

Carlie Wiggins

Good evening, Educators, parent's fellow students and the school board of SD42, as you know I'm here today to address my concerns about the school district budget cuts. For the past three years I have been blessed to attend Thomas Haney, my first time attending a school within the school district. Coming from a Private school in Port Coquitlam it was a big change for me, but It was a good one.

I understand the position the school board is in with a projected shortfall of 5.2 million dollars this coming year, it certainly can't be easy. I'm sure you don't want to be in this position to have to decide on what to change in the schools to help save money.

As Brian Tracy said in the article about the importance of first impression "The fact is that when you first meet a person, they make a judgment about you in approximately four seconds, and their judgment is finalized largely within 30 seconds of the initial contact." The receptionist in every single school is the first person someone who enters or phones the school will have contact with or look for, this is their first impression of the school. The receptionist is the connection, no matter who the visitor is looking for the receptionists job will connect them with the person they are looking for. I'm worried that taking away this position will have a negative impact on the school, taking away the front line, the core; it can give off a very bad impression. If there is no receptionist up front and a visitor walks into the office it's not only a safety concern but the Principals and Vince principals aren't always in their offices and it piles more work on the people in the back of the office. It has been proven that people will share with twice as many other people if they have a negative experience somewhere than if the experience is positive, it's very important to have that person there that is ready, reliable, friendly and caring, it's the same thing as customer service. I know as a student whenever I go into my school office our Receptionist Mrs.Murray is always there with a warm smile on her face consistently there to help, I always look forward to going

into the office knowing she will be there. Many times I have sat in the office waiting for someone and I've seen so many teachers, parents, students come in and out looking for someone or with questions and the receptionist is that person can go to. Despite all their other important jobs as well, this position is a vital part of helping a school operate smoothly.

The proposal to cut certain bus routes from students coming to a school from say Pitt meadows or further away in Maple Ridge to their school of choice, would save just as much money as cutting the clerical position, if the families of students having to use these bus routes would pay extra to keep these bus routes running it would be creating revenue, why not find ways to make money instead of just trying to save it? For example if you had a free shuttle running from the airport to the hotel, yes it's nice and everything but what if instead they cut the front desk clerk, the guests can still find a way to the hotel, but how will they book rooms or check in and out?

A few more of my concerns include cutting the position of the Career planning assistant, this position is clearly underrated, I understand there are resources online and books we the students can look to for help but having the face to face conversation and reassurance from an actual adult is part of what students need, having that person to sit down and plan with creates reassurance, support and choices for the students.

Another big impact these budget cuts will have is riverside the money making part of the school district, losing staff. How are they supposed to keep making money for the District with less staff? I suggest trying to sell assets, cutting down travel expenses, like upper management meetings and being cautious of the things they travel for.

I know the board is in a tough place right now, but I don't think the cuts I have addressed have the best of the students in mind. Thank you for your time.