated from Grace and one that is currently attending Grace. The older of the two was significantly behind in credits when he was entering his junior year. He was not able to get into Grace at that time and only through a combination of excellent advice from his counselor Mr. Snyder and hard work by Charles going to night school, summer school & on line classes and an eventual transfer to Grace was he able to graduate reasonably close to on time. My youngest son Trevor was even further behind on credits when he entered his junior year and fortunately he was able to obtain admittance to Grace at the beginning of the year and is already turning around. Both of my children have their own unique needs as do all of the students attending the small and necessary schools and in my brief experience I have found that they provide the support and flexibility necessary to assist students in achieving their goals. All of the students deserve a chance to fulfill their own potential and without starting out with something as basic as a high school diploma their chances are greatly lessened. We are all very much individuals, some more than others and not everybody is able to negotiate the difficult teenage years as well as others, they may need some additional help and to that end the small and necessary schools provide a vital niche in the scholastic environment helping those that need it with the vital assistance that they need. I sincerely hope you reconsider how and where the budget cuts are made. I do not envy the task before you, it is difficult at best with no good options but I truly believe that the name "small and <u>necessary</u> schools" should say enough. We should not be cutting something from the budget that is "necessary". |
| 316 | 12/15 | Michele Craig-Morales michele.craig@sbcglobal.net    | 14      | I'm writing in regard to Support Counseling. I am extremely concerned about eliminating this service to one of our neediest groups of students. Support Counseling is a well functioning and successful program that has helped Middle School students transition to high school and feel more prepared. It has helped High School Students raise their CAHSEE scores, recover their credits, access resources for support and find alternative education placements when necessary. The critical time that Support Counselors are given to meet with both parents and students is vital to increasing both graduation rates and CAHSEE pass rates. More importantly this service is helping students feel a new sense of hope and success. Current counselor ratios of 1:500 (the ASCA National Model for school counseling recommends a ratio of 1:250) make it virtually impossible to have the time needed to meet with all of our at risk students. I am deeply concerned that without this vital service we will begin to see more students give up and dropout rates increase. This is not a good outlook for graduation rates or CAHSEE scores. Please do not take away this valuable opportunity to better serve our students.   |
| 317 | 12/15 | art horner ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us                    | 2       | Class sizes add more to learning than any other item. It should be a top priority for saving  |
| 318 | 12/15 | a horner ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us                      | 48      | This seems vague. What directorships are being considered for cuts?   |
| 319 | 12/15 | ahorner  | 63      | This is a waste. Though small in dollars, think of the salary that is taken up by the assembling of it, which does not seem to show here.   |

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|     |       | ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us   |    | If it is gone, less admin. staff will be necessary as work that was being done on the mag. could go to something else.  |
| 320 | 12/15 | ahorner<br>ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us  | 59 | As a teacher in the district, I constantly am told about using all minutes. This sends a terrible message about what is important to our children.  |
| 321 | 12/15 | ahorner<br><a href="mailto:ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us">ahorner@srcs.k12.ca.us</a>                  | 68 | Is this reserve estimate really reliable? Our reserve seems to go up every year. Have all rolled over funds (such as book funds) been added in?   |
| 322 | 12/16 | Pamela Devlin<br>pdev1@prodigy.net   | 10 | I sent this comment previously but evidently all comments between 11/17 and 12/8 were lost in cyberspace. From both a former site administrator and a current classroom teacher's perspective, I believe that Student Advisors are integral to campus safety. Their myriad responsibilities could not be effectively absorbed by the assistant principals with whom they work closely. MCHS Student Advisor, Lore Loucks, is exceptional. Her personalization with students, her organizational skills and her efficacy are essential in keeping our campus safe and secure. Please exempt Student Advisors from budget cuts.   |
| 323 | 12/16 | Pamela Devlin<br>pdev1@prodigy.net   | 59 | I sent this comment previously but evidently all comments between 11/17 and 12/8 were lost in cyberspace. Earlier this fall I read a compelling book entitled <i>Outliers: The Story of Success</i> written by Malcolm Gladwell. He makes a powerful argument for a longer school year, not a shorter one as one of the suggested budget cuts proposes. Gladwell states: "The school year in the United States is, on average, 180 days long. The South Korean school year is 220 days long. The Japanese school year is 243 days long. One of the questions asked of test takers on a recent math test given to students around the world was how many of the algebra, calculus, and geometry questions covered subject matter that they had previously learned in class. For Japanese twelfth grader, the answer was 92 percent. That's the value of going to school 243 days a year. You have the time to learn everything that needed to be learned -- and you have less time to unlearn it. For American twelfth graders, the comparable figure was 54 percent." Given the high standards that the Santa Rosa City School District has adopted in the four core subject areas (English, math, science and social science), teachers are already challenged in helping students meet proficiency in these critical disciplines (all of which are assessed on high-stake tests). The proposed "furlough" would further diminish the likelihood that this goal could be met for ALL students. And, given the District's current Program Improvement status, this would jeopardize moving out of this negative distinction.  |
| 324 | 12/18 | Doucette,<br>Michael<br>mdoucette@srcs.k12.ca.us<br>PHS Ceramics<br>VAPA<br>Department<br>Head | 12 | I would like all board members to consider why California legislators saw fit to provide The Art and Music block grant to our secondary schools. The basis for their funding of the arts is that these particular electives are important, not only for enrichment and appreciation, but also to fulfill Fine Arts requirements for graduation and university admissions. They also understood how underfunded the arts have been in this era or standardized tests and the single-minded focus on English and Math. It is important to realize that California's Economy is a "creative economy" with "...over 680,000 full and part-time creative occupations within California." ( <i>According to the California Arts Council study Published in September of this year.</i> ) This represents Billions of Dollars in jobs and services. An obvious goal of this block grant funding for the arts is to support this segment of our economy. Another reason to support the arts is the evidence that art and music facilitate children in their development, increasing academic success in all subjects. The Art and Music Block Grant is a lifeline to those schools where there is a significant financial strain on the families for whom they serve. We are not allowed to charge a "Material fee" in our "Public Schools" and therefore must ask for "donations". Our economically and underprivileged families do not have incomes that support these budgetary needs through donations. In addition to our families' financial constraints, these parents do not have the time to volunteer for Arts Boosters programs, or volunteer to support fundraising for our programs. These legal, and realistic constraints do not work to provide an EQUITABLE learning opportunity within our district. The Art and Music Block Grant funding has, to some degree, provided our district's less fortunate students with excellent opportunities in the Fine Arts. The Block Grant Funding should not be cut at all from Title one schools for this reason alone. All students in our district will benefit from learning creative problem solving skills, making historical and cultural connections, and through creative expression, but students who struggle just to stay in school are provided a source of self-esteem and excitement through the Fine Arts. Stripping this funding source significantly diminishes a vital educational and occupational opportunity from these particular students.<br><br>The Fine Arts use materials that are typically not re-usable, which means there is a consistent and constant need for materials and supplies. The Art and Music Block Grant MUST continue to be <u>exclusively</u> utilized by our District for Art and Music so that we may |

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|     |        |  |    | continue elevating our students' chances for success after high school.  |
| 325 | 12/27  | Michelle Valerio<br>mvalerio@srcs.k<br>12.ca.us  | 53 | <p>Over the past several months I have had the privilege of serving the Elsie Allen High School library as their full-time library technician.</p> <p>During this time I have had the opportunity to view and evaluate the library media program. I find the librarian to be one of the most important people a high school student encounters during their years at school. The goal of every high school program across America is to educate students to be literate and to possess the knowledge and skills to effectively compete in today's world. To do this, students need the skills to access various information, be able to comprehend this information, and be able to communicate. I see this at Elsie Allen when our librarian works in conjunction with our faculty to generate a curriculum that works for each student. Together they challenge the student to think critically in their work. How does the student research, write, and present material? They do this with the guidance of librarians and teachers. The librarian is a master of information.</p> <p>As a parent of an 8th grade student I am appalled that the Santa Rosa City Schools are contemplating eliminating the school librarian. I wonder how my child will learn vital skills for reasoning and critical research. I wonder how my child will fare in a college environment – competing with other students who have been exposed to these critical values. I have two children in east coast colleges.</p> <p>Both would be lost had they not had a background in research, developing a thesis, and being able to “sift” through wads of material. It is not enough to simply “have access to the internet”. One must be able to use it effectively and to verify statements using printed material found in the library.</p> <p>After all, isn't the ability to find and use information the key to life-long learning? And isn't life-long learning the key to a productive society?</p> |
| 326 | 12/27  | michelle Valerio<br>mvalerio@srcs.k<br>12.ca.us  | 53 | <p>I am a parent of an 8th grade student at Herbert Slater Middle School. I am deeply concerned that the Santa Rosa City Schools are contemplating eliminating the school librarian. Anne has been a vital asset to my child's learning.</p> <p>My child has had numerous projects. Anne has worked with the teachers to bring the students to the library to enhance their research and learning. I am thankful that my child will enter high school knowing how to better evaluate both written information and information found on the internet. A heartfelt thank you to Anne. Librarians have the knowledge and training to best run the library. Please do not eliminate librarians in the next school year.</p>  |
| 327 | 12/30  | Brent LeSage<br>brent.lesage@ce<br>ngage.com   | 53 | <p>To comment on the possible elimination of teacher librarians in Santa Rosa City Schools I must suggest a teacher librarian be available at each school. My profession lends me a unique opportunity to work hand in hand with our school's libraries. School districts that understand the impact teacher librarians have on student achievement see positive results in return. These results are reflected through student achievement, community improvement, and a level scholastic prestige over districts that choose library budget and service cuts. Some cases (often found) have come down to freshman sports or libraries for our students! School libraries operate at the core of education from which instruction and learning are born. A school will fail to even minimally compete in the 21st century without the presence of a mature library program and a teacher librarian at the helm. This topic is integral to our student's future and the future strength of our communities.</p>  |
| 328 | 1/7/10 | Katherine Gomez Madrigal<br>kgomezmadr@sb<br>cglobal.net   | 11 | <p>I would prefer to see the reduction of administrators who enjoy job security than lose any more monies for the visual and performing arts. I am amazed that any person would support such cuts without realizing the eventual outcome of these choices will ensure a much less educated and/or well-rounded citizen of the future. How much more near-sighted can the Board become? If you are not leaders in supporting quality education for all, then you are followers simply staying within the paradigm and completely unable to shift into a mode of thinking that benefits all of us and carries us successfully into this new decade.</p>  |
| 329 | 1/9/10 | Sharon Cisneros<br>scisneros@srcs.k<br>12.ca.us Library<br>Technician<br>Luther Burbank<br>Elementary<br>Steele Lane<br>Elementary | 53 | <p>I think it is ludicrous to even consider removing the full time Library, Media positions from our school libraries. I am a Library Tech. at both Luther Burbank and Steele Lane elementary schools. We are already operating with a skeleton crew at Burbank school after having the library hours cut back by 3 hours per week from the previous year. I work 18 hrs. per week between 2 school sites and have 35 classes coming through these libraries each week. This gives me approx. 20 min. per class to check books in and out for each student, this includes pulling books from the shelves for the lower grades, reshelving all returned books and reading to the lower grades. There are days when I am literally running. As it stands our Library/ Media teacher comes into our sites 2 days per month and the work that she does is invaluable. There is no way I could do all that she does to keep our libraries operating smoothly. What a shame that our students have to suffer. They deserve a quality education to become quality members of society. There is too little time</p>  |

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|     |         |  |         | available to our students in our school libraries as it is to even teach them how to utilize the library on their own. Our schools have had such severe cutbacks that it seems we have been cut to the quick and it is our students and inevitably society will feel the injurious results of these cuts.  |
| 330 | 1/10/10 | Gail Aune<br>gaune@sonic.net   | 4       | An update on Nueva Vista success. We have just graduated four young parents this semester. We have a potential of another nine graduates. Eleven of these girls have or are using childcare. There is no question that childcare has facilitated their graduation which certainly is our goal. Less childcare, fewer graduates—the future is very uncertain when a young parent drops out of school. Chances for recovery are very slim- -Nueva Vista is their opportunity for success.  |
| 331 | 1/11/10 | Sheila Casey<br><a href="mailto:scasey@srcs.k12.ca.us">scasey@srcs.k12.ca.us</a>           | General | Here is another idea for the board to SAVE BIG MONEY; Give the Golden Handshake to all of the older highest paid teachers and they will all retire and then they can hire teachers who get paid half of their salaries. HUGE SAVINGS!!   |
| 332 | 1/12/10 | Jacqueline Bell<br>jacquibell@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 49      | When I began teaching at SRCS in 1992 many of our test scores were in the single digits. Burbank has seen a rise in achievement which brought us out of program improvement since class size reduction began. Putting backwards to 30 students per K-3 class will result in our achievement also going backwards, resulting in California being again somewhere like 49 <sup>th</sup> in the nation for student achievement.   |
| 333 | 1/12/10 | Jacqueline bell<br>jacquibell@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 50      | With a possible 30 students per K-3 classes we have added the workload of teachers by 33%.With 20 in the class it takes me until 4:00 each day to complete my work and be prepared for the next day. This includes the extra 4 hours of prep time I use to do my job. If you take away our prep time and add it to the extra time given 10 more students to prepare for, this would keep me here 6.5 hours extra a week. That means I would be here until 5:20 P.M. each evening in order to deliver a proper education to my students. This will result in your better, more qualified teachers leaving this district to search for a more fair work load situation or delivering LESS quality.   |
| 334 | 1/12/10 | Jacqueline Bell<br>jacquibell@srcs.k12.ca.us   | 59      | I have been teaching for 24 years, 18 in this district. If the school year is reduced to 175 from 180 days, I will lose a certain amount in my retirement check for the rest of my life. This is NOT fair, for those who have dedicated their lives to education. Also, because of this, it might force me to delay my retirement date, resulting in a significant loss to the district. For example, you will be paying the salary of a step 25-28 teacher, instead of a step 1 salary for several more years.  |
| 335 | 1/12/10 | Carol Simmons<br><a href="mailto:csimmons@scoe.org">csimmons@scoe.org</a>                  | 4       | I implore you to maintain full funding for the CalSAFE child care services. Investing your dollars in quality care for infants and toddlers of teen parents provides the greatest cost benefit in ensuring the future of the children, the teen students and our economy!  |
| 336 | 1/14/10 | Beth CUniberti<br><a href="mailto:bcuniberti@srcs.k12.ca.us">bcuniberti@srcs.k12.ca.us</a> | 53      | Sonja Bedford is an important resource to the campus of Maria Carrillo. Our campus needs her in order for the students to develop as effective researchers.  |
| 337 | 1/14/10 | Thomas Nyhan<br>TNYhan@aol.com   | General | Bring back the School Traffic Patrol sponsored by the CSAA. As the present crossing guards are located at controlled intersection, why couldn't a 6th grader press the button? The traffic patrol teaches leadership, responsibility, and respect. It worked in the 1940s and 50s, and I should know being a traffic boy at Hawthorne School in San Francisco.   |
| 338 | 1/19/10 | Tanya Harlin<br>tharlin@srcs.k12.ca.us   | General | Athletics have already been cut so much, you just can't take away more. Sports are very important to many students, and for some, a big motivation to keep up their grades. Suggesting that we save money on the power bill and sell more food at the sites is so vague and certainly not the solution. Athletes are required to pay \$50 per sport; maybe you can increase that fee to \$55 or \$60. As it stands now, teams have to do their own fundraising for equipment and uniforms, etc. Some coaches are practically volunteers with the amount of money they are paid in comparison to the amount of time they devote. One varsity football coach donated all his pay to the football program in an effort to make things better for the team. As far as reducing the school year, maybe the 2 days that we have school during the week of Thanksgiving would be an easy option and a way to save some money. I realize that budget cuts are inevitable, and there are some tough decisions to make, but please think about our student athletes. Thank you and good luck with this difficult task. |

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| 339 | 1/19/10 | tanya<br>tbharlin@comcast.net  | 60      | I urge our district not to cut monies from the athletic programs at the high school level. Our sports programs have already been cut and I can't imagine cutting more. Athletics are very important to many students, and for some a motivation to keep up their grades. Sports increase school spirit and provide a positive and healthy outlet for students. As it is now, teams have their own fundraisers for equipment, uniforms, etc. The fee for each sport is \$50, maybe that can see a slight increase to help balance costs. Many coaches are practically volunteers with the amount of money they receive in comparison to the amount of time they put in. This year, a varsity football coach donated his entire stipend back into the football program to help his team. There has been talk of reducing the school year to save money - maybe the week during Thanksgiving would be a good time to take 2 days off. Budget cuts are difficult and challenging, and I don't envy the task at hand for our district and board. I just ask that you reconsider cuts to our student athletes and sports programs. Thanks and good luck with this budget crisis.  |
| 340 | 1/20/10 | margaret<br>mmelani@srcs.k12.ca.us                                     | 59      | Any of the district reductions for the past 4 school years directly affects only the school year employees 9 mothers as we are sometimes called. Each year the district has shortened the school year first for 3 days then 2 days and we are now to 1 day. School year employees have only been effective by this witch reduces our monthly salaries for the 9 months we work. Being the shortest employed our income is shortened for the year; We are not paid during the summer and are not eligible for unemployment during those times. And here we are again about shortening the school year. It would seem most beneficial the district if all operations were shut down for the proposed additional 5 days. Not just the school year employees, but all site personnel..There are no students to assist. What an even bigger savings. Why would the office support be needed to work these 5 days? The days off that are currently set and the past years as noted above, any 10 month 11 month and 12 month were to report to work those days unlike the 9 month employees. The students were not in attendance but the lights were still up and running, heating/cooling was going, things plugged in and so what real savings are we talking about that could put a dent into our crumbling budget? Only that the "little" guy gets the cut first. Being a campus supervisor and working closely with the class aids and student advisors I can tell you that we are part of the very glue that support these children in the success of their lives. And we act as a buffer to the Administration on every site. We are not the little guy ever, but the important classified worker that plays an up most important role in the safety, well being, and have a greater value than what the district is willing to recognize. I would suggest that the main district be also closed for the proposed 5 days. Why should they be exempt? What kind of savings would that be? Huge! Fir the classified that are school year, it would mean not just the 5 days that the district would like us to believe would be that it would also be added to what they have cut, so then it could amount to 6 days off without any income. Let the whole district share in the reduced work days and pay cuts. |
| 341 | 1/24    | Bryan Nyberg<br>mustangfun69@juno.com<br>Kitchen Production Supervisor | General | I am the kitchen production supervisor and I think the proposal to balance the budget of our athletic department on the back of Child Nutrition Services is very unfair. We are finding it difficult to be self sufficient as it is without being a burden on the Santa Rosa City Schools budget. We are working very hard to improve our department cooking many fresh products like homemade low fat muffins, whole wheat bread rolls, whole grain breakfast rounds, as well as many other fresh made products. We are also adding BBQ's to secondary schools which are expected to improve sales. Making several products from scratch saves our department valuable resources which we can then use to help keep us self sustaining. The Meals for Needy money that comes from our meal deal program sales first goes into the general fund and then sometimes makes into the C.N.S Budget. We need this money every year to help us survive as a department and I find it unfair that sometimes it is re-directed to other budgetary needs. Please consider the budgetary impact to our department if you re-direct these funds as it is significant to not only the monetary success of our department but also impacts the morale demeanor of the group. Thank you in advance for your consideration on these matters.   |
| 342 | 1/25    | Mary Finnie<br>mfinniek@srcs.k12.ca.us                                 | General | Couldn't salaries of anyone making over 75K a year (or thereabouts) be reduced by 5%? That would allow other people's jobs to perhaps not be cut and all would have a job, instead of some having great jobs and some having no job. Anyone should be able to live on 75K. At least for now.  |
| 343 | 1/25    | Gail Aune<br>gaune@sonic.net   | 4       | As the Board's decision regarding budget cuts draws near, I would like to emphasize the fact that Cal-SAFE's childcare and parenting program is a dropout prevention program. Providing childcare for teen parents keeps these parents in school; if childcare services are cut, those students in need of such care will dropout; retrieving them is incredibly difficult if we cannot offer childcare. Not only will the course of their lives radically change but the quality of their children's lives will also change as they lose the advantages of a quality childcare as well as the benefits of a household with educated parents. There is loss all around. Fifty thousand dollars may not seem like much but it means a different life for young parents and their children for years to come.   |

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| 344 | 1/28 | Thomas Nyhan<br>TNyhan@aol.com                   | Crossing Guards | During the 1940's I was a School Traffic Patrol boy at a school in San Francisco. Before school and after school we would assist the other students in crossing the street ADJ the school. CSAA/AAA was a big sponsor of this program and the SFPD was also. This program instilled leadership, citizenship, and pride of effort. As most of the streets now cover by the senior guards are controlled intersection, why can't these young people perform the same actions as the present guards |
| 345 | 2/1  | Randi Megorden<br>rmegorden@sbcglobal.net        | 50              | Elementary school teachers have two hours of prep a week and secondary school teachers have five hours a week. I would hope in this difficult economic time that the issue of equity between teachers would be considered. I do not want anyone to have to lose prep time but it is not fair for one group to completely lose their prep when another group remains untouched.   |
| 346 | 2/2  | Linda Jacobsson<br>ljacobsson@srcs.k12.ca.us     | General         | Continuing the idea of Golden Handshakes, how about offering this to your Classified Employees? I know that you are in negotiation with CSEA 75 to create a new contract. Perhaps it is time to encourage some of our highest paid veteran Classified employees to retire and save money for the district.   |
| 347 | 2/5  | Stuart Froman<br>misc@sfroman.com                | 15              | Please preserve GATE funding for elementary schools, especially for teacher training in differentiation techniques so the needs of GATE students can be better met in their classes. We must do everything possible to help gifted and talented students reach their full potential.   |
| 348 | 2/5  | Stuart Froman<br>misc@sfroman.com                | 16              | Please preserve GATE funding for middle schools, especially for teacher training in differentiation techniques so the needs of GATE students can be better met in their classes. We must do everything possible to help gifted and talented students reach their full potential.   |
| 349 | 2/5  | Gayathri Kailash<br>gayathri_kailash@hotmail.com | 16              | Please preserve the GATE funding. GATE funding can be used for teacher training in differentiation techniques so that the needs of GATE students can be better met within their classrooms. Some specialized after school classes can also introduced for the GATE kids.   |
| 350 | 2/5  | Gayathri Kailash<br>gayathri_kailash@hotmail.com | 15              | Please preserve the GATE funding.  |
| 351 | 2/5  | Lynne Richardson<br>lynne@yachtsf.com            | 15              | I find is extremely discouraging that elementary children would be identified and then pushed aside in middle and high school. Maybe you could consider specifying that GATE funding be used for teacher training in differentiation techniques so that the needs of GATE students can be better met within their classrooms. I worry that GATE children especially from SCRACS will and do get lost. Please don't let our children suffer.  |
| 352 | 2/5  | Lynne Richardson<br>lynne@yachtsf.com            | 16              | I sent a comment in regards to item #15 as well. I find it extremely discouraging to identify GATE children in elementary school and let them crash in middle and high school. We all know they need differentiation in the classroom. Often they help the slower students or correct papers which does nothing for our children's' future. PLEASE PRESERVE GATE FUNDING.  |
| 353 | 2/5  | Alice Horowitz<br>oneallicat@yahoo.com           | 15              | Please retain funding for GATE programs in middle school. This is very important to our kids' intellectual and emotional growth!   |
| 354 | 2/5  | Elysa Perry<br>elysaperry@hotmail.com            | 16              | Please preserve GATE funding. I believe it is vital that teachers be trained in differentiation techniques so that the needs of GATE students can be better met within their classrooms. GATE funding can and should be used for this important purpose.   |
| 355 | 2/7  | Staci Pastis<br>Stacipastis@aol.com              | 15              | It seems counter productive to keep funding for the identification of GATE students at the elementary level without keeping funding for differentiation of lessons for these children.   |

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| 356 | 2/7  | Staci Pastis<br>Stacipastis@aol.com                                   | 16      | Please consider allowing funding for GATE programs to continue. These children are some of the highest performing children in our district and should be rewarded with an education that is rich and varied. Teacher training in differentiated curriculum would help to engage these children who have the ability to go beyond regular lesson plans. Thank you!   |
| 357 | 2/8  | Linda Jacobsson<br>ljacobsson@srcs.k12.ca.us                          | General | I know that you are considering cutting 5 days out of the school year, but how about considering also closing 1 day a month for June and July? That might save a bit of money too. When you cut from the 9 months of school it feels like you think that teachers and the classified employees who work only 183 days are expendable.   |
| 358 | 2/8  | Richard Gregus<br>sandypar@att.net                                    | General | I would urge you again to consider a teacher retirement incentive for this year. As I said at the last Board of Education meeting the Program librarians and/or Resource Officers can be spared with the savings in salaries of the retirees. Since you begin paying the incentive one year after retirement, the amount saved depends on how many positions are hired to replace the ones vacated by the retirees. It is a win-win situation for both sided and economically reasonable to grant retirement incentive to help with the budget crisis. Please reconsider retirement incentives for this year.   |
| 359 | 2/8  | Pamela Devlin<br>pdev1@prodigy.net                                    | 53      | One last plea that you do not cut school librarians, as proposed in this Board report. As a teacher is to the heart of a classroom, so is the librarian to the library. Having read on line all the agenda comments submitted on the proposed budget cuts (and submitting my own in support of librarians),I noted that those advocating for retaining librarians came from the broad spectrum of our school community - students, parents, teachers, community members, county/state librarians... Each who sees a school librarian as integral to the site.   |
| 360 | 2/9  | Andrew Jowers<br>ajowers@srcs.k12.ca.us<br>Maria Carrillo High School | 53      | I and one of my Maria Carrillo colleagues are now teaching our 11th-grade English classes a complex CSU-designed unit designed to prepare high school students to analyze and evaluate the non-fiction material they will encounter in college. Our school librarian, Sonja Bedford, is an integral part of this; indeed, on Thursday and Friday we are taking our classes to the library where Sonja will instruct them how to research, how to use a database of articles, how to evaluate the sources, and how to incorporate their research into their essays. In addition to her myriad other contributions to our school, Sonja is helping ensure our students are ready for the rigors of college.   |
| 361 | 2/9  | H. Keith<br>momheidi@sbcglobal.net                                    | 58      | Zero period has been a nice thing to offer students who are interested in additional electives but in tough budget times it should be seen as an "extra" not a "have to".   |
| 362 | 2/9  | H.Keith<br>momheidi@sbcglobal.net                                     | 60      | Athletics and other extra curricular activities have been proven to keep teens out of trouble, boost self-esteem, provide them a sense of belonging, and develops pride in themselves, teammates, and their schools. Why in the world would we want to cut programs like this? It is a pay now or pay later concept. Athletics are an excellent example of an "up stream investment" – i.e. pay now to have teens involved in positive activities or pay later in the form of detention costs, rehab costs, etc... I am absolutely against this cut, especially since the programs are financially supported so heavily but parents and the community. It saves very small dollars, but has the potential of costing the community much more down the line.   |
| 363 | 2/9  | Susan Hoge<br>shoge@abbeylaw.com                                      | 60      | I am commenting on the possibility that any Athletic programs at the middle and/or high school level would be cut. I'm sure you must realize the multi-faceted and expensive problems that you would create by cutting these athletic programs. Young men and women with nothing to do after school...hummmm...sounds like pregnancy, gang and drug related problems will increase and the city and county will pay for this other ways and it will be a lot more expensive not only in money but in the expense of human capital...are you trying to make Santa Rosa into a retirement community?...if so this is certainly the way to do it...and once the middle class eave...there will not be a tax base to support the city as you used to know it...be careful it is a very slippery slope. I have lived her for 40 years and if you cut school athletics...my kids and I will move to a state that values families and education. |
| 364 | 2/10 | Catherine Paine<br>cpaine@srcs.k12.ca.us                              | 53      | As a Nationally Board Certified teacher with a Masters in both Business and Education, and a veteran teacher of 16 years, I am voicing my concern about taking further funds from our libraries. We cannot teach students all they will need to know for the future, but if we can teach them how to find out (LIBRARY RESEARCH) then we will have served our students well. I strong disagree with the board's proposal to cut librarians. Librarians not only support students but also staff in researching and planning relevant ant  |

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|     |      |   |                | timely lessons for our students. This ability to research and evaluate is a critical part of learning in an age with lots of information- but not all of it relevant or accurate.   |
| 365 | 2/10 | Serena Shapiro<br>notsoosere@yahoo.com  | General        | I would like to comment on Gate Funding. There is a misconception out there that Gate funding should go to afterschool and extended school education programs for Gate students. As a parent of a gate and non gate child I disagree. Please use Gate funding to TEACH our teachers how to teach differentiation in the classroom. This will benefit all students of all levels and is being done successfully all over the country. The antiquated and shortsighted method of locking our teachers into one book and one curriculum is daily and yearly reflected in our low test scores.  |
| 366 | 2/10 | Eric Haugen<br>EHAUGEN@yahoo.com  | General        | Please use some of the GATE funding to teach classroom differentiation. Contrary to popular belief all the kids that attend the accelerated charter are not GATE kids it is their superior curriculum and teaching methods that are so successful. The facts speak for themselves.  |
| 367 | 2/10 | Mary Kay Pedersen<br>mpedersen@srcs.k12.ca.us                                 | 53             | I am a French teacher at MCHS, and I implore you to save our librarians. They are indispensable to our students and to the educational process. Each year all of my classes are assigned projects which require research from a number of sources, including from the Internet and from print. Before we begin our research in the library, our librarian Sonja Bedford and I discuss the requirements of the project, the standards that are to be met and what they entail. She then goes through the resources that we have in print in our library that apply to the project, pulls books and facilitates their research. Similarly, she indicated web sites specific to the topic of the project to aid the students. Ms. Bedford also facilitates their research immeasurably in the lab, guiding them through false starts and what sometimes appear to be dead ends. Her knowledge of internet research greatly exceeds my own, and she is therefore an invaluable teacher of this process. In light of the severe cuts our district is facing, it is my sincere hope that the teaching role played by our librarians will be recognized and that their positions will remain intact. |
| 368 | 2/12 | Katya Anderson<br>katyamom@sonic.net  | 60             | How can this item even be considered? Isn't and shouldn't education of our teens be about the whole picture? Our teens not only need academics but to supplement their complete development they also need athletics. The kids who participate are learning critical life skills about focus, balance, prioritization, teamwork and healthy living. As we look towards the future when these teens will be our leaders .. Why would we jeopardize this? Keep the funding in place for all athletics!  |
| 369 | 2/21 | Melodee Bettman<br>moolahmel@yahoo.com  | CSEA Positions | I, as well as many members of CSEA chapter 75 and 367 were saddened at the way our jobs were cut. Every other item was addressed by what it was, but when it came to our jobs it was a motion to pass items 34 - 41 and 43 - 46. Many people had to look to see what these items belonged to, only to find out it was their job. I know these are hard times but feel that these jobs, (people), deserve more than to just be grouped together as a number. Thank you   |
| 370 | 2/23 | Basketball player<br>bstar611@sbcglobe.net                                    | 60             | You RUINED MY DREAMS OF BECOMING A BASKETBALL PLAYER! WHHYY!??  |
| 371 | 2/24 | Carrie Defere<br>c.heart@yahoo.com  | General        | Regarding cutting Spring sports. Sports benefit more than just the student athletes. As my soon to be Freshman states "What will the kids do for fun?" Sports are a way to bring the High School community together. It give the kids something productive to be involved with. We go to the sports events to socialize with others in our community and to support our school. This I feel is vital for the "High School Experience." Don't let sports go it impacts the whole student body. Thanks, Carrie P.S. Let the Librarians go most research is done online!   |
| 372 | 2/24 | Bryan Nyberg<br>Kitchen<br>Production<br>Supervisor<br>bnyberg@srcs.k12.ca.us | General        | I am in favor of many labor adjustments and if that includes adjusting my own hours so be it. Are there any other sub-departments that are being cut by 50%? The CNS portion of the warehouse has two full time employees during the school year and the proposal to cut one full position is equivalent to a 50% reduction in the work force in this portion of the warehouse. This is not going to work and I will be the one filling in which will take me away from my daily duties as kitchen Supervisor. I propose a 25% reduction which would mean one warehouse worker could work 4 hours in the CNS part of the warehouse and the other 4 hours in the school supply department. 25% labor reduction is still huge and is more than reasonable. Thank you for your time on this matter.  |
| 373 | 3/2  | Kathy Eik   | 12             | Don't destroy the Arts...absolutely necessary for well-rounded, well-educated students!   |

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|     |      | kathyeik@yahoo.com                    |         |   |
| 374 | 3/2  | Kathy Eik<br>kathyeik@yahoo.com       | 16      | Eliminating AP classes would lead to declining enrollment. Parents will move students to educational systems that offer these rigorous classes.   |
| 375 |      | Kathy Eik<br>kathyeik@yahoo.com       | 60      | SAVE Spring Sports!!!   |
| 376 | 3/3  | Tanya<br>tbharlin@comcast.net         | 65      | With report cards and progress reports available online now, how much money could be saved if you no longer mailed report cards home 4 times a year? Progress reports 4 times a year? And with several credit recovery options available, night school, Saturday school, after school credit recovery, Ridgway, small necessary schools, summer school should be cancelled altogether. Salary savings and energy savings.   |
| 377 | 3/3  | margaret<br>margaret@net10.net        | General | One of the areas the district needs to strongly look at is waste. Sounds simple enough doesn't it? But the amount of waste everyone is guilty of daily in their jobs is huge. I suggest first that you and I am speaking to all that when you are about to use something or have already that beforehand think that it belongs to you. Would be so simple to say "oh I'll get another one"..another post it, paper, printing work, pen, pencil, note pad. I know you need these things and way too much to try to list it all, but the carefully and methodically think of how can I stop the waste. Secondly, I think that filling out a time card every month is a waste of time and money to the employee and most of the entire district. We have an absence system that was designed to get rid of the time cards that records our absences, holidays etc. Yet every month each and every employee fills out a time card. We are paid salary, so no need to track hours, paid once a month, absences recorded electronically, So why the time card? Time has been wasted and also has been a waste to productivity. Who at the district office takes these each month and does what with them? HOW MUCH DO THEY COST TO PRINT UP!! Save a penny in the bucket..you bet! Get rid of the needless paper work and man hours and save some bucks per employee?? I'll let you do the math. Thanks |
| 378 | 3/9  | Laura Sachs<br>tllk4sachs@netzero.net | 10      | Student Advisors are valuable resources for our students and staff members. As a campus supervisor, I worked closely with our student advisor, Lore Loucks, at MCHS for two years. With her guidance and support, I learned how to work more efficiently and with confidence that I was doing the best job I could do. In the description of her daily duties, I noticed Lore did not mention the countless hours she spent training the campus supervisor. I would also like to add to the list, what I believe to be the most important aspect of her job, keeping our students accountable. When disciplinary consequences are given, Lore is the person who explains what is expected of the student. She then keeps in contact with each student until they follow through. Our students know she cares and wants them to succeed. Please reconsider taking away this very valuable part of the education process. Sincerely, Laurie Sachs   |
| 379 | 3/9  | <b>Jacqui Jahn</b>                    | General | My name is Jacqui Jahn, a student at Santa Rosa High school and I am writing this letter to give you my thoughts about recently announced budget cuts to the Sonoma County Schools. I recently found out about the plan to cut the schools budget through the elimination of all spring sports programs. I believe this is a terrible loss to both the students and the community. School sports are an important aspect of the high school experience. Sports builds leadership, character, a strong work ethic and most important a sense of allowing the student athlete to feel connected to something positive. In conclusion, I would strongly recommend that the Board of Education reconsider eliminating school sports programs.   |
| 380 | 3/28 | John Sullivan<br>john541@pacbell.net  | 60      | Maintain funding for ALL sports, not just favored fall sports. Research shows athletic activity improves academic performance: "Fourteen published studies analyzing data from approximately 58,000 students between 1967 and 2006 have investigated the link between overall participation in physical activity and academic performance. Eleven of those studies found that regular participation in physical activity is associated with improved academic performance." <a href="http://www.activelivingresearch.org/files/Active_Ed.pdf">http://www.activelivingresearch.org/files/Active_Ed.pdf</a> (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation research)<br>My daughter's favorite part of High School is participation on the MHS Swim Team. Please do not cut sports and   |

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|  |  |  |  | eliminate this from her High School experience. It is a big part of her motivation to work hard in, and support the school, and teaches valuable life lessons for all participants. |
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REVISED 4/8/10, 4:45 P.M. et