

## Expenditure Reduction Survey - Question 17

What kind of information would better help you understand the district's financial situation?		
		Response Count
		72
<i>answered question</i>		<b>72</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>199</b>

Response Text		
1	Just more details. Time to focus on the district's financials and budgets in order to gain an understanding of the expenses.	Jan 25, 2010 7:20 PM
2	I'm actually very happy with what I have received. I have been getting educated on it and sending emails to the Governor as well as the State Representatives to help get rid of this ROBIN HOOD FUND.	Jan 27, 2010 4:45 PM
3	I appreciate the information CISD has provided via the website as well as public forums with Dr. Faltys. The only aspect I would like to understand better are the components that make up the individual principals' budgets. As an involved member of the PTOs, it would be great to understand how the PTO budgets and disbursements may assist the Principals in meeting their financial goals. Is there a generic document that lists the Principals' budget line items?	Jan 28, 2010 4:50 PM
4	A report on how much CISD spends per program and position compared to other top performing districts IN THAT AREA (and not just "exemplary" districts....there are many districts that are "close" in TAKS performance yet surpass the district in other areas).	Jan 29, 2010 12:03 AM
5	After attending two presentations, I feel informed.	Jan 29, 2010 12:35 AM
6	This information was adequate.	Jan 29, 2010 12:46 AM
7	I think CISD does a very good job being transparent by making info publicly accesible online for those with the time to carefully review it. Thank you.	Jan 29, 2010 1:07 AM
8	More advance warning of meetings	Jan 29, 2010 1:36 AM

Response Text		
9	<p>I think it is unfortunate that you are blaming the Robin Hood Plan for the current financial situation. The Robin Hood Plan has been around since 1993...so why are the leaders of this district acting like it is the cause of the problem instead of taking responsibility for not budgeting accordingly in the first place. You have always known that a certain amount of tax revenues would leave our property-wealthy district...why are you acting like this is a new surprise and "how could the state do this to us". What has occurred is that the growth of our city has started to plateau and so "blue-bird" tax revenues are a thing of the past. Shouldn't our leaders have seen this coming?</p> <p>I hope the leaders of this district make better choices going forward by providing a sound and balanced budget and keeping a better eye on the big picture of our wonderful city. We are a blessed school district and need leaders that appreciate the vast amount of money they have to work with. I recently attended a basketball game at an Arlington Middle School - the water fountains, scoreboard and a few toilets were out of order. I appreciate that our schools are kept in good working order and I appreciate the tax payments I make.</p> <p>I'm grateful to live in this district because of the great education it provides my children, but all children should receive a great education no matter which district they live in. I'm okay with some of my tax dollars going to less wealthy districts. But I do expect the leaders of this district to handle the funds they are entrusted with with more financial prudence. Perhaps our leaders should focus more on the personal responsibilities of each person employed in the district. Stop blaming the system.</p>	Jan 29, 2010 1:54 AM
10	I believe I am pretty well informed. It seems like the purpose of this survey was solely to educate, but the only people that take the time to take it are probably the same people who actually read the newsletters and keep up with what the School Board is doing.	Jan 29, 2010 2:40 AM
11	Explain why central administration has to be so large. This is defined by working 4 day work weeks during the summer. If you can do that, then you could work 5 days per week (per your contract) with less people.	Jan 29, 2010 3:55 AM
12	<p>What programs are required vs elective at elementary, middle school and high school level? If known, it may be easier for CISD constituents to provide input on priorities.</p> <p>The financial info provided in presentations was too high level. Without detailed financials, it is very difficult to solicit input from citizens on cost cutting opportunities. It seems as if money has been easily spent over past few years. Look at recent increases and determine what was a "want" versus a "need". Eliminate the "wants."</p>	Jan 29, 2010 3:57 AM
13	I knew most of the powerpoint but until seeing it, was unaware of the change to PER STUDENT formula. The specific of the change needs to be in the local papers.	Jan 29, 2010 4:03 AM
14	Explanation of the Robin Hood policy and how can we get rid of it?	Jan 29, 2010 4:13 AM
15	Daily updates on the CISD website that would tell us what cuts the district is looking at.	Jan 29, 2010 2:05 PM
16	A page summary of expenditures ie showing all areas from instruction to other operations functions. That way we can give constructive feedback as to where cutbacks should be done.	Jan 29, 2010 3:21 PM
17	Would like more information about the tax rate and the impact, if any, it would have to raise our taxes. I see we are at \$1.41 but is this capped out? What is the revenue impact of raising it 1 penny?	Jan 29, 2010 3:27 PM
18	I do like the idea of video presentation clips on the district website.	Jan 29, 2010 7:54 PM
19	None	Jan 29, 2010 9:23 PM

Response Text		
20	A breakdown of the relationship between the Carroll Education Foundation and Carroll ISD. A breakdown of the amount that building projects will require in terms of staff and annual running costs that will come out of future M&O budgets, not I&S. A breakdown of the budgetary impact of double-blocking for sports.	Jan 29, 2010 11:52 PM
21	Keep it clear, short and sweet with access to more detail if someone wants it. Too much info kills the ultimate goal of balancing the budget. Dragging it on creates factions and the blame game. Tell everyone 2% cut (or whatever it is) and it has to be done quickly.	Jan 30, 2010 12:49 AM
22	I know no one wants to slam our state officials but often my questions go to their methods and requirements and I don't want to read through a bunch of state documents. A nice synopsis would be helpful (I don't mind if it's biased! :)	Jan 30, 2010 3:13 PM
23	A detailed accounting, in laymen's terms of where the money is going! Exactly how much money is being generated by various programs (such as football) and where is it being spent? Who is receiving what compensation? Which campuses are managing the budget well and which are not? What kind of internal audits are being performed? Why are our school taxes some of the highest in the state when we're still in financial trouble?	Jan 31, 2010 6:17 PM
24	Comparisons to increases in budgets by area year over year	Jan 31, 2010 6:52 PM
25	You need to have a town hall meeting, not just at the school campuses. Parents do work during the day.	Jan 31, 2010 7:56 PM
26	More detail on current costs. A list of current proposals to reduce expenses and increase revenues.	Jan 31, 2010 9:42 PM
27	A clear shift in stopping the cuts to the classroom level!	Feb 1, 2010 6:35 PM
28	Site-based school discussions with the administration to keep parents better informed of the decisions being made regarding our own schools.	Feb 1, 2010 10:45 PM
29	Seeing the summary of the numbers and knowing where we are currently investing the reserve fund.	Feb 1, 2010 10:51 PM
30	real information and interaction, not surveys that are designed primarily as a way to communicate information from the board rather than too the board (every question except the last three were are you aware of this fact). Eliminating the cost of this type of exercise would also help.	Feb 1, 2010 10:53 PM
31	I think the power point presentation was very well done. I was unable to attend the meetings at the schools but assume they were informational. I think people interested or vested in the situation should not have any difficulty understanding the situation. Hopefully they will buy into the solutions that are found.	Feb 1, 2010 11:51 PM
32	n/a	Feb 2, 2010 12:40 AM
33	I would like to see an explanation of where the revenue goes (what departments, what percentages) once it comes into the district ie: distribution of funds to all CISD departments.	Feb 2, 2010 1:07 AM
34	Public knowledge of the programs that are being considered for cuts.	Feb 2, 2010 11:59 AM
35	Detailed operating balance sheet	Feb 2, 2010 3:38 PM
36	Some of the details behind the powerpoint presentation.	Feb 2, 2010 5:39 PM
37	Letting the tax payer know how we can get rid of Robin Hood!	Feb 4, 2010 8:01 PM
38	Send a power point presentation to parents/taxpayers.	Feb 4, 2010 10:18 PM
39	The opportunity to opine on specific budget areas/programs. This survey spends more time collecting demographic type data from me with which to discount or multiply my comments with no opportunity to vote/comment on specific budget programs. Yes open ended questions are good but that is all there is in this survey so you cannot collect statistically valid input on anything specific.	Feb 4, 2010 10:55 PM
40	none, they are doing a great job.	Feb 5, 2010 12:27 AM
41	The district has done a very good job of getting the information out to the public.	Feb 5, 2010 5:07 AM
42	Please continue to provide general meetings to the parent community.	Feb 5, 2010 12:12 PM

Response Text		
43	I read most articles about the school in the neighborhood papers and keep up with the emails that are sent from the school. I think you do a good job trying to inform the public.	Feb 5, 2010 5:05 PM
44	I think the district already provides ample information...don't have any ideas that will make the public take advantage of those opportunities	Feb 5, 2010 6:49 PM
45	A listing of the top 10% of salaries within the school district...including housing, phone, internet allowances, etc.	Feb 6, 2010 2:17 AM
46	How can we change the Robin Hood tax? It seems it follows our family wherever we live.	Feb 6, 2010 6:00 PM
47	Continued coverage in email and in newspapers.	Feb 6, 2010 9:36 PM
48	I attended Dr. Faltys' presentation at JES--very informative and very much appreciated! I think more articles need to be printed in the local newspapers to educate those who don't attend these meetings.	Feb 8, 2010 2:17 AM
49	More detailed information, by department , at each school campus. More detailed information, at the CISD Administration offices. More detailed information regarding all the Athletic Departments.	Feb 10, 2010 2:29 PM
50	This survey is excellent	Feb 10, 2010 4:51 PM
51	I think the information provided and the presentations by the PTO's and Dr. Falty's have educated us greatly of our situation-I am not sure that there is more that can be done. :)	Feb 15, 2010 11:14 PM
52	I would like to see a concise document that details current spending and in what categories. Which campuses use the most energy? What does the staffing distribution at the Administrative Office look like? Can we cut costs in administration? The people that directly work with our children are critical, so the administrative / support staffing details would be helpful. This means, don't cut teachers who work directly with the students, cut staffing or outsource staffing that does not touch the student population.	Feb 16, 2010 12:09 AM
53	An online distribution containing FAQs regarding the district's budget and ways for the community to help with the situation.	Feb 16, 2010 12:36 AM
54	Send out quarterly financial disclosure reports via e-mail to all CISD taxpayers.	Feb 16, 2010 2:25 AM
55	This "survey" is really more propaganda than anything else, and I find it extremely irritating that you find manipulating public opinion more important than actually learning about it. Seems like it's time to clean house again.	Feb 16, 2010 3:51 AM
56	Keeping everyone informed about the financial situation and how the district money can and cannot be spent. Being informed is imperative and this helps to reduce the amount of confusion by the community.	Feb 16, 2010 12:50 PM
57	Be honest with the taxpayers about what money is really being spent on - padding administration, eliminating vital programs, and upping its image as a community that cares more about appearances and less about education.	Feb 16, 2010 5:49 PM
58	Publish your minutes and financial information in the local paper. Be more transparent about your hiring practices and other issues that are impacted by this budget.	Feb 17, 2010 10:40 PM
59	Better promotion of current materials available to the CISD parent.	Feb 19, 2010 12:44 AM
60	Public forum.	Feb 19, 2010 2:02 PM
61	I think I have a good understanding of the issue.	Feb 19, 2010 2:50 PM
62	Clearer financial reporting of next three year anticipated revenues and expenses including disclosure of assumptions used in forecast model.	Feb 22, 2010 3:09 PM
63	Mailed info to taxpayers homes.	Feb 25, 2010 6:28 PM
64	Sending out a newsletter via email.	Feb 25, 2010 8:33 PM
65	understanding in detail why property tax \$\$ isn't going to M&O fund. What the district is doing with regard to state legislator to try to change funding formula.	Feb 26, 2010 9:20 PM

Response Text		
66	Access to appropriate accounting reports and audits.	Feb 26, 2010 10:11 PM
67	The district is doing a good job in this objective.	Feb 28, 2010 12:26 AM
68	Monthly or 2-time-monthly emails from the district.	Mar 5, 2010 1:16 AM
69	why there is no accountability for the people who are reasonable for balancing our budget	Mar 5, 2010 2:41 AM
70	Short information emails from CISD. Give a little at a time. Perhaps short updates via phone (automated system).	Mar 5, 2010 2:56 AM
71	Constant communication of decisions that have been made to date. I like the fact that Dr. Faltys is speaking to all the major parent groups in our district.	Mar 14, 2010 12:32 AM
72	Clear, concise bullet points on the issues and continued town hall style meetings.	Mar 26, 2010 7:24 PM