

Parent/Community Survey 2010

Please add additional comments/suggestions below.	
	Response Count
	257
<i>answered question</i>	257
<i>skipped question</i>	214

Response Text		
1	I do NOT support closing Millburn West in favor of Millburn Central under any circumstances. I am tired of hearing the Central parents suggest this without any regard to the students at West and both schools quality of life and school. I am willing to volunteer in any way to help keep out fabulous schools fabulous!	May 25, 2010 3:07 PM
2	I believe that putting out a wish list from the schools to the parents, for assistance in coaching, IT, Non mandated programs ETC would be a great way to save money.	May 25, 2010 3:13 PM
3	I think the pay to play system would be best at this point along with a reduction in staff particularly at the top level and eventually combining the two schools. We have duplication of effort in these schools (do we really need two principals given the school is less than a mile apart?).	May 25, 2010 3:22 PM
4	I think it would be a big mistake to combine the 2 schools and have the students attend Millburn Central and lease or sell Millburn West. It was not part of the plan to put anything else but an elementary school in a neighborhood. It is not fair to the residents of Heritage Trails to have it sold or leased to who knows what. Property values are down now due to the economy, but we do not need the values to fall further due to a vacant or undesirable use.	May 25, 2010 3:22 PM
5	Some of my responses might be a little different if there was a clearer understanding of what each change or reduction would mean in total \$\$ savings. I guess the bottom line is, a tax referendum is my LEAST FAVORITE option.	May 25, 2010 3:24 PM
6	For a referendum to be successful the district must involve parents in an information campaign to explain the situation that exists. Far too many community members did not attend any of the sessions, or do not have children in the district. They need to understand that these cuts are not threats used only as pressure to get a referendum passed. They are reality. Non-mandated programs, those that enhance the quality of the educational experience for the students, will be cut if additional funding is not found. When Zion Benton Schools passed their referendum a few years ago, they produced informational CD's and had parents go door-to-door to get the word out. I could put you in touch with someone who was involved in that process.	May 25, 2010 3:29 PM
7	Cut non mandated classes, shortening the school day or year and reduce teachers/staff salaries accordingly.	May 25, 2010 3:29 PM
8	Other streams of revenue should be explored - i.e. soliciting private funding. People should be held accountable for years of mismanagement. Increasing property taxes or lowering standards will only lower property values and dig a deeper hole! Get Smart - Figure it Out! Offering a bunch of doomsday options is manipulative and disrespectful!	May 25, 2010 3:32 PM

Response Text		
9	I'm extremely disappointed that the Board considers AIM a "pay to play" activity. This district should consider AIM part of the core curriculum for a subset of its students. Threatening to take away the one portion of a child's curriculum that challenges children the way they need to be challenged to learn is now considered "optional"? I didn't think my school system was so short-sighted.	May 25, 2010 3:33 PM
10	My husband and I purchased our home in this district because of the K-8 environment that Millburn offered. We then voted for referendums to preserve the K-8 environment. I believe this K-8 environment is one of the main factors that makes Millburn district special. Very few public schools offer K-8 schools and I feel that this environment allows students to remain kids a little longer. Millburn students tend to be a little sheltered and innocent at the end of their 9 years, and I feel that keeping them from a junior high environment helps prolong their childhood in this age where children are growing up so quickly. I realize it is not the only factor, but it is the one that sets us apart from almost every other grade school district in Lake County. It is also the only one that, according to your options that would not be reversed if/when the district gets back on their feet financially again. I beg you to think carefully before letting it go and making Millburn just like every other district.	May 25, 2010 3:33 PM
11	What I would like to see done is a combination of things as you mentioned in the meetings no one solution will work. Reconfigure to K-8, Increase fees but maybe not the total cost to support a program, tax increase and then if must cut teachers and increase class sizes. Thank you PS - the building referendum while I understand the concept the PR might be unsurmountable and credibility might be questioned by the general public and media.	May 25, 2010 3:35 PM
12	If all non-mandated programs are cut I will feel the need to consider homeschooling or private school, despite my desire to send my children to public school.	May 25, 2010 3:36 PM
13	I truly appreciate the opportunity to participate in this survey. #6 needed to have multiple options indicating not only operate at current levels but a smaller referendum which would include some of the other cuts to get us balanced. I think we all want the least amount of referendum with some type of cost reductions. For instance, configure grade level centers, increase class size (to something a little higher than current position) and a referendum that does not include a 25% contingency. No one I have talked to yet has indicated they are okay with a referendum that allows us to continue to operate at current levels for the next 5 years. That is why I checked unsure. I loved #5 which allowed me to rank 1st thru 6th (I had to rank referendum allowing Millburn to maintain current offerings #5 only because we will never pass a referendum that high). In summary, I want a referendum but I don't want \$1.35 or \$1.00 for that matter. I believe we have to take some cuts (i.e. configure to grade level centers, higher class sizes, pay for play) and then need a referendum to keep our class sizes from being ridiculously high and allow us to buy textbooks, renew software licenses/maintenance, etc.	May 25, 2010 3:37 PM
14	The taxes are already extremely high. The school system needs to be more efficient. Based on what I heard, the best option by far is to consolidate Central and West into one school. In addition, the approach to team sports needs to be reviewed as a cost cutting measure. As an example, not everyone has to make the track team. In the real world everyone does "make" everything they try out for. Allow the children that put out the most effort to make the team. All students would then find their own niche and be able to focus on those areas versus all areas. Less participation equals less costs.	May 25, 2010 3:37 PM

Response Text		
15	Reach out to your parent base as Subject Matter Experts.... many of us are at large companies and can help with cost savings. Where do we volunteer? I emailed the board, offering my expertise in purchasing and contract negotiation and never received a response. I'm sure there are many of us that are willing to help...just give us a way to volunteer.	May 25, 2010 3:38 PM
16	Seems like you already have your minds made up - why is there not a choice for consolidating to one building (as opposed to just doing a feasibility study)? As we all know, the bulk of the money goes to salaries. There would be several salaries cut by consolidating to one building. When you chose two K-8 buildings, you knew it was the most expensive way to go - I hope you make more affordable choices this time.	May 25, 2010 3:42 PM
17	The last thing I would want is to close West. Then Central would be all crammed again including adding trailers. I would be very concerned about having an empty building sitting there doing nothing. I read the material but didn't attend the forum...too depressing. The non-mandated programs are critical to a complete education and the quality of them (AIM) in this district is what made people flock to it in the 90s. Pay to play seems logical but not sure I understand. Is the cost per student the cost per participating student or cost of the program divided by total average attendance?	May 25, 2010 3:43 PM
18	If I can afford to pay another \$1000 - \$2000 in taxes per year it would be beneficial for me to move to a school district such as Libertyville where while paying the higher tax rate my children would receive an excellent education minus the budget issues and threats of cutting sports, music, library etc.	May 25, 2010 3:45 PM
19	As an educator, I did extensive research in the schools when we were looking for a home, well before our kids were born. The solid educational reputation is why we moved here and will do whatever we need to do to make sure Millburn continues with the high quality of education it has offered in the past. If there is not a cost to put a tax referendum on the ballot, than I firmly believe we need to put one on and see what happens. We will never know what will happen unless we try! We have to keep our children's education in mind! We all need to makes concessions and show that we are a true community, with the education of our children as the priority!	May 25, 2010 3:45 PM
20	There was no choice to combine an idea. Cutting back on some programs and having a lower referendum proposed would be a possible solution. There is very little combinations going on here. The teachers are among the lowest paid. They are at this school for a reason and it's not financial. There's something here that's keeping them and helping them to be great teachers. Eliminating a significant number of teachers will result in a district that we have never seen before.	May 25, 2010 3:50 PM
21	To lump all the programs together and ask if we'll pay for them is ridiculous. I would be willing to pay for some but not all. This makes the survey pretty pointless. Gifted services, to me, are not the same as choir. I would absolutely be willing to pay for the AIM services as they are an academic program but not the others. Shame on the district if you let your gifted program go.	May 25, 2010 3:51 PM
22	Question 3 should be broken out. I would be willing to pay for some more than others and do not want to group them all together.	May 25, 2010 3:51 PM

Response Text		
23	<p>I was very disappointed with the lack of preparation by Dr. Mauer and the School Board with cost savings/expenses with splitting the schools K-5 and 6-8, closing West and moving all students to Central, the cost to bring Central's water system up to par to allow students to move to Central, and other options for West if it was closed down temporarily (until our financials are in a better place). At the Central meeting Dr. Mauer stated, "We did not explore these options as we were not expecting parents to want to move that direction." They were listed as options in the presentations - they should have investigated the impact on the district. A lot of people think they have the data but don't want to share it. That they just want referendum money and not have to do any extra work on figuring out how we get ourselves out of this mess. They only took the time to say how passing a referendum (in different increments) would benefit the district. It's not going to be that easy this time! Parents are very upset with the lack of information that was provided since we were put on the watch list back on 2007. Dr. Menzer and the School Board should have been investigating these changes back then, not waiting until now and essentially bullying the parents into passing referendum or else the state will take over the district. An additional item should be to look into cutting administration pay. As everyone said, "We're all in this together." All of the financial burden should not be placed on the teachers and families only! You also should have included different referendum amounts that families would support vs. "I would support a tax referendum in order to allow Millburn District 24 to continue..." That would have given you a better idea of which referendum amount to move forward with vs. moving forward with an amount that not enough votes will be passed. You could have done this with questions #5 and added 3 additional options for the different referendum amounts that were presented at the financial meetings. It could have once again shown how each referendum amount would assist with paying down the debt and maybe assisted with covering "non-mandated programs". I was disappointed with the lack of information provided at the financial meetings and now I'm once again disappointed with the lack of organization with this survey - not getting down to more detail on options. I don't understand how you will have legitimate data to work from for your vote in August!? Parents would like additional follow-up on costs savings with splitting schools, moving everyone to Central to make a better response to the questions listed above.</p>	May 25, 2010 3:53 PM
24	<p>I would support it, but cannot recall costs involved in trying to get one passed, nor do I see the community supporting another \$1000 in taxes.</p> <p>We are willing to support our schools as best we can. We moved to this particular home with Millburn schools in mind and are saddened about the economic health...</p>	May 25, 2010 3:57 PM

Response Text		
25	<p>The registration and other fees have increased. Classes sizes are going up. Bus drivers are losing salary next year--did you ever think why the drivers stay with the school with loyalty? There are constant fundraisers.</p> <p>What have the administrators done to make sacrifices like you have expected of the parents and students? There is a substantial number of employers that have either had no raise for a year or put a cap on raises. Why is this NOT an option for the school? Why are we making all the sacrifices and I do not see any by the administration(not teachers). You know the solutions above are not short term, they will stay. My husband was capped at a 2% raise working for a non profit for which he made millions of dollars for last year. Why can't the school do something like this? If teachers received guaranteed 4-6% raises for 5 years, what are the administrators getting in their contract? Where is the information about other contracts in the school?</p> <p>This survey is presented as if these are the only options when you have left out a very obvious one that you are not willing to consider. If you would like to keep the high test scores that you covet, I would suggest looking carefully at how cutting more of the student classes/activities will affect them.</p> <p>Why am even bothering with public schools when I can get a comparable education at a private school ?</p>	May 25, 2010 4:00 PM
26	<p>West should be K-3/4. Central should be 4/5-8. If you can balance classes better, you might be able to lessen the impact if AIM is cut. It's hard to say about the pay to play. Those costs aren't stable. The less that can participate the higher the cost to parents. What's the decision point?</p>	May 25, 2010 4:02 PM
27	<p>1. sell all unused equipment and supplies on ebay or craig's list (use parent volunteers to get this done) 2. convert to "homemade" cleaning supplies using simple and widely available recipes wherever possible (far cheaper and better for everyone's health) 3. lengthen the school day a bit and shorten the school year by a small amount (most AC is used in the very beginning and end of the school year) 4. raise the price of registration 5. reduce the amount of light bulbs 6. get rid of refrigerator and microwaves in the classrooms 7. consider having students maintain classrooms by sweeping, dumping trash, and wiping down surfaces at the end of the day 8. explore the possibility or renting out MW to SEDOL and/ or a private school 9. charge higher user fees for renting the gyms, 10. reduce music to once a week</p>	May 25, 2010 4:06 PM
28	<p>We have had a tax referendum before to raise our taxes and the board mismanaged the funds and our school district to this point. I feel that we should either close West or split the grade levels between schools whichever is more beneficial financially. As well as continue to offer the non-mandated programs and charge for them. I would rather pay for the programs than trust the board to use my tax money wisely. However, what happens for those who can't afford to pay? Do those kids not get the programs or are the costs going to be passed on to those who can? What factor decide who and who can't afford? I feel for those who can't afford to pay-to-play, but I don't want to subsidize other kids art, music, library & computer classes.</p>	May 25, 2010 4:07 PM
29	<p>Once parents start paying for classes the child may not be able to attend all (such as band, and choir). Tax referendum is NO. I would rather pay more for eight years than pay for the rest of my time in the community. Taxes never go down. I am all for K-5 and 6-8, as well as paying for classes, as a parent I would like to see the district on a pay freeze for one year, to show that we are all working together. A job is better than no job. A lot of us have no job but if we are willing to come up with the extra money then the district needs also to do their part. There is no easy solution, but I could not justify paying extra for raises when I could just as easily use the money for my family.</p>	May 25, 2010 4:07 PM

Response Text		
30	1) Investigate reducing administrator costs. 2) Sell bonds 3) Actively seek and pressure local communities to invest and offer incentives in commercial activity (Lindenhurst lost Village Green).	May 25, 2010 4:11 PM
31	When looking at the information about dividing into grade level centers, there was no mention of impact on transportation. We'd be bussing Millburn West's students in addition to Central's.	May 25, 2010 4:11 PM
32	I am willing to "suffer" through the next couple of years (by paying for classes and/or taxes) if that means the board is going to concentrate on getting our district back to where it was. This is the main reason that most of us moved to the area. I currently have children in 3rd and 6th grades therefore, I am interested in the education that they will receive but I am also concerned about how additional taxes are going to affect the future value of the community and specifically my property value. People are not going to want to buy into a community and pay high taxes for an average school. I hope that the current board realizes that we do have to look to the future and can not just do things to get by year to year. One other item that was mentioned at the meeting at Central was cutting some of the admin. perks (insurance etc.) I realize that the administration (specifically superintendent and principals) have a hard job and that they should receive pay and benefits above the teachers but I know that in the company I work for and many others I have heard about, full paid family coverage is one of the first things to go. Maybe there are other alternatives, such as cutting some of the administrative positions like technology and curriculum. If we can't afford to update these items why do we need these administrators? These seem to be positions that are nice to have in good times but aren't feasible during the bad times. The only cuts in staff I have heard about are the teachers and they seem to be one of the most important parts of the district!! Also, is there any stimulus money that the district can try to obtain from the Federal government? Seems there are programs all over the place that are giving away money for kids.	May 25, 2010 4:17 PM
33	I believe the "extra" programs are very important for maintaining the quality of our schools for our children. I would much rather see an increase in class size/reduction in staff than removal of these important programs.	May 25, 2010 4:22 PM
34	I have a hard time with question #3 regarding all of those. Music and Art are no where near as important as having a quality library and quality up to date technology. I would like to have the music and art as possibly a pay to play alternative as well. Library and technology fuel learning much more than art an music in my opinion.	May 25, 2010 4:27 PM
35	Most parents will do anything to protect our district from being taken over by the state. Please try to save our extra curricular activities and specials. Please keep in mind some of us are on a fixed income. I would suggest the district consider a full time grant writer so less program would be cut. Reduce the number of administrators and unnecessary expenditures. Charge parents for bussing. Limit the number of field trips per year. Raise the yearly registration fee instead having "pay to play". Thank you considering my comments	May 25, 2010 4:29 PM
36	Split the district into two districts and have the new district (Millburn West) take all the debt with building the new school.	May 25, 2010 4:32 PM
37	Cut choir completely(2 other music programs in place), reduce all others by half (band starts at 6th grade instead of 4th, cut team practices in half, reduce number of clubs offered	May 25, 2010 4:45 PM

Response Text		
38	<p>Dear Dr. Mauer</p> <p>You have "special needs" kids whether under/over performing - AIM should not be considered non-core! How would you like your kid to go to school and not be challenged to their maximum potential?</p> <p>As for cutting costs I go by the school everyday and the MBW parking lot is empty at 7:30 am and empty by 4:30 pm. The non-teaching expense has out paced the teaching staff by a large margin. You must cut this as much as possible. If you were a publicly traded company the board of directories would be ripped apart. You need to cut overhead to the bone and have teacher work harder and do more "non-conventional" work. Have them clean their own rooms, help dish out the food, require them to do mandatory office work or admin work, etc... Tough times call for tough measures. Hiring a part time copy assistant, providing iPhones, paying the most of the board, taking a raise, etc. As for your raises you should all be ashamed of yourselves. Even if it's contractual you do not deserve a raise. Your actions (maybe not yours since you just got here) have put our school in this position and made us one of the worst financially strapped school in Lake county. Your actions (which may not match how you feel) to this point do not seem to show the district that you really understand the severity of the situation. You need to educate first and cut everything else that does not contribute to that.</p> <p>Thanks for the venue to voice my opinions.</p>	May 25, 2010 4:49 PM
39	Paying almost \$9,000/yearly taxes an increase of \$1,325 is unacceptable. I completely disagree with an increase in class size. I have a 1st grader with 24 kids in his class! What a shame!	May 25, 2010 4:50 PM
40	Typically I would have voted for a tax referendum. However, we have relocated from North Atlanta and the schools were comparable with Millburn. Our property taxes were 75% lower there for the same house here. \$10,500 per year and the school is in trouble. We need to find out where all of these tax dollars are going and fix that first.	May 25, 2010 4:51 PM
41	Close Central.....	May 25, 2010 4:54 PM
42	Employees in many industries are being impacted by the current financial crisis and in many instances as opposed to making forced redundancies have accepted cuts/freezes in pay and reductions or temporary reductions in any bonuses or financial merit awards. Technology should not be reduced in the schools as our children's future depends upon learning such critical skills. Although arts, music etc... are important in the social development of children this is an area that could be presented from parents and after-school activities if they select to enroll their children in such programs.	May 25, 2010 4:54 PM
43	<p>I know that technology is not mandated, however if it was to be eliminated I fear this would put our kids at a distinct disadvantage when they enter high school. Technology should be viewed as more important than Social Studies, but again I realize this is not Millburn's call.</p> <p>Millburn should do everything in their power to save the AIM program, or at least some version of it. If they can not do this, a strong emphasis needs to be put on splitting the classes so that the same level kids are together. If this is not done, some kids will not be challenged enough, which could lead to not paying attention and tuning out.</p>	May 25, 2010 5:38 PM
44	If you make an elem & middle school, and release the middle school before the elem school- it may relieve a lot of families of the expense of after school care. In turn, they may be more willing to spend more \$ elsewhere: pay to play, referendum, etc. Leasing out excess space in 1 of the schools to a private pre school could provide many benefits for all.	May 25, 2010 5:55 PM

Response Text		
45	Parents should be reminded that if they do not want to pass a referendum, they will most likely be spending at least the same amount of money to make up for cut programs. The costs of supplementing with extra music lessons, art classes, technology supplies and books--or the costs of opting for private schooling or homeschooling (taking a parent out of the workforce) would be much higher than \$1 or even \$1.35 on taxes. Supplementing outside of the school day also costs valuable family time and free time for kids. Non-mandated programs are extremely important. Cultures are built on the arts. Real problem solvers are not robots raised to pass standardized tests on the "3 R's" but creative thinkers who have also had the chance to explore the world with both sides of their brains.	May 25, 2010 6:11 PM
46	The only reason we live in Lindenhurst is for Millburn school, that's all Lindenhurst has. Depending on what happens, my husband and I are going to have to seriously rethink where we want to live and where we want our children going to school. If we are going to have this "pay to play" option, we're better off sending our children to private school (it might be cheaper). Growing up in Naperville, I'm an advocate of reconfiguring the grade levels. I pray that we find a solution that everyone can tolerate.	May 25, 2010 6:25 PM
47	I think it would be good to get input on prioritization of solutions from area real estate brokers and developers for which will keep the district most attractive to potential home buyers. We need more families to move in and increase the tax base. Staying competitive is the best way to do that.	May 25, 2010 6:32 PM
48	although I did not attend the forum have reviewed everything on line, have one child at Lakes High school and have always been so proud of Millburn.	May 25, 2010 6:41 PM
49	I am definitely in favor of creating grade-level schools to eliminate inefficiencies. A number of options need to be implemented in some form to pay down the huge amount of debt. The board should attempt a referendum at a rate that has a chance to pass (less than 50 cents), then create two plans--one where the referendum passes and another where it doesn't. Staff cuts have to be included in the plans to attack the biggest portion of the budget--salary and benefits. I do not have children in the schools yet, however when I look at the number of staff at Central (125?), I have to believe there are positions that could be cut with minimal impact to students. I am ok with moderate increases to student/teacher ratios, especially with the projections of lower enrollment over the next 5 years (ratios will go up at first, then drop as enrollment drops). The goal must be to pay down our debt as quickly as possible and to avoid borrowing any additional money, while at the same time balancing the yearly budget.	May 25, 2010 6:44 PM
50	I didn't realize the district had such a dilemma. I don't know how feasible it would be, but would it save any money to switch to a 4 day school week? While my family doesn't have monetary resources to pay for programs or to afford a tax increase, I (as I'm sure MANY others) would be willing to volunteer to help the school in whatever way possible. I teach computer classes at CLC & would happily donate my time to teach to the kids at Millburn. Please post something on the school website for those interested in volunteering services.	May 25, 2010 6:48 PM
51	try the option of cutting costs through a pay to play and reconfiguring k-5 and 6-8 instead of reducing staff.	May 25, 2010 6:49 PM
52	If cuts in staff are necessary, how about reaching out more to the community for volunteers. There are probably many moms and grandparents who could help out a few hours every morning or afternoon. Not full time Room Moms but helpers with specific tasks.	May 25, 2010 6:53 PM

Response Text		
53	We moved to this school district two years ago from a surrounding area for the K-8 structure. We recognized the importance and value of having our children in a K-8 school. We chose our current house/neighborhood because Millburn West was a community, neighborhood school. This is important because it promotes parent involvement, a safe environment for the kids, mentoring between grade levels. Having experienced other school districts, it is easy to see that Millburn's middle schools have been able to avoid some of the issues that other middle schools face, largely because they are K-8. We don't need locks on our lockers. We don't need drug dogs. We do not have issues with boyfriend/girlfriend behavior in the halls or on the school property. This would likely change by making Millburn West a middle school. We recognize that the most important factor in maintaining good property values is the success of the school district. If the schools become undesirable, our property values drop. I'd rather be proactive and support a referendum.	May 25, 2010 6:58 PM
54	Although we recognize the dire financial situation, we would be very disappointed to lose our neighborhood k-8 school. Those who are worried primarily about how much they pay in taxes should also consider the positive effects that good schools have on property value. Thank you for all of your efforts in trying to find the best solution to the problem.	May 25, 2010 7:06 PM
55	I've lived in Lindenhurst for 10 years. My taxes have gone up each year, including for the funding of Millburn West. I am NOT in favor of continuing to pay higher taxes. Soon you won't have families attending Millburn as we can't afford to live here any longer.	May 25, 2010 7:07 PM
56	Look at generating revenue through rental and/or sale of Millburn West (church, homeschool group, corporation, etc.). Offer non-mandated programs before and after school through 3rd parties for a cost (similar to St. Pat's and private schools). Teachers should be able to incorporate some of the non-mandated specials into their curriculum...if learning about Italy, talk about some of the art and music. Research the country on the computer, etc.(Unit study type of work). If I "pay to play" I prefer professionals such as a qualified voice instructor, someone that coaches USA youth track, etc. This may be our Millburn teachers or outside people...that is why subcontracting the specials would bring more competition for the best qualifications at the best cost. At Carmel H.S., they have a training session for volunteers that can then substitute classes using teacher curriculum. In a similar way, Millburn can utilize more volunteers to support teachers.	May 25, 2010 7:11 PM
57	My spouse and I moved to this district because of the K-8 schools. It would be extremely disappointing to see that change. In addition, our daughter is falling under the recommended marks for her age group and we, along with the teachers, are having to work very hard to get her to where she needs to be. If we go to bigger class sizes, we are afraid that she will fall behind again and will always be behind the eight ball.	May 25, 2010 7:14 PM

Response Text		
58	<p>Question #3: Cut Art, Music, Technology and keep library until we are in the black</p> <p>Q#4: Keep AIM as this is a draw for Milburn. For the rest of the programs; cut until we are in the black or offer them on a pay to play.</p> <p>Q#5: This part of the survey seems skewed towards selecting the easy choice of increasing revenue via referendum. The simplest way is not always best and such is the case here. I surely hope you are not planning on having a \$.90 referendum passed as I am thinking this will not happen. Maybe a \$.50 will. Furthermore I am not a big proponent for cutting teaching staff. Cut administration and support staff, but not teachers. Cut benefits to administrators such as family medical coverage, iPhone plan usage, \$200 car reimbursements and other 'wants' versus needs. Let's get real and really make some cuts. We are all in this together, no? Now, as you know, keeping a reasonably low class sizes directly impacts our students. Maybe we offer a 2-4yr plan for this since estimates show a decreasing student population over the next 5 years? So a slight increase now will be remedied before too long. Q#6: I would be willing to donate \$2,000 to the school, on a one-time basis, or even increase the tax base via referendum, but only after changes are made. We cannot keep the status quo, part of which has been created by the poor management habits that have led to this situation. We/you need to cut our spending like any other entity or family does to remain solvent. Basically, we need to make cuts of all the 'wants' while focusing and retaining the core programs that focus on reading, writing math and science-the programs that make our school scholastically excellent. Then once we have cut all we can, we can then, in good conscience, go to the public and ask for a referendum to cover the shortfall in order to get us back in the black and towards our 25% reserve goal. Finally-one item that hasn't been covered in the meetings is what's our time-line for getting this turned around? 3, 4, 7 years? Once we have this time frame, we can work backwards from there. IMO-the shorter time the better. The sooner we are back in positive territory, the sooner we can go and start increasing program offerings again. Please see email to you as another reference point.</p>	May 25, 2010 7:19 PM
59	I think Millburn needs to do a better job at making the community aware of what is going on. Communication has not gone beyond people that have children currently at the school.	May 25, 2010 7:26 PM
60	Closing West would ruin the district and decrease property value! Our children will not do as well if they are being taught in a trailers & have over crowded classrooms!!! No one will want to go to Millburn if they consolidate back to one school.	May 25, 2010 7:28 PM
61	We moved into this district 9 years ago, before our oldest started school, because of the great reputation that Millburn had. We love the K-8 and would do almost anything to keep it that way! We like both schools, so it is not a matter of Central or West. We currently have four children in the district; another in the future.	May 25, 2010 7:31 PM
62	<p>Thank for putting out this survey, however I have some additional comments/suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * other questions devoted to how much parents would be willing to pay for registration/activities would be good esp. so as to toe the line for the non-profit status. * follow-up survey with a bit more substance and more scenarios that may have been pooled from first round. * additional ideas like renegotiating all salaries, not just teachers, e.g. administrative staff. <p>In general, I thought this survey would have had more substance, but it's definitely a start.</p>	May 25, 2010 7:49 PM

Response Text		
63	<p>I strongly believe that reconfiguring the schools into grade level centers will in and of itself reduce the need for staff and will also save money by reducing duplication at both schools. I think this should be the first plan of action, followed by increasing class sizes as necessary. I would support a \$0.50 tax increase, and believe that might be palatable to the community, but would not support a greater tax increase. I also believe returning to one building is a short-sighted solution that would put us back where we were seven years ago; once the economy improves, we will likely see more houses being built again.</p> <p>As an additional idea, I know many parents have volunteered in the libraries in the past. Would it be feasible to reduce the library and staff costs by going to a part-time librarian and parent volunteers to staff the library for check-outs and reading time? I would definitely be willing to help with such a program.</p>	May 25, 2010 7:54 PM
64	Where are other scenarios for cuts to administration or possibly renegotiating their salaries.	May 25, 2010 7:54 PM
65	I think the grade level centers along with pay to play (until we can afford not to) and a smaller tax referendum might be the way to go until we get out of the jam we are in currently. I do realize once the schools are split this will not change.	May 25, 2010 8:02 PM
66	The community demands that the board and administration realize that cuts need to be made in many areas. Not just teachers and "extras." So many ideas have been brought before the board and we'd like to know when those cuts will take place before teachers or a referendum. Full day Kindergarten three days a week, eliminating an extra bus route five days a week. Combining our half day and early dismissal into one full day off, leaving teachers a full day for meetings and planning, and allowing us to save on busing for one full day. Dispensing of administrative iPhones paid by the district, eliminating approximately \$7000 a year. Requiring the administrators pay for their family health benefits equal to that of the teachers. We ALL have to suffer the consequences of our predecessor's actions and be uncomfortable.	May 25, 2010 8:08 PM
67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe we should continue to explore other viable options; such as seeking out the assistance of professionals with in our community and county to assist. • I do not believe that the presenters were confident in their findings; therefore I'm not confident they have our best interest. They have no connection to the community. • I believe that raising property taxes will only increase the strain already felt by families in turn possibly forcing them to move and bringing classroom enrollment to become even less which may impact the school enough to close. • Let's exhaust all our possibilities before we come to a decision. • I appreciate the work the board has done since I've been in the district but am especially grateful of the knowledge and expertise that Dr. Mauer brings to our school district and in this I am confident that together we will see this come to pass with a positive outcome. Thank you! 	May 25, 2010 8:09 PM
68	Have we looked into private grants or additional funding through gov't subsidies or large company donations? Increase the registration fee by \$50.00 plus larger class sizes and staff reduction. I am in favor of split schools (K-5 and 6-8).	May 25, 2010 8:29 PM

Response Text		
69	I feel the reason that I put unsure on the last question is because I need further information on where the money will be going in the schools in order for me to vote "yes" to a referendum. I need to know that the money will be going towards my child's education instead of salaries. I feel that will make a huge impact on how I would vote. I am very worried about my children's' education in this district. We moved here two years ago for Millburn, I have 3 children and my oldest is in kindergarten this year, which means we are here for the long run. I am so saddened at the managing of the money for our school district. Two years ago the housing and economy were starting to dwindle and why was money just being spent, they should have been carefully looking at how monies were being spent. I realize that the state is not giving us our money, however I do believe our district was living the life of this is "never going to happen to us." And now my children's education is going to suffer and I am not happy about it! We have to make sure that we are making clear decisions about where the money is being spent for the kids not for salaries!!	May 25, 2010 8:48 PM
70	You don't break down the non-mandated items. Technology is important to the future of our children's ability to compete in the real world. Where are the reductions in the pension programs for teachers? In the corporate world this is one of the first things that get affected along with 401 k matching, etc. How about reductions or freezes in salary? Raises were given above the private sector rate when times were good and they still get pay raises in a downward trend...this makes no economical sense.	May 25, 2010 8:52 PM
71	Was on the financial committee and gave up year of life to make recommendations, BOA was not aggressive in recommendations then, and was slow to react to recommendations. Would like to see a further accounting on what is going on with the raised fees for activity fees, where did that go? Also how much would it cost to combin school and shut down on- Temp housing cost, lost of lunch program- etc.	May 25, 2010 8:57 PM
72	I don't understand how there is a set fee for clubs/sports per year. What if my child only participates in one sport vs. others who participate in many? I would like to see the mandated programs each listed as a choice. Some I care more about than others.	May 25, 2010 8:58 PM
73	Do not pay for administrators family health care and freeze or cut their salaries	May 25, 2010 8:58 PM
74	The disadvantages listed on the grade level centers slide are all intangibles, some of which could actually be considered as an advantage too. Ex.: "Transitions" could be an advantage since the students would have had experienced a transition prior to making the move to high school; thus making that transition a little easier. The intangible idea that students would have a wider pool of friends could easily be added to the advantage side. Additionally, it is necessary to see the actual financial bottom line of going to grade level centers. Also, the presentation has numerous references comparing Millburn to area schools. It would be informative to see Millburn household tax rates compared to neighboring households attending these other area schools. We may "price ourselves out" of the purchase market for incoming families.	May 25, 2010 9:29 PM

Response Text		
75	<p>For me to support such a referendum, there would have to be a guarantee that the AIM program, music, technology, Art, choir and band would not be cut. I don't want to pledge \$1400 in increased taxes only to find that we are going to have to come up with \$10,000 for private school tuition.</p> <p>I think that all staff should have a salary freeze for at least the next three years. No one I know has had a raise for at least two years--if they still have jobs. It's astonishing that the staff have been getting 4-7% raises as the school has been borrowing 1-2 million every year for the past four years. The staff should have gone back to the table years ago to renegotiate this. I don't want to suffer a \$1,400 tax increase to pay for someone else's \$1,400 raise when our family's wages have been stagnant for three years and my home value has gone down 60,000 since we moved in three years ago--and we pay property taxes on the full amount. Everyone should be sacrificing together.</p> <p>If combining the buildings produces the financial results we need, it is by far my first choice.</p> <p>I wish the school would ask for more parent volunteers in the school to take the place of less trained staff positions. I think a lot of people would help, and if we have people coordinating the PTO and Market Day, surely someone can coordinate a parent volunteer corps for the school. It would be nice to be asked to volunteer rather than buy overpriced goods for fundraisers.</p> <p>Also, what about asking people for a one-time donation to the school--whatever they can afford--to help with the crisis. We give money to charity every year and this year the school district could be our charity. You could set up a fund.</p>	May 25, 2010 9:39 PM
76	<p>How do you expect us to make an informed decision without giving us the estimate that each option would save the school. I will not make an uneducated decision. The fact that you all seemed shocked by the suggestion of a pay freeze is crazy to me. Almost as crazy as a district who knew they were in trouble still dishing out up to 6% raises, then 5.5%, 5%, 4%, 4%. My husband and I have both not taken raises over the past 2 years due to the economy. It is time the school district does the same. My other comment is that the superintendent is playing dirty politics with the bus drivers. I would think people who have been here for 15 + years are grandfathered into the program and pay that was set years ago. How can you take raises away from someone who has earned them. It is ridiculous and I am very angered by these actions. I moved back into this school system thinking it was the best school around. Little did I know how bad it really was and how the administration is willing to do whatever it takes to get their money. Private school is looking better and better by the minute.</p> <p>Sincerely Annoyed Parent</p>	May 25, 2010 9:44 PM
77	<p>I think that administrative cuts should happen first! Operate with 1 principal for both schools, have the principal in one building and the superintendent in another on a daily basis. Eliminate the technology "director" and curriculum "director" and business manager. Get rid of i-phones. office staff should be volunteer, library staff volunteer and do whatever can be done with the least impact on the children. SEDOL needs to be addressed. If special needs children cost us THAT much and take away from the education of the regular ed students then take them OUT of Millburn. We must have the best interest of the children FIRST. Sell the property adjacent to Central and use that money towards our debt, every little bit helps. Do what they do in private schools and tell the parents that MANDATORY volunteer hours are expected of them otherwise give them the option to "pay-out" this way you can utilize parents to help out around the school by way of janitorial/up keep/classroom aides/office staff/library staff. Create a sense of community and the school will come together to weather this storm! Speaking as a parent of West, I do not feel welcome in the school/classroom and if you increase class sizes, teachers WILL need help! Closing West is a ridiculous idea and the speculation that it is-is causing a "riff" between Central and West and that attitude is counter productive!</p>	May 25, 2010 10:07 PM

Response Text		
78	All the subjects mentioned are extremely important to me for my children. I pay an enormous amount of money every year toward Millburn schools. It is very sad that our children will suffer. Regardless of how high our property taxes have risen year to year Illinois still complains they are broke and I for one am tired of politicians pulling at the heartstrings of parents asking for more money for the schools thinking that they will get it as long as it is affecting the school system. I have had enough and am looking into relocating my family where budgets are better maintained. I am going to deeply miss Milburn West but we will get out before it gets any worse and I cannot afford to feed my family. For the sake of every hard working family that remains I pray that things get better.	May 25, 2010 10:11 PM
79	Was curious if we looked at BJ Hooper school, and how they are doing it? Are they over crowded? Could we take some students from them?	May 25, 2010 10:22 PM
80	I answered "yes" to questions 3 and 4 but realized that it would be an additional \$700+ for my one child at West (he is in the gifted program). To have that expense and then an additional property tax would be too much. My son will also start middle school next year and is interested in joining a club. I don't want to have to not allow it because of a high fee. I liked the option discussed Tuesday of having gym, music and/or art less often. Would that help? Something that wasn't discussed was getting rid of the hot lunch program. If lunch staff was removed, how much could be saved? What if students ate their lunch in their homeroom with their homeroom teacher? Then we wouldn't even need "lunch ladies." Teachers could still have a break when students go out for recess. I think closing West would be silly. It's much better to split the class levels at both schools. My kids had to adjust to moving to West from Central when West first opened, I don't think it would be too much of an adjustment for students to switch locations again, if needed. My combination would be to split the schools into levels allowing for some staff reduction and trying for a referendum (minimal amount in hopes it passes).	May 25, 2010 10:26 PM
81	Please replace the current superintendent as soon as possible!!!	May 25, 2010 10:31 PM

Response Text		
82	<p>Our school board needs to look at how they are spending money. One- Why have you hired a tech person that is not a certified teacher? WHY are you adding to the tech department by hiring back a retiring tech teacher? Can we really afford this? We are a small district this is not breaking news. The way to make this work is have all adults wear multiple hats. Do we really need to have our Superintendent and a principle at West next year. If Dr. Mauer does in fact go to West she should act as principle and Superintendent. This is what Emmons did for years. This would be a huge saving. Do we really need Mr. White to do payroll? Do we not have a business manger that we pay 87,500 a year? WOW!! When Mr. White had this job he did payroll and his other duties. Teachers could be asked to do lunch duties and other duties that cost the district. What do we pay for this? I agree everyone needs to step up to the plate and help out and do more. Don't make the mistake of having the kids pay the price of the problem that was created by the adults that run the school. Ask the adults to step up and help out. Do we really need all the office staff we have? Can the teachers be asked to help out some way in the office to cover the job of the missing office personnel? I know there may be contract issues with this but ask for help I can't believe teachers in our district would say no.</p> <p>Dr. Mauer says she is right here with us. I don't see that. She wants us to vote for a referendum. She does not pay taxes here. She makes more that many parents in our district make. Her salary is more than some families total income. These are not her kids. Does she even know the names of any of the kids in the district? This is a job, money to take home to her family. Don't let her sway your decisions to make choices that you know in your heart are not good for our school. You have difficult decisions to make, make sure as you make them that you believe in your heart that this is in the best interest for our kids. I can't believe that putting 30 kids in a classroom is in their best interest. Do you? REALLY!!!!</p> <p>You will not be able to make everyone happy, this we know. Make sure the decisions you make are just and well thought out. Are admin. is payed well. When you compare their salary to other districts look at the number of students in the school. Not test scores. Smaller schools do pay less If they don't like it let them move on. Our teachers don't make that much you showed us this. Third from the bottom. RIGHT! And look at the quality of teachers we have. People want to be at Millburn for more than money. Think about that the next time admin. wants to add personnel that don't have contact with students. The only people we should be adding if we could afford it are teachers that have contact with the students. They are our focus. In hard times the non -student contact staff needs to go. Not teachers that make our school what it is. Get rid of teachers and watch as the great test scores you all brag about go down. Teachers can only do so much. No one can effectively teach 30 kids well. The top kids will be the top. Average kids do well no matter where they go. It is the struggling student that we do so well with in our district that will begin to fail. When this happens, if it does, know that you have made decisions that have negatively impacted students. DON'T let this happen.</p> <p>Kids need to read, write and do arithmetic. The other stuff is great but kids can do without it.</p>	May 25, 2010 10:36 PM
83	<p>Either way we look at things it seems taxes and what nots keep going up but nothing in our schools change their should be no reason for the kids to not experience things like art, music so forth. I was upset that my child really didnt have field trips this year. If the kids have nothing other then books to look forward to in school drop out's start happening school's should not have to cut anything. Teachers projects,art etc etc. If it means higher taxes for a higher education then so be it!</p>	May 25, 2010 10:40 PM
84	<p>when it come to paying extra for band and sports and all non mandatory events I as a parent are willing to pay some extra but I don't think that the prices that you have listed about in the survay are just. I don't see how band can cost so much when in my opinion it seem that the teacher doesn't spend enough time to justified the cost we as parent have to spend.</p>	May 25, 2010 10:51 PM

Response Text		
85	Pay to play with staff cuts would be way to go. I do not want to pay for AIM as my kids were not chosen. This program must be eliminated or paid by parents of kids who attend. I would pay for art, extracurricular, music, technology. Reduce library staff and staff in front office.	May 25, 2010 11:08 PM
86	We paid for a tax referendum that increased our taxes by \$1000 to build Millburn West - I would not be in favor of another huge increase to cover up the blunder made. However, I may not be opposed to a smaller increase combined with other options.	May 25, 2010 11:16 PM
87	We need more information...this survey does not offer enough information to make a descion	May 25, 2010 11:27 PM
88	the questions / statements are way too general. what is a "significant" class size increase? why are we holding onto the house by central and the land bought for Millburn 3?	May 25, 2010 11:49 PM
89	I would think if it is feasible to close Millburn West, I would have that as my top pick and just deal with having some classes in trailers until the enrollment drops and Central can hold all classes inside. I think dropping non mandatory programs and/or increasing the class sizes even further should be a last resort. I also am for the Pay to Play idea. I have a child in AIM and would be more than willing to pay so he can continue with that. Also, are there any positions that parents can volunteer for? I have spoken to several parents who said they would be more than willing to volunteer their time, to perhaps the front office or library, or wherever they could be of assistance.	May 25, 2010 11:58 PM
90	I would like to see more of a breakdown of how band has the figure attached that it does that there could probably be cuts/modifications within some of these programs. With a public library that we already pay taxes to I don't feel inclined to pay for that additionally through the school. One of the first things that should be done is to increase registration fees this Year for 2010-2011 which would help start turning things around and show the tax payers that the parents are willing to help support the burden of the school. I don't believe the public would support a building referendum and I personally think it's a poor suggestion especially when you state you are considering closing Millburn West - why would we give money for another school? I want to see a general referendum that states what the intention of the tax hike is. I think the \$1 proposal that translates to \$1000 for a \$300,000 home might be a tough sell, but somewhere in the \$500-\$750 might be more inclined to pass with the community as a whole. We moved into Heritage Trails 1 1/2 years ago for the community school, we supported the last referendums - so the LAST thing I'd want to see is to close West and see it sit empty. I have believed in the quality of education here at Millburn and would like to see it continue. I think we need to consider curriculum enhancements not cuts as we fall behind.	May 26, 2010 12:02 AM
91	No, because then what happens after 5 years?Cutting art, music, and technology is NOT the answer - they are just as important as math and reading. I would totally support changing the buildings to pre-K thru 4th or 5th grade in one and the older students in another if it helps reduce costs. Could you expand the district boundaries to take in more property tax payers? Seriously, we already pay enough in taxes - you all need to learn to work within a budget, and perhaps use what you have more efficiently or in a more creative way - like renting space to a fledgling church on the weekends or something...	May 26, 2010 12:09 AM
92	no more TAX increasing	May 26, 2010 12:24 AM
93	I feel that having one school for k-5 & one school for 6-8 is a great choice. It would allow class sizes to be equal. If this is not done West will have smaller class sizes than Central, and that is NOT fare. We are paying the same taxes, so our classes should have the same amount of students. I also do not feel that the parents should have to pay for art, misic, & gym.... That would be \$425 per student...	May 26, 2010 12:46 AM

Response Text		
94	This is a pretty vague survey for such an important subject. I suggest the board study the facebook page that has been set up on this topic.	May 26, 2010 1:05 AM
95	I would not support a tax referendum if there were no additional efforts at cost savings. I believe the cost to continue as the district is right now, \$1.35 per \$1000 of EAV is too much to add on to our tax bill. The tax cap does not prevent our taxes from going higher as discussed last night, it only keeps taxing bodies from asking for more than the percentage they are capped at. Too many cuts and additional fees will also affect our property values, as no one will want to buy into this district.	May 26, 2010 1:13 AM
96	<p>I am so offended that AIM is in the same category as athletics. The educational NEED is not an option for gifted kids! This shows a total lack of understanding at the administrative and board level with what a gifted child needs in order to learn something new every day. Your current comfort with these kids being given "challenge packets" which come with zero teacher guidance or teaching is an insult to our kids intelligence! The idea that in order for kids to prosper they need to be with LD kids or lower than average learners in order to prosper is outdated thinking. You'd never think twice about pulling a child who will make your test scores low and send them for reading help or math help, an educational enhancement. Those kids who make your school shine with academic success deserve their educational enhancements as well.</p> <p>I think that the board members who voted yes to drive our district into it's financial demise should resign immediately!!! There are several possible replacement candidates who have shown their intelligence hence a high degree of competency during the forums who should assume the role of wisely leading our district. I have zero confidence with the BOE at this point in time.</p> <p>Where are the Administrative concessions here. All Ellen proposed is cutting teachers I hear nothing with regards to support staff or administration. I assume that since we have nothing new with regards to curriculum Cheryl Kucera's position should be considered for elimination or else when she retires that position should not be filled.</p> <p>I do not recall anywhere on the Financial Advisory Committee cost saving ideas the suggestion for iPhones. You don't even get reception in your buildings for these to work properly, hence another administrative perk. I can already see Bob B rolling his eyes. Small things need to be taken seriously. If our administrators don't like the idea of concessions then I suggest they seek employment in another district. We tax payers will need to sacrifice in order for them stay employed, after all if State takes over they're out a job! I expect them to show us how they are also sacrificing. Show me their contracts as you make the teachers current contract so easy to find on your site. Transparency right??? Your words not mine.</p> <p>I suggest that you continue to hold community forums as it is very clear that you desperately need the valuable input provided by the student's parents.</p> <p>Quite frankly, I feel horrible in saying this but a serious consideration should be made to cut elementary music. is absolutely horrible! classes are nothing more than a dreaded part of the day for a majority of the kids. Honestly.....worksheets...kids sitting in rows. Clue in now! Take the time to actually sit in one of classes. is abrasive to some but music class was awesome. My daughter said class was the first one that she enjoyed at Millburn. Too darn bad it took until 5th grade for her to have this!</p>	May 26, 2010 1:15 AM
97	Number 6 depends on the level of commitment.	May 26, 2010 1:32 AM
98	please do not cut all of these extra classes like music, art etc. these classes are so important to the development of our kids and many will pay fees to keep them! Paying some fees is still a lot better than the costs of private schools which I know many are considering. Thank you.	May 26, 2010 1:33 AM

Response Text		
99	Children need to be exposed to art, music, library, and tech throughout their day as it provides a different type of learning and breaks up the traditional classroom atmosphere. Students who excel at hands on activities should still be able to show their abilities in a school setting within the school day. Life is about being well rounded and exposed to a variety of skills. It would be detrimental to the Millburn community.	May 26, 2010 1:46 AM
100	We moved here for the great school district. Completely disappointed.	May 26, 2010 1:50 AM
101	Please investigate voluntary enrollment at West to even class sizes.	May 26, 2010 1:51 AM
102	I would support a smaller tax referendum in addition to reconfiguring the two buildings.	May 26, 2010 2:10 AM
103	We support a tax referendum, BUT NOT one that gives us a 25% contingency. We believe the best option is a combination of a tax referendum and changing to grade level centers. All the options above seem to be bundled in such a way to drive people towards the referendum, since that seems to be the easiest thing to be done. The bundling of the non-mandated programs could cost a family a lot more money than the referendum thus causing people to vote for the referendum!!! Not really liking the combination of options because they are pushing people towards the referendum, which is what we felt was being pushed on us at the community meeting. A lot of figures were given for this option, but there were NO figures given for the grade level centers. This type of financial information would be very helpful in making an informed decision. We realize you were not the Board that got us to this point, but we would like to make an informed decision about our children's academic future. On another note, I wish the negativity towards all the Special Education costs would not be shown in these meetings. I saw it in the FAC meetings last year and I saw it at the community meeting. I know Special Education costs a lot of money, but the children that need it deserve to have it. I'm tired of it being portrayed as a "burden" to the district! Afterall, these kids need more help and that's what schools are here to do!!	May 26, 2010 2:17 AM
104	I think by consolidating into one school and being overcrowded and having pe in hallways etc.. We will be lowering the values of our homes. I think many will move out (if they can) and we will ruin our reputation. We need to think out of the box and perhaps look to renting out a wing of Millburn west to another program such as a therapeutic day school or to sedol. There is a great need for certian programs but they often have difficulty finding buildings and getting zoning permits. Since we are already zoned for a school we may be able to attract private schools looking to expand. (Just a Thought). I will be very upset if we consolidate! I am willing to pay to keep our school and keep class size down. My other concern is how the teachers are responding to this. Just this year my daughters teacher made some comments on how hard she felt it was to manage the amount of students she had. How can we expect our teachers to maintain a higher number of students and implement RTI properly. I think we will see a significant number of problems as a result. We will have a decrease in test scores, poor academic performance, and an increase in negative behavior and other problems. This in itself will cost money. I also want to know what will happen to a vaccant building? \$\$	May 26, 2010 2:17 AM
105	We moved into this district for a reason..the school!!!!!!!!!! Please save our school...I definately would like the grade level school...I have two older girls in 4th grade and 6th grade now, and they never see each other anyways..The comment about its good for the younger children is totally false...They are never around each other anyways...Definately support 6,7,8 in a junior high building...Please make this happen!!!!!!!!!! It only makes sense!!!!!!!!!! Please	May 26, 2010 2:24 AM
106	I would support a tax referendum, but not at the higher levels discussed. I can't imagine that anything over an average increase of \$600.00 would pass.	May 26, 2010 2:29 AM
107	I would certainly think that a pay increase freeze would also be considered.	May 26, 2010 2:42 AM

Response Text		
108	We moved to our subdivision because of the school district. We want our children to have the same high quality school that other kids have had access to. I am willing to pay for that luxury, but I want to know that the extra money is being spent wisely and frugally.	May 26, 2010 2:49 AM
109	-To be able to justify increasing our already high taxes, we truly need to exhaust all available options, especially if we are going to "sell" a referendum to the rest of the community. -Consolidating to one building would be something we would be willing to support if we are able to see what the cost-benefit would be for the district.	May 26, 2010 2:52 AM
110	Considering our property taxes are already 9 times the national average, any increase is difficult, however increasing the costs to keep standard programs like music, art, technologies, and library and AIM would increase the cost of sending my third grader to school by over \$700 a year. At least the property tax would spread across the whole district. There have to be some additional cuts that don't impact the students directly.	May 26, 2010 2:58 AM
111	I feel VERY strongly that it would be a mistake and wrong to divide the school into grade level centers. Because the total enrollment for the district will be below the capacity of Central in a few years, I think there is no choice but to consolidate the schools. If you do split the school, you will just have an under enrolled elementary school AND an under enrolled middle school in a few years. The loss of the \$100k SEDOL credit can be saved by leasing rooms in West if necessary. I also do not think trailers are the end of the world. If needed, the kindergarten (& even the 1st grade if needed) could be moved to west until the enrollment falls below the capacity of central. I also think we need to start pay to play this coming school year to try to start reducing costs immediately. Parents volunteers are also a very valuable resource that to date I do not think have been fully utilized. Parents can volunteer as subs to save the district a ton of money. Parents can cover the signing in & out of the building. Parents can cover lunch and recess. We also can lose the cafeteria and just have kids bring their lunch to school (in other words, no hot lunch). There are so many parents willing to help, it would be a shame to overlook that resource.	May 26, 2010 2:58 AM
112	The district needs to consider the followings: - staff pay raise freeze - staff no pay off days - furlow days - cutting administrative staff and secretarial staff - cut or reduce health benefits to employee's families	May 26, 2010 3:08 AM
113	The pay to play wouldn't be cost beneficial, because you can't rely/guarantee on participation/commitment from students. As well as due to the economy situation many don't have an extra 1500.00 per child laying around. As for paying for specials and extra curricular activities for one child is roughly 2000.00. Most of us have more than one child attending Millburn. 1.35 tax on a 250,000.00 house would be about 3375.00 that is less than the cost of sending 2 children at 2000.00 each. Does one child pay per sport? or per gifted class? I think it would deter the kids to be active in any extra curricular. How can you keep staff on with a wait and see approach. Not for me..... Remember it is about the kids and it is our responsibility to provide our kids with a well rounded education. For us if raising the taxes does that for our kids, then that is what we will do to make our children well educated.	May 26, 2010 3:10 AM
114	Now new taxes until all other options have been exhausted. CUT THE FAT before affecting our kids' education. All administrators do not need iPhones or personal administrative assistants. Turn off half the lights in the schools; the hallways could still be lit by removing half the lamps. Outsource seldom used services to subcontractors on an as-needed basis.	May 26, 2010 3:19 AM
115	I would like to see you divide the specials individually. I would pay for music and technology but not art or library.	May 26, 2010 3:33 AM
116	How much of the budget deficit is based on teacher or administrative raises?	May 26, 2010 3:40 AM

Response Text		
117	Question #3 I would NOT be willing to pay for the Library resources, kids need the books to assist with lessons they are taught. Everything else I wouldn't mind paying for. Education First!	May 26, 2010 3:57 AM
118	<p>Question #3- I am assuming I would need to pay all \$429.59 per student and would not be able to "pick and choose" between these lines.</p> <p>In question #4 above, my child does not participate in all those activities, but the ones she does, I am ok to pay for. I recognize if the number of children participating decreases, then my share of the cost my increase and that could later change my mind.</p> <p>As for #6, I think the homes that have children in the district are more open to this than those that do not have children. Please recognize there are plenty of home owners that are probably not part of this survey that would not support increase in taxes so this survey may be "tilted" in one direction.</p>	May 26, 2010 4:27 AM
119	<p>Closing Millburn west as an option is ridiculous. I was against that building from the get go and talking of closing it adds insult to injury for those of us who felt it was not needed ever! If the schools were going to be sperated by grades it should have ben done at the beginning. Rather than making huge changes now that will cost money to impliment and add the ned for busing.</p> <p>I also feel that these so-called non-essentials ARE needed to develop a well rounded student and person.</p> <p>Our adminsitration should take a good hard look at THEIR salaries and their benefits. Looking throughout the area it seems the administration certainly is well paid and has a great benefit package. Cut some of the administration and support staff. We don't need 4 people to answer the phone - teachers are necessary.</p>	May 26, 2010 4:49 AM
120	Same start time for all grade levels. Same bus schedule for all siblings (K-8).	May 26, 2010 10:59 AM
121	Where is the emphasis on cutting administrative costs? In a community where parent volunteers have so often been acknowledged and praised for their commitment, why aren't they being asked to volunteer for additional support functions around the school to eliminate administrative costs? What is the actual "out - of - pocket" difference between any "pay to play" or fee based system compared to a tax increase taking into account deductions taken on Federal Income Tax? If we have to pay more, what is the most efficient way for us to pay? We have lived in this community for over 10 years with K-8 being the "gold standard" that has been praised and credited by this community as a fundamental reason for Millburn's overall academic success. We have known many families to choose this community because of the K-8 school. We have heard of the lack of community and parental involvement when you spread families out over multiple schools within one district. As to date, there has not been enough financial nor any academic justification given for this option that would so greatly change the fabric of this community.	May 26, 2010 11:21 AM
122	How about mandatory fundraising that actually works and makes sense? This could eliminate all pay to play concerns. Git R Done NOW.	May 26, 2010 12:00 PM

Response Text

123

May 26, 2010 12:35 PM

I support grade-leveling -- even if schools are not reconfigured, consider merging 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 to help with class size and AIM programs in individual schools. Consider a M-W-everyother Friday set-up for Kindergarten. It would save on transportation amongst other benefits. When you speak of the 25% "cushion" to help with lower loan rates, etc. Can extra money our PTO and educational foundation (march madness, popcorn sales, wrapping paper) has at the end of the year be donated into this fund instead of spent on benches and other "nice to haves"? What about larger fundraisers to help support the school -- not making a profit, but getting donations? I support a larger registration fee -- even if on a monthly payment plan.

When you talk of a 14:1 student teacher ratio -- how many of these staff regularly spend time in front of students teaching reading, writing, math?

I realize that the board has a real hesitation to run the school like a business but I really believe you should reconsider. In the world today, no one is getting 4-7% increase -- regardless of what contracts say. As a taxpayer and parent, I'm shocked that when you add the amount spent last year on administration (per the documents on our website) to the amount paid this year we are almost paying \$100,000 more! Is that correct?? I believe anything more than a total freeze for the next year is too much. Maybe even a 1% decrease or change in what we pay for benefits. Employees should consider kicking in more for health insurance and take the burden off the struggling school. Some companies even charge a premium if an employee has a spouse who has the option through his/her work to get health insurance. My husband's company does this and because I have option through my company to take an insurance plan and still opt to take my husband's insurance, we get charged a \$100 premium every month on top of the regular contribution. While insurance is important, I believe our administration should be paying for some of their health insurance.

Have we considered following the example of Lakes and dissolving the superintendent position? I realize there is a year-to-year contract in effect. Dissolving this position would make it easier to support a assistant principal at Central and change Mr. Lind's responsibilities.

What is the village doing to get industry/business into the area? Ask someone in the village why we don't have a grocery store on RTE 45 / Stearns school. It is my understanding because the current owner of the land will not sell it to a place that sells groceries (as it would hold the land, not build on it than sell it to a competitor) Who is that helping? Can't the village do something about it? Shouldn't someone be working more with the village to push certain agendas forward?

Can the library be operated by parent volunteers and the certified teachers you have placed there get into the classrooms helping with RTI and other necessities if the class sizes will increase? Do we pay a "floating" teacher instead of the inflated cost of paying for individual "sub" days?

Crossing guards (and I love our crossing guard), playground monitors, team coaches, before school traffic controllers should all be volunteers. (They don't get paid that much anyway -- but it all adds up).

You say Millburn has that small town feel -- but we don't operate like a small town. Small towns get things done by their residents -- let's stop hiring civil engineers and consultants, crossing guards and technical support to help us figure out what to do and get professionals from our community to do these jobs.

Lastly, I applaud your efforts and appreciate the boards time in helping solve the situation we find ourselves. We just can't continue to increase taxes -- our taxes will never decrease, but our houses will decrease in value and when my mortgage and my tax contribution start to equal something is VERY wrong!

Response Text		
124	Please further investigate all available options before cutting teaching staff and increasing classroom sizes. Tax increases may ultimately "tax out" residents, having detrimental consequences on the district's tax base. Reconfiguration should not be a consideration until the final solution to the "Millburn strangler" has been determined and implemented (the district may lose further state funds due to tardiness). Freeze payroll.	May 26, 2010 12:41 PM
125	<p>I think it would be helpful for parents to see how the cost for band and other programs was figured. As far as band is concerned, the students rent their instruments. Band trips are funded by the students. The students pay for band camp(s). At one point, it was stated that it cost over \$800 per student and now it is down to over \$600 per student. This number seems very inflated. The Board of Education should ask for a specific breakdown of costs for each of the programs before a dollar figure is attached.</p> <p>Regarding sports, students pay a \$75 activity fee. When I asked one of the coaches where this money goes, I was told part of it pays for the teachers' stipend coaching and part pays for entrance fees for various meets. This particular coach thought Millburn actually made money on the fee. Hence, why would it be necessary to eliminate sports? Once again, it would be helpful to see a breakdown as to where this money goes.</p> <p>Hopefully, next year with one start time, the buses will be fuller. The bus that goes through our neighborhood is probably only 1/3 full.</p> <p>While it is wonderful having a nurse at the school full time - is this really necessary? I know other schools in the area do not.</p> <p>If we are looking at potentially consolidating schools, why is the administrative staff looking at moving to Millburn West? Why is it necessary to move to Millburn West? Who is funding this cost when we are in such financial difficulties? This has not been explained in any BOE meeting minutes.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	May 26, 2010 12:52 PM
126	My child's education is number one on my list. We need to do all we can to keep Millburn a truly desirable school, otherwise it hurts ALL of us for many years to come. Thank you to Dr. Mauer and the Board for all your hard work.	May 26, 2010 12:57 PM
127	Voting for a tax referendum means more property taxes for homeowner and I think we pay enough.	May 26, 2010 1:16 PM
128	<p>Is the business manager full time with salary and benefits? 1st priority should be to cut administrative and overhead costs and institute "pay to play" fees. Art and music should not have been bundled with library and technology. Art and music should also be "pay to play".</p>	May 26, 2010 1:28 PM
129	What about looking to redistricting with another district? Antioch is overcrowded with portables and they are supposedly in great financial shape.	May 26, 2010 1:49 PM
130	this survey seemed skewed in its wording - it is clear that it is persuading the respondents into a referendum and not clearly wording the CLOSING of Millburn WEST!!	May 26, 2010 1:59 PM
131	Why isn't freezing, or even better, reducing salaries for superintendent and administrative personnel on the list of options to rank in order of preference? Why isn't eliminating all needless and costly office remodeling undertaken by the superintendent also on this list?	May 26, 2010 2:08 PM
132	I would need to know how much the tax referendum would be before I could commit to that option.	May 26, 2010 2:08 PM
133	I would support a modest tax referendum, in hopes that the financial situation in the district and the State of Ill is improved in 3-5 years.	May 26, 2010 2:22 PM

Response Text		
134	I am very against consolidating the schools to one building.	May 26, 2010 2:59 PM
135	No more referendums. Our district is two schools and the economic conditions are such that we need to proactive and begin planning for the future not just maintaining our current levels. While the past has been a very nice ride for our students and staff we must make some hard decisions to move forward. Continually asking the citizens of Lindenhurst to fund a quaint little school district are over.	May 26, 2010 3:52 PM
136	Everyone is feeling the recession. We are barely making it and increasing taxes will leave us with no alternative but to move. We cannot afford to pay anymore. I have no solution.	May 26, 2010 4:39 PM
137	Pay to play punishes parents with multiple children in the district for non mandated programs where mandated programs are fairly distributed by household. A tax referendum fairly divides the costs for non mandated programs among households.	May 26, 2010 4:40 PM
138	The survey did not address what I felt is the right solution. The district has a cost and revenue problem and a combination of increasing revenues and reducing costs is the answer - what balance to be debated.	May 26, 2010 5:31 PM
139	Question number 3 did not give me the choice to say. I would be willing to pay for SOME of those options. Art and Music would be the two I would not pay for.	May 26, 2010 5:55 PM
140	You can't lump all music, art, library, and technology together. It can't be an all or nothing thing. We need to be able to keep some and get rid of others	May 26, 2010 5:58 PM
141	Both superintendent and school board were disgracefully underprepared for the meeting at Millburn West. The whole lot of you should be fired, and Dr. Menzer and the prior board should be fined. How dare you come to a meeting without having at least estimated cost/ benefit analyses of the various scenarios. In any business, this would be cause for immediate termination. You lot don't live in the real world. I hear stories about iPhones for department heads???	May 26, 2010 6:17 PM
142	Great survey! A couple things to note.... When I answered YES to #4, I was answering based on my point of interest, not all items mentioned. Meaning, I would pay for the AIM program, but not the others because they dont concern my child. Also, if you cut the pay for the lunch monitors and the recess monitors, I know there are a bunch of parents willing to do their share to monitor the children if we take away the paid help. I look forward to seeing the results if this survey in a percentage format. Thank you.	May 26, 2010 6:58 PM
143	DO NOT reconfigure our district to grade level centers! One of the many things that makes our community so wonderful it that it is a K-8 school. If we need to endure a short period of portables, we as a community would do that to get our school back together as one. We need to sell or lease Millburn West. I don't feel like this was investigated thoroughly-please provide us with this information. I have taught in both a 6-8 school setting and elementary setting. And I can say that if we go to grade level centers it will be the worse mistake this community could make. Right now I am so proud of my school community being a K-8 school, I and I know our children are better for it. This is about the KIDS!	May 26, 2010 7:02 PM
144	Perhaps parent volunteers can help by cutting paid monitors.	May 26, 2010 7:05 PM
145	I would support a referendum of NO MORE THAN 0.75. The rest of the cash needs to come from cost reductions.	May 26, 2010 7:26 PM
146	I would support a tax referendum of \$.50 or less. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback!	May 26, 2010 8:13 PM

Response Text		
147	The administration and the school board spent the taxpayers money like there was an endless amount. We have always been "administration heavy". It is time to make cutbacks, not ask for more money. More than 50% of our GIANT tax bills go to 2 schools. WE DON'T HAVE ANYMORE TO GIVE YOU!!!! Get rid of some administration, increase class size, and "pay to play" first. We built a new school when adding a few rooms on to the old one would have been enough. How about selling that house and property next to Milburn Central that was purchased with no plan in mind?	May 26, 2010 8:34 PM
148	Reduction in administrator and teacher salaries should be considered. In this economy, many people would rather have a job and take a pay cut -then go without a job. I do not see this option above. I would not support a referendum.	May 26, 2010 9:21 PM
149	Regarding Question 3: Is it all or nothing? For example, yes I would pay for technology but maybe not library.	May 26, 2010 9:54 PM
150	It's pretty hard to swallow the fact that last year we cut 1.3 million which effected letting go of some good teachers, my tuition rate went up, my activity fee went up, but the administration got a 7% raise. You should be ashamed of yourselves. There needs to be a pay freeze across the board, admin. needs to take a pay cut, stop hiring, get rid of a principal, and the iphones need to go bye-bye! My tax dollars should not be paying for that. This is a school, not Wallstreet!	May 26, 2010 10:26 PM
151	I DO NOT want the k-8 format changed. I would like to see a reduction in non-mandated programs instead. I also would like to see a reduction in administrators and/or administrative salaries. One administrator (superintendent) can cover Millburn West as the building administrator. I also would like to see a reduction in revenue spent on technology in the lower grades. I also think the staff should be surveyed... would they be willing to take an overall decrease in salary to keep staff? We should STOP comparing our district to higher paying districts. We are NOT on par with Lake Forest and Libertyville... we should compare ourselves to districts like Lake Villa, Grayslake, Zion and Waukegan. We have a lot of waste in our district. We don't need new reading programs, textbooks, etc. as often as we purchase them. Supply costs (paper,etc.) could be cut as well. I believe the forum meeting stated going to one building was not even feasible... why is that on the survey?	May 26, 2010 10:35 PM
152	all pay to play for all non-mandated programs	May 26, 2010 11:22 PM
153	How much space would we gain by not housing sedol and losing the annual \$100,000, what does sedol cost us ! Also, how much would we save by closing Millburn west.	May 26, 2010 11:39 PM

Response Text		
154	<p>I have offered my services on more than one occasion. We as a community are willing to roll up our sleeves and help, but we don't know how. I feel as if this is a great community school and I want to make sure we keep it that way. When the community has addressed the board on ways to help, I feel as if they might be small cuts but they add up. I know many homeowners are untrusting that the tax referendum will be spent wisely. If you are unable to except and ask for volunteers, why should we give you more in our taxes. I believe our school needs this tax referendum, but until I see some sort of volunteer sign ups and see that we don't have people willing to help, then why should I vote yes! There are many well educated stay at home parents WANTING to get into the school to help. Let us! Mr. Lind needs an assistant, but why wouldn't we have a parent volunteer answering phones and fielding visitors when they enter the school. That would allow someone else from the office to help him. That might only compromise \$10,500, but at least the community would see that you are trying to cut costs. I have no idea what it costs to have help in the cafeteria, but instead of paying teachers, why don't we have parent volunteers. Also, what if you asked for any and all parents that qualify, to be placed on the substitute list and get paid nothing or \$1. We want to HELP, but we want to know our money is spent well. What if we cut down on our library costs for one year. Instead of adding new books and having as many librarians, maybe we could ask the PTO to buy new books for the library. As you know we had 30k that we spent on a sign (???) and other useful items. If the PTO knew more useful items that the school could use maybe that could help! Every penny counts and we want our school to stay one of the best in Lake County. Help us make that happen. Also, for this next year would it make sense to consolidate the kindergarten to Millburn Central School? I realize we need to make changes. They will be tough decisions. I am thankful that you are asking for the communities input. Please take into consideration the fact that WE want to help, our children and home values are at stake. The decisions that you make are extremely important. Our school is known to be one of the best, let's keep it that way.</p>	May 26, 2010 11:44 PM
155	<p>We would support a tax referendum after above steps are evaluated and considered, and also if we have info on varying degree of tax increases along with pay to play options and how it will help to close the gap in budget deficit</p>	May 27, 2010 1:31 AM
156	<p>We love the Millburn school district and will try our best to get it out of the financial crunch. These are difficult economic times, but we would not want the district to let go of non-mandated programs, which actually has made this district so appealing. Please try to get as many volunteer parents as you can to help at school to ease the financial burden. A combination of different solutions will be widely acceptable.</p>	May 27, 2010 2:23 AM
157	<p>The school district is asking the kids to make many sacrifices. I ask the entire school staff what sacrifices have they taken? - examples such as pension reform, health care reductions (higher co-pays), pay freezes. I myself took a 10% pay cut, no matching 401k, increased co-pays on health insurance, and haven't had a raise in two years - not exaggerating. The school system must be run like a business. The presentation said the school district cut \$1.3 million in 2009. It would be helpful to see in the current presentation how that was accomplished.</p>	May 27, 2010 2:33 AM

Response Text		
158	<p>Yes, I would pay for non-mandated classes, but would suggest a different way of presenting the specials to the students. (1/2 the year music combined with 1/2 art), no tech for K-3, but given tech lab availability for the teacher to take them for whole class instruction, reduce PE to two times a day and add a daily recess that the teacher takes them out to (not sure if state would allow), Middle school would follow the same, but have tech class year round instructed by tech teacher as well as 4th grade. Library would be run as a simple check in and check out service and get rid of the story telling and activities. The teachers can do the story telling and activities on their own. That was a definite perk. I know the benefits to heterogeneous grouping, but pulling the AIMS kids for reading and math when appropriate into one of the regular teacher grade level classes and having the regular teacher's kid's filter into the other classes on the team could work. Those teachers would need some in-services maybe given by the current AIM teachers. The current AIM teachers would also become two of the regular ed. classroom teachers. (Just a thought)</p> <p>I agree to pay to play for after school activities, but would actually consider getting rid of them all together. We pay park district taxes already, let them use the park district. I would consider keeping some sports for the JR. High level. Band is wonderful, but again a major perk.</p> <p>For the most part, I strongly believe that we need to consider making major permanent changes in how our school looks in order to become fiscally responsible. If that means grade level building then so be it. Our children will survive this type of change as well as bigger class sizes. What they will not do well with is having their school dissolved. I strongly urge you to consider making all of the changes first and then come to us with a referendum. We would have more faith in the school board if we see that they are also making hard changes to better us financially. I would then absolutely support a referendum that may in fact be asking a lot less of us since many budget cuts would have already be put into place.</p> <p>With some major changes I have hope for our school district. Some day we may be able to add back some of the perks, but for now we can only depend on ourselves to keep the cash flow we need to run a strong school. Remember, it may look different in the end, but we will still have quality teachers and quality parents still looking out for our kids.</p>	May 27, 2010 2:59 AM
159	<p>Why is there no option for cutting administrative salaries? Specifically our new superintendant. Why do administrative staff get iPhones? Why does our superintendant get a \$200/month travel allowance? Is this a travel allowance to drive to work every day? What travel does she do that warrants \$200/month? She should be doing expense reports for just the travel that she has actually done on behalf of school business. I don't believe that our new superintendant has our community's best interest in mind. I don't feel that our school district is in good hands at all, either from the superintendant or the board of education. We are trying our hardest to move out of this district.</p>	May 27, 2010 3:02 AM
160	<p>I think the board needs to look at all the options and let everyone know the full advantage of each one. I also think they need to not put their hopes in the tax refrerendum but come up with other solutions that will benefit our children the best.</p>	May 27, 2010 3:17 AM
161	<p>We believe that asking taxpayers for more money is not the answer to the major financial problems that District 24 faces. Families will be forced to move because they can't pay their increasing tax bill which in turn will cause District 24 to see a drop in the number of students. Everyone is trying to make ends meet and to ask us to pay more would be just ridiculous. District 24 needs to change the way they run things. We think that the grade level centers would be a good way to restructure the district. It is very upsetting to see these financial problems happening to our district. There has to be a better way to run District 24.</p>	May 27, 2010 3:21 AM

Response Text		
162	I think it advisable to investigate more strict management of overhead/ administrative costs and non-teacher staff. My impression is that we have way too many non-teachers on the payroll that can either be eliminated or handled through volunteers. Your budget deficit stated is \$1.6MM, yet the "non-mandated" programs cited are at \$1.1MM... why the inability to manage your budget sufficiently?... again, I would suggest sharpening the pencil on overhead/ administrative costs and non-teacher headcount. Why is the "K - 5 in one building and 6 - 8 in another building" an option?... the financials that I saw showed no significant cost savings by doing this... when all said and done, you will probably find increased costs initially, which is not good for a short-term (2011 - 2012) issue... it appears as if this is a desire by someone on the Board for some other reason than cost-saving, which makes little sense in that supposedly the District has maintained high ratings among the State and the K - 8 configuration could very likely be a contributing factor. Eliminating AIM would probably be the biggest mistake you could make; if such occurs, please expect many parents to choose alternative schooling solutions (private, home-schooling, etc.). Ultimately, if increased taxes are necessary, so be it as this is probably your best option versus cutting teachers or establishing a "pay-to-play" system (something that is probably unsustainable and unpredictable... if I am going to pay, I would rather it be out of my taxes). However, I really think that you should think harder on more creative solutions (what you have listed are standard/ uncreative) and seriously re-look where less needed (less than these programs and teachers) costs/ spend exist.	May 27, 2010 8:34 AM
163	My Millburn taxes have doubled over the last 8 years and that still hasn't been enough to feed your insatiable appetite. You must do your job with the money you have and stop spending what you don't	May 27, 2010 12:13 PM
164	All of our children need physical education classes! This should never be eliminated!!!! Music is also such a great benefit to our children. Please do not get rid of these. If pay to play is the answer, then our family will support this!	May 27, 2010 12:52 PM
165	I am very disappointed with this process thus far. While I have read the minutes from all the board meetings this year and attended the meeting on May 20th, I am still unclear what our real options are. I do not think the board has done their due diligence in investigating all options. If it isn't feasible to combine schools, then we should just stop talking about it. If it is, tell us realistically how much of an impact that will actually have. Stop acting like a referendum is the only way out of this mess. That might very well be part of the solution, but I think asking the taxpayers for a bail out is irresponsible. I think there will have to be a more integrated approach involving cuts and possibly a less ambitious referendum. Many families are struggling and our district's irresponsibility for the past several years should not become their problem. Dr. Mauer should stop worrying about winning popularity contests (referring to her comment at the May 20th meeting on why the feasibility studies for combining schools weren't done "we didn't think that would be a such popular option" but a \$1.35 referendum would be?????) and support all the research necessary to make an educated decision for the district.	May 27, 2010 1:08 PM
166	A family member works for the district and indicated that administrators all have iPhones. I can't even afford an iPhone. Why don't you start with getting rid of those. If parents want their children to be in sports, band, etc then let them pay for it. Could you ask all the stay at home Moms (and this district has many) to volunteer at the library. The kids need that but I'm not willing to pay for it when I can go to the Lake Villa library for free. Our taxes are already way too high. A coworker lives in Wilmette in a house worth twice what mine is and his taxes are less than mine. Changing the schools to be grade school and middle school might be a big change at first. But, that is how most districts operate.	May 27, 2010 1:35 PM
167	If the district over expanded it's facilities then that must be corrected first. As companies have over expanded recently, the corrections have been made to adjust to the new realities. If the projection of development in the area cannot support the added facilities then the choice is simple.	May 27, 2010 1:47 PM
168	I am not opposed to a tax referendum but a small one which most likely will not cover all that is needed. Maybe consider a minor increase to lessen the debt?	May 27, 2010 2:11 PM

Response Text		
169	<p>You need to share costs for mandated programs with details. What about teacher raise/pension/benefit freezes?</p> <p>I applaud you at least getting input from parents.</p>	May 27, 2010 2:13 PM
170	<p>Why was the second school built? We knew at the time Mezner and the school board were not being truthful. Now everyone has to pay and where does he live? Not here.</p>	May 27, 2010 2:23 PM
171	<p>I would pay extra for art and music, but not library or technology. I pay for my sons to play football and ice hockey, so parents can pay for basketball, track etc. Millburn teachers are excellent. Please do not get rid of them and increase class sizes. Please do not get trailers to be used as classrooms. They are so cramped and not a great learning environment for 6 hours.</p>	May 27, 2010 3:26 PM
172	<p>I would support a tax referendum but would like it to be coupled to "pay-to-play" and perhaps other considerations. I would pay the discussed \$1.00 or \$1.35 tax increase but I am concerned I am not in the majority given the current economic environment. I would further support raises for the teachers in order to keep our district competitive and I hope that the current financial situation is not leveraged by the district in negotiations to the extent that we lose teachers down the road. I will support whatever solution is best for my children and the school district. I appreciate the public forums and the opportunity to be involved in the process. I do also believe that closing west will prove to not be financially compelling since teachers salaries represent 80%+ of expense and we'd only cut a few positions.</p> <p>I am concerned that the way the survey has been set up - there might not be a limit to the number of times someone could express their preference - this could provide a skewed perspective to the board.</p>	May 27, 2010 4:08 PM
173	<p>New board members and Dr Mauer are excused for this mess. All others should resign. What you have done to our children is catastrophic. The decisions made in previous years are what has caused us to get to this point. Now, none of these solutions are very good. But we must find a combination of these recommendations that are best for our kids. Yes, increase class size some. Yes, make us pay for some programs and eliminate others. Yes, ask the community for higher taxes (but if you don't start publicity for this NOW, there is no way you will win). DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER. Work the extra hours needed to get to the solution that is best for our children. Think out of the box. Take pay cuts. Don't give anyone raises. Reduce benefits. These difficult decisions have been made in corporate America and they must be made here as well. We must do everything we can so the children do not suffer. Otherwise we will move to another district, and many others will too. And Millburn will no longer be what it is today.</p>	May 27, 2010 4:24 PM
174	<p>We need to see the impact of ALL feasible options. The presentation was obviously geared towards a referendum. I want to see what the one facility option and the K-5/6-8 option would save us. In addition I believe it will end up being a combination of the items on your list that will get us back on track. A Pay to Play system is fair and should be implemented immediately, and we should perhaps look at an increase in enrollment per student. This way the some of the costs are to the student families and not the whole community. I would consider a tax referendum, but I want to see all options and a combination of the items put together to keep any tax impact to a minimum.</p> <p>The Board seem to have continued to spend blindly, apparently expecting the community to be happy to pay more taxes. I believe they have been foolish and have made some mistakes along the way. That said, all is not lost - Get a combination package developed and come back with an improved presentation</p>	May 27, 2010 4:53 PM

Response Text		
175	<p>A few comments: 1) I think K-3 and 4-8 centers makes more sense and offers more flexibility.</p> <p>2) I think there is some "wiggle room" to increase class size a bit without drastically impacting the students.</p> <p>3) Closing West and consolidating to 1 building should not be considered a viable option at least until all the costs are better understood. It would be silly to close West only to need it again soon if/when the economy turns around.</p> <p>4) Can we consider a partial cut of extracurricular programs, like starting band in 5th grade instead of 4th?</p>	May 27, 2010 5:35 PM
176	<p>It's so unfortunate that the past administration/board gambled with the TAWs and lost and now our students will pay for their mistakes with reduced services/larger class sizes. We will also pay for this past mismanagement in terms of lower property values if taxes in our district are significantly higher compared to neighboring districts and if our district's highly touted test scores and academic reputation fall due to the increased class sizes.</p> <p>It is also interesting that "further investigation" of the consolidated school is presented as an option to rank along with the other options. "Investigating" something is not an apples to apples comparison with the other options. If you are laying all options on the table, then you should have "investigated" this option BEFORE you layed out the other options. Do we know if West could be rented out and revenue achieved from this? Do we know if there is any interest from anybody in leasing West? Why haven't we "investigated" this option yet? What if it's the answer to the financial problem? We won't know unless you "INVESTIGATE" it.</p>	May 27, 2010 6:06 PM
177	<p>if each child in the district is charged a fee of approximately \$1,000.00, and put it on a contract with parents, for say, 3 years this could eliminate the need for a forever increase in our taxes through a referendum.</p>	May 27, 2010 7:07 PM
178	<p>Please look into additional funding opportunities. Local businesses (Abbott) may be willing to donate funds to cover some costs. Other schools have also been sponsored by large corps such as Coca-Cola or Tropicana.</p>	May 27, 2010 8:08 PM
179	<p>I think more budget cuts for administrative staff and line item purchases should be looked at along with more parent volunteers for additional things that may need done at the school.</p>	May 27, 2010 9:00 PM
180	<p>I would like the art, music, technology and libraries programs separated out. I don't see a benefit for my children in the current music program, but I would be willing to pay extra for library, technology and art.</p> <p>I am 100% behind paying for extra programs such as AIM, athletics, band, etc. and would be happy to do this.</p> <p>I would want to know more specifics about the tax referedum before agreeing to support it.</p> <p>My preferences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Separate K-5 and 6-8 into seperate schools or only use one school if feasible. 2. Pay for optional programs <p>My least desirable options</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing class size 2. Tax referendum 	May 27, 2010 11:22 PM
181	<p>Although I would support it, I don't think any referendum will pass. I do not want to see West closed unless it is a dramatic savings over other options.</p>	May 28, 2010 1:34 AM
182	<p>I would support a referendum but would want it to be in conjunction with have grade level centers and a pay to play system</p>	May 28, 2010 1:38 AM
183	<p>It would depend what type of referendumthe school would be asking for.</p>	May 28, 2010 1:59 AM

Response Text		
184	I saw two types of proposed referendums in the documents, is one cheaper than the other? This seems unclear.	May 28, 2010 2:10 AM
185	I don't think eliminating the non-mandated classes is the answer. It puts us further behind other districts. Maybe cutting a few more staff, freeze salaries and run a small tax referendum that expires in a few years. If you ask for too much, you may get nothing. At this time it's also not feasible to not charge everyone a building usage fee (it costs us to have people in the building after hours). Combining school buildings into one or K-5/6-8, not good. Teachers would need to be open to competent, committed parent helpers. PTO continue to cover field trips and such. Also, school supply list should be done by individual teachers so they pertain to what the students and teachers need- when supplies run low, let parents know. This may work for art supplies, office supplies, etc. Write a letter explaining our financial situation to Xerox, Avery, Office Plus, Hewlett Packard, Mac, athletic equipment companies, building maintenance services, etc. Ask for specific donations. I'm also amazed at some of the places people work and the donations parents may be able to provide.	May 28, 2010 1:22 PM
186	I, like other parents, have moved to this area for the school district. My son started Kindergarten this past school year and it is truly disappointing to find out the current financial status of the school. I feel that there are other alternatives that would impact reducing the deficit that are not even being explored. It seems like a quick easy fix is what is being looked at with little accountability. We have an extremely educated community that is not even being asked to contribute. However small the impact may be, we need to look at using volunteer parents for certain jobs and positions. For example, we could have volunteers run the library. We could post a list of new books the school library would usually purchase and put them on a wish list for the parents to donate. We could use more parent volunteers in the classrooms and office. When things need to be cleaned, fixed, or built we could look at volunteers instead of contracting out the work. We could have more fund raisers for the school and for the extra programs (band, AIMS, sports...). We could increase the supply list that every student brings in the beginning of the school year. We could stop frivolous spending and do comparative shopping instead of going with preferred vendors (ie Trophy case). We could look at leasing out the building on weekends or in the evening for certain organizations (churches) or sporting leagues/open gym. The school we came from had service hours every family had to complete throughout the year and for every hour that was not completed it had a monetary value that needed to be paid. Service hours can include: cleaning up the grounds, the classrooms, the building, volunteering in class, taking home and assembling class preparation materials, preparing for class trips, projects, celebrations, fixing items for the building or classrooms... Each grade level or class could have a volunteer coordinator that would organize all the teacher requests and parent service hours. In addition to that I believe the building use needs to be reassessed each year and adjusted accordingly. It's truly unfortunate that the aforementioned list will not come close to touching the deficit but however small the impact may be it could help to bring down the amount of money you are asking for in the referendum. It would also increase community involvement to help enrich the school and the lives of our children. The board needs to show some accountability and trust for any type of referendum to pass. Please consider coming up with a way to gain the public's trust, whether it be opening a website to show all spending and a forum for the public to voice their concerns and be included in the decision making. We can not let our school system crumble. Our children should not have to suffer because of poor adult planning and should have every resource available to them. They are the future!	May 28, 2010 2:17 PM
187	Have you considered soliciting Corporate/Personal Donations to name specific rooms in their honor? Many Universities have buildings, wings, rooms, etc. named after contributors.	May 28, 2010 4:04 PM
188	Thank you for asking us these questions. Hopefully you will have enough feedback to base your decisions off of that. Thank you!	May 28, 2010 4:13 PM

Response Text		
189	Stop miss spending the money. The district should be responsible for finding out how all the money is gone and in debt. No more staff reduction!!!! Find corporate monies by letting advertise at school. Recycle for money. And lastly, find out how this happened in the first place with an External audit	May 28, 2010 4:55 PM
190	If the schools were to be split by grade level, I would prefer a primary building and an intermediate building rather than a junior high only. This would preserve some of the feel of a K-8 school and I believe is much better for the junior high age kids. Also, I would be ok with cutting art and music, but no way should the LRC or technology curriculum be cut. Our students can not compete with others today without these programs. In addition, it is very hard to choose options without knowing for each what class sizes would be, what special staff would be gone and what the savings would be. Ask us again when you see what is feasible to save the money.	May 28, 2010 5:58 PM
191	Unfortunately I was out of town for both meetings. I would be willing to help with supporting a referendum.	May 28, 2010 7:06 PM
192	Are there options other than referendum to increase revenue for the district, such as sponsorships of events or the morning announcements or specific activities? Many people can or would volunteer services/donate materials or would fund them for class aids, materials, maintenance, etc. Some system to publish the needs and solicit "bids/contributions" could help.	May 28, 2010 9:14 PM
193	I might support the tax referendum, depending on how much it is. Not enough info to go on in this survey to make me comfortable putting my preferences in correct order. I feel like something's missing.	May 29, 2010 4:52 AM
194	We are NOT supportive of a tax referendum and we would NEVER vote for it. I hope the school board and the administration realizes that our community is not in the business of bailing out the school district that mismanaged our money. Building Millburn West in its current configuration was a big mistake and we are now paying the price. Shame on everyone we trusted to make the right decisions -- we simply can not afford to pay more taxes when our second school isn't, and never has been, near capacity. That is not fiscally responsible. Teachers and administrators need to realize that very few, if any, people are entitled to raises in this economy. While we realize that our teachers are reportedly "lower paid" than most teachers in this area -- which remains to be proven entirely, if they want more pay, they should have looked for work in another district. I am thrilled with the staff at our schools, with a few exceptions, but, at the end of the day, it is within our power to seek out jobs that pay more, IF that is our desire. Otherwise, there is very little room for complaining about it! This goes for the administrators as well. We should be ashamed of ourselves that we are a 2-school district and we're at the top of the list of schools in financial trouble -- THAT IS AN EMBARRASSMENT!! What have we been doing by sitting back and waiting for the bottom to drop out. We trusted you to manage our money and now you want more In our opinion, we need to take a closer look at ALL of our internal processes, procedures, people and programs before we ask our taxpayers for money. Please do this -- it will go a long way in solidifying the administration and School Boards leadership roles that are currently on VERY shaky ground.	May 29, 2010 6:19 PM
195	It was brought up in the meeting i attended that we need to be provided with more specific dollar amounts before we can truly give an informed opinion on which choices to make to cut costs. I would feel more comfortable supporting the tax referendum in our current board members hadn't already caused us to go in such unimaginable debt. The trust is lost, unfortunately. I can only hope the board makes a wise choice in recitifying this decision. I have confidence in Dr. Mauer and her ability to guide the board.	May 29, 2010 7:31 PM

Response Text		
196	I would be in favor of greatly increasing class size, and eliminating art, music, library and technology classes if necessary. Maybe it's time to go back to some of the basics-reading, writing and math, and forget about some of the other "stuff". PLEASE DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KEEP OUR SCHOOL(S) K-8!!	May 30, 2010 2:13 AM
197	Unfortunately, we pay some of the highest property taxes in the country here in this portion of Lake county (we pay over \$11,000 a year on our home). We have nothing left to give with regard to increasing property taxes. Every other cost cutting option has to implemented before another property tax increase can ever be considered.	May 30, 2010 3:33 PM
198	<p>I understand why there are separate fees for these non-mandated programs (band, athletics, clubs and choir):</p> <p>Band - \$653.08 yearly cost per student Athletics - \$193.01 yearly cost per student Clubs - \$103.13 yearly cost per student Choir - \$148.38 yearly cost per student</p> <p>But I don't understand why there are separate fees for the below non-mandated programs (AIM, art, music, library and technology). When we were in school in the 1970s and 1980s – art, music, library, AIM and technology (or equivalent class(s)) were part of the every day curriculum. These were incorporated into our normal class schedules. We didn't have to pay 'extra' for them - so why is there a separate cost now? There should be a 'smarter' way to make these programs a part of the normal routine without paying 'extra' for them. Children that are home schooled have curriculums that they follow so there should be a way we can incorporate something similar to this in to our current curriculum and not pay extra fees associated with them.</p> <p>AIM - \$331.01 yearly cost per student Art - \$129.62 yearly cost per student Music - 77.21 yearly cost per student Library - 134.34 yearly cost per student Technology - 85.42 yearly cost per student</p> <p>If art and music are to be offered to all grades then this should be figured in with the regular enrollment fees and everyone should have to pay for them since all children will take these classes.</p> <p>It would be very helpful if you could provide a breakdown for the yearly cost of each fee so we know what we get for that amount.</p> <p>In regards to splitting K-5 in Central and 6-8 in West - before West was built a study was done that showed that keeping kids together in one school K-8 was the best for them (I don't have the statistics) but this is the main reason why we didn't split the grades (5) years ago – so why do it now if it goes against what the survey results showed, etc.?</p> <p>Taxes are way too high already for the residents already and the way the economy is, people are strapped financially..a referendum is not the answer as this is only a temporary fix and we could be in the same situation 5 years from now.</p>	May 30, 2010 11:01 PM

Response Text

199

I work for Health Care industry and have strong preference in "value" of money. I must say that I am disappointed with the choices above. There must be an option that is a combination of "pay to play" and innovative ways of increasing revenue because go together.

Please consider the following, when you move forward with your decisions --

1. No compromise with education! Therefore cutting optional (non-mandatory) programs are not acceptable. This is specifically because definition of "non-mandatory" is subjective and parents understand the definition the best. Millburn school is highly rated and it must stay there or improve, not going backward.
2. There are inefficiencies built in the system. For example, I see almost-empty school buses roaming around the neighborhood. I am certain that there are other such examples that parents can cite. You need to be efficient and reduce waste in the system.
3. US economy, which is still the best economy in the world, is based on choices and fee for service mechanism. Parents who are willing to pay for better education and options for their children, must be given the options to do so. Otherwise, they will take their kids to private schools and even pay more for all optional items.
4. I encourage you to think this budget deficiency as an opportunity and you must think outside the box. You must engage willing parents now and for a long time. More innovating heads together will make the solutions productive and innovative.
5. The first human reaction to budget deficit is cutting cost. I request you to think about revenue generation, rather than cutting cost.
8. I am disappointed with the responses that we received during those meeting from the current board of directors. Responses lacked sharpness in thinking and passion. Please put your organization together because our kids' education is in your hand. Again, no compromise is accepted in this regard.
9. Are you thinking about lobbying or other ways to increase awareness to (government) authorities that parents are not happy and they want to be more involved, etc. I highly encourage you to think about all possible options before cutting costs and reducing headcounts, particularly teachers.
10. Increasing class size or merging institutions is not a good option because it reduces the probability of students' educational success. It is well known and crowding out has negative impact on long term success.

Overall, please think outside the box, be sharp and deliberate in decision making, and focus on revenue generation, not cost-cutting. The best schools in the country (Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Princeton, etc.) run education with the philosophy of business. It is about affording to offer the best education.

I would love to talk to you more face to face in this regard.

Thank you.

Proud Father of

May 30, 2010 11:15 PM

Response Text		
200	I am wondering, is the cost of the pay to play plan in addition to the activity fee that is already charged, or is the activity fee already included? I've run into a few people who are in favor of closing west. My concerns with this is that if we turn it into a magnet school or lease it out that it may be difficult to get the building back if and when we need it. I am also concerned that tax payers especially those who don't have children in the school might be disappointed that they are still paying for a school that didn't last more than 6 years and if faced a referendum again (even in a better economy) they will not vote for it simply because this experience has left a bad taste.	May 31, 2010 3:48 AM
201	Have you looked at reducing costs by having all staff agree to taking a certain amount of unpaid furlough days? How about paying a portion or a larger portion of health and insurance?	May 31, 2010 4:26 AM
202	In order to make an educated decision it would be beneficial to see what the cost savings would be for each of the items listed above.	May 31, 2010 4:33 AM
203	Due to mismanagement of funds over the past 10 years (not sure about the last 2 (removed our children from the district), we would NOT support a tax referendum without some significant detailed and total disclosure of how money is spent. Not just saying everything is public, but having meetings regularly that demonstrate expenditures/budget. We supported a K-5,6-8 structure before the building was built. The district has been terrible on long term vision and fiscal responsibility.	May 31, 2010 1:53 PM
204	I would support a combination of a tax referendum and other cost cutting measures. Those being a K-5 and 6-8 model, cutting all non-mandated programs which our kids can participate in through park districts and then a pay to play for the remaining if necessary. I also see a reduction in staff but would like to minimize this to keep class sizes below 28 kids per class. Maintaining our level of academic excellence is of utmost importance. Some numbers around the possible savings of grade level centering and closing a school would be helpful in providing you feedback. Any savings like the institute days being a full day every other month rather than a half day every month.... saving on busing costs would also be acceptable to me.	May 31, 2010 3:30 PM
205	Lumping all the non-mandated programs together in this survey was unreasonable. The primary purpose should continue to be education. I would pay for those advances (such as AIM, Technology, Library) but not others.	May 31, 2010 3:38 PM
206	Art projects to date are not worthy of additional fees; recommend parent volunteers to teach art and or incorporating into standard classroom teaching Library can be managed by volunteers - we apparently have plenty of people in our community with time on their hands. Have we considered a short-term tax increase so that we can move out of our current financial issues but not tax our community out of the market long-term?	May 31, 2010 3:54 PM

Response Text		
207	<p>What is the financial impact and emotional impact to the students of changing from a K-8 to a K-5 and middle school? Will we have to remodel West or Central to accomodate the middle school concept? When the economy recovers and growth resumes will we have to reconfigure the grades at the schools again?</p> <p>Survey doesn't let us express our opinions on individual items. For example, don't group all non-mandated items into a single check box. Also, let us cast our votes on how much of a referendum increase you will ask for - give us a few choices and say with \$#### per house we can do ____, with \$### per house we can do ____, and with \$## per house we can do only ____.</p> <p>Why do we need school sports when there are similar offerings through travel teams, the YMCA, and the Lindenhurst park district? The suburban chicago middle school that I went to did not have sports teams. The cost to the taxpayers seems very high for the number of kids that participate. If you have to keep sports, make it a pay to play that is fully funded by the participants.</p> <p>Why do we need expensive band or choir programs at the school when parents can pay for private lessons. Again, there are non-school alternatives.</p> <p>Do we need to pay so much for technology, art, music, etc., or are there ways to get just about the same for a lesser cost?</p> <p>I am all for AIM, but why does AIM cost so much? Are there cheaper ways to get the same advanced education for these kids? For example, can the advanced kids at a particular grade be put with the same homeroom teacher and taught from the next grade up text books? When I was in 4th grade, the advanced kids (I was one of them) were using the 6th grade math book. We didnt change rooms or have a different teacher, we just worked by ourselves or in a small group with minimal oversight.</p>	May 31, 2010 5:49 PM
208	<p>This is ridiculous that this has come to this!!! Already feel that the kids should have foreign language and other things not currently offered and now we are looking at increasing class sizes, cutting courses, or paying extra to participate in standard activities. Unreal!!!</p>	May 31, 2010 7:15 PM
209	<p>Our current taxes just went up and we fear we can't handle another tax increase. Also, I feel that eliminated current non-mandated programs would be the best solution to keep Millburn West a neighborhood school. If parents/children want to participate in those activities, OUR community offers GREAT programs through the park district (Art, music, sports) and we have a GREAT Library (for books AND technology, a.k.a computer use).</p>	May 31, 2010 9:04 PM
210	<p>We would like to see permanent and on-going programs that remove waste from spending before approving a tax referendum</p>	May 31, 2010 9:52 PM
211	<p>We can not just increase taxes, we need to evaluate what is necessary for academic success and focus on that and deliver this efficiently. All other programs which are nice to have shall still be available, but then eventually with extra contribution.</p>	May 31, 2010 10:29 PM
212	<p>It would be a shame to eliminate all non-mandated programs and offer nothing to our children except curriculum. They need outlets and the ability to learn how to conduct themselves outside the structured classroom. All decisions need to be made with the children in mind and not all due to the results of mistakes adults have made which now are going to impact their schooling. This information should also not be the topic of discussion between teacher and student on a day-to-day basis. The children have enough stress they don't have to know that they "may not have.....". They are children and need to be able to be children.</p>	May 31, 2010 11:59 PM

Response Text		
213	On number 6, I responded No because we think the tax increase needed to maintain current levels is too high and we are afraid such high taxes would limit our ability to sell our house if needed. However, we would support a smaller tax increase combined with cost cutting and/or pay to play. Our daughter is in AIM reading and math. We consider that program vital. We are willing to pay higher taxes and/or pay to play as long as that program continues.	Jun 1, 2010 1:16 AM
214	we already pay one of the highest taxes in the country	Jun 1, 2010 2:07 AM
215	At the forum, it was clear only the tax increase option had been fully vetted by the board. I suggest working teams be formed to flush out the other savings for each option. One additional suggestion is to look at the cafeteria costs. Is it required by the state to have the lunch offerings? If so, to what degree? If parents all packed lunch/snacks for the students, what would that save?	Jun 1, 2010 2:21 AM
216	I could support a plan to have a building fund that is borrowed from to manage cash flow, with the stipulation that no new buildings can be built without voter approval. Tax increases should have sunset provisions in the case the districts fortunes improve. Part of what makes Millburn such a great place is the schools. We should not be short-sighted when it comes to grade level schools. Also, the Strangler will once again become a major problem with grade level school idea.	Jun 1, 2010 3:32 AM
217	It would be helpful to understand the savings each scenario would create	Jun 1, 2010 3:32 AM
218	As the parent of gifted children, I must advocate gifted students NEED for a gifted program. The accelerated classes and the AIM program continue to challenge my children and keep them interested in school. Gifted children have needs that cannot be met well in a standard classroom. I think if is awful the School Board considers the AIM program an "extra", without it we will most likely leave the district. Without addressing the needs of the gifted children Millburn's Academic Excellence is sure to be challenged. Please consider reducing the health benefit coverage of the administrators to equal the staff's. It would be in the best interest of the student's academic and social settings to combine the schools by grade level. If the AIM program must be cut, please strongly consider clustering all the gifted students together for their core classes in the upper grade levels. Use the current AIM teachers to teach these classes.	Jun 1, 2010 3:45 AM

Response Text		
219	<p>I strongly believe that the solution will be a combination of many of the above options (1-6) not either one or the other. I would favor an appropriate referendum, as long as the funds were appropriately utilized and the project is not based on a "building fund" when we have zero reason to build more. I do not believe that the community will support it, along with continued pay raises for staff when so many are out of work and haven't seen raises, or jobs in at least a couple of years.</p> <p>I support the "pay-to-play" initiative but don't believe that the all-or-nothing solution is the best option. I support charging for non-mandated programs but DO NOT put "Art" in the same critical category as "Technology", which is CRUCIAL to our children's future in the technology world, so I entered "unsure" just because stating a preference for the individual programs was not an option, and "yes" or "no" didn't fit the question. Art at the youngest ages could be part of the homeroom activity, rather than a separate program, as many of us parents experienced in our school years.</p> <p>The district is incredibly small to support itself, so it may be necessary to manage the tiny school as an individual charter or private school, which would require additional fees, either for programs or the school in general, with higher registration fees, overall since many of the programs serve the greater good of all the students with the experience of some.</p> <p>It is imperative in the competitive world of college entrance requirements, that the students have the opportunity for a well-rounded education, though the education comes first.</p> <p>Consolidation should be on the ticket, along with a referendum, higher fees for activities, some staff reduction, cuts in less critical areas such as art, music, or the library (Lake Villa offers a wonderful resource area), but not Technology.</p> <p>Anne Petty</p>	Jun 1, 2010 3:52 AM
220	<p>We need a combination of tax dollars and options above. Persue closing West and leasing the entire building to SEDOL as a revenue source. Giant fundraisers! Persue outside grants from philanthropic organizations such as the Bill Gates Foundation.</p>	Jun 1, 2010 4:46 AM
221	<p>Eliminating non-mandated programs in not an option in my opinion.</p>	Jun 1, 2010 1:37 PM
222	<p>There are those in the community who are able to take on more of the financial burden. Is there a way to implement cost sharing fairly looking at income?</p>	Jun 1, 2010 2:47 PM
223	<p>The solution to this financial issue is not easy. Both the parents of the district and the staff of the district have to take action to keep our schools what they have been in the past. We recommend the district do a full review of operating costs. For example, the landscaping and snow plowing contrats may be able to be renegotiated. The busing may be able to be redone along with basic cell phone contracts. Along with the "pay-to-play" system on the shoulders of the parents, the staff needs to find a way to save the school money-going back to the basics is a start. We support a renegotiation in the contracts for all district staff and a freeze on salaries until some of the financial issues are resolved. The long-term solution is a hybrid! We must both do our part!</p> <p>In my opinion, low class sizes are a MUST! That is the reason the gifted children excel, the average children do not fall through the cracks and the test scores for our district are among the highest in the state. If class sizes increase beyond 25 the teachers will be babysitters--not educators. The students, our precious children, are going to be affected the most by this financial crisis. We HAVE to do everything in our power to keep them our number one priority!</p>	Jun 1, 2010 4:38 PM

Response Text		
224	A tax referendum is not the answer. The business needs to have cost cut in order to operate. Further increasing the tax base will likely make the district that much more less desirable for new home buyers when comparing taxes on comparable areas. I certainly hope the entire staffing is being reviewed, including part time office to custodial, not just teachers. The details of where the money is being spent should be broken down further if you would like better feedback on where to cut cost. Certain programs need to be kept, such as AIM, which have a strictly academic purpose compared to the other programs. Further review needs to be made with the teachers contract & potential cuts or reductions in base salary or annual increases.	Jun 1, 2010 4:51 PM
225	While I know that the details of any pay-to-play scenarios and programs would need to be worked out, would there be discounts offered for multiple siblings in the same activities? Also for athletics / clubs is the yearly cost per activity (each sport) or one cost for the year, no matter how many sports are participated in?	Jun 1, 2010 5:47 PM
226	I was unable to attend the informational meetings, but I was able to read both of the pdf files. I am extremely disappointed that we have gotten to this point, but understand that change needs to be made. We have wonderful programs that need to be saved as much as possible. Although I do not like the idea of k-5 and 6-8 schools (It is such difficult age, and I agree with the cons listed in the power point) if it saves west, I would be agreeable to it. Our K-8 schools are unique to our area and I think are beneficial to the children. Closing West will not solve any problems! Please make the results public so we as a community can see where opinion stands.	Jun 1, 2010 6:55 PM
227	My answer to #3 is yes, HOWEVER, that doesn't mean I don't want you to seriously look at how to provide these non-mandated programs another way. My first choice would be to not pay additional \$\$ to provide my children with a well-rounded education. I am willing, however, to pay for those courses if no other option is available.	Jun 1, 2010 10:24 PM
228	Support of Tax increase contingent upon also reducing spending in other ways (Pay to play, staff right sizing, etc). Art, Music, Library, and Technology should continue to be offered via means that do not include pay to play (to har to implement, and potentially discriminatory)	Jun 1, 2010 11:38 PM
229	Do NOT close WEST! We don't need an empty building - make it the Middle school if that helps. There will be TOO many highly irritated parents and taxpayers with that situation - that's why so Many of us live in Heritage Trails. Increase in class size that isn't too much and would help is fine. A General - not building referendum is good as long as the price isn't too extreme.	Jun 2, 2010 12:17 AM
230	I think that the amount quoted per student for band is a bit high as it does not reflect the .2 general music load that each band director has in their schedule.	Jun 2, 2010 12:27 AM

Response Text		
231	<p>As usual your questions are leading and so far off the mark it demonstrates a complete lack of leadership and business acumen.</p> <p>With the number of half days, late starts and 1 hour final day the savings to the district to eliminate this wasteful policy of poor scheduling has not even been mentioned.</p> <p>You lump all "extra" programs together and don't list or allow prioritization of them. i.e. library and technology FAR outweigh art and music by any measure or standard in the course of educating children. We already pay for sports programs through the park districts so eliminating sports is a no brainer and should have already been instituted. You should have already started restructuring the district as the elected leaders and not waited for consensus decision making again this shows incompetent leadership.</p> <p>The comment made by the new superintendent that she was not here 4 years ago so she doesn't know about the past is inexcusable and should be grounds to review her continued status as our superintendent. I have only been here 9 months and have to take responsibility for the boards complete failure to our children and our district. Any board members who were part of the spend policies of the past 5 years should summarily resign and make way for real leaders and polices which look to the betterment of our children and schools.</p> <p>The only way I will support a referendum is if the board members who were part of the problem immediately resign and written polices are enacted which mandate good accounting principles sound management practices and elimination of wasteful school scheduling. There are also a myriad of options not even mentioned here which were brought up at the meetings as a result I have to wonder if you were even listening to the feedback you were given. Lastly why have you waited so long to act?!?!</p>	Jun 2, 2010 1:05 AM
232	<p>It would be great to see a cost analysis done of the current spending in the district, other than the government regulated standard.</p> <p>With any of these proposed changes, the question remains if things will resume to the present structure as the financial situation improves? (Would we go back to K-8, more adequate teacher levels, taxes lowering, etc.??)</p>	Jun 2, 2010 2:41 AM
233	<p>We would support a small tax increase combined with other cost saving measures like paying for extracurriculars, increase in class size, combining into grade level centers (if this proves to have a substantial savings). We believe closing Millburn West would be a mistake. We believe that a lot more research would need to be done to see if their is significant cost savings to this option.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 3:03 AM
234	<p>I believe the district needs to combine my first three choices to reach the goals. Start by moving to grade level centers. At the same time eliminate non-mandated programs. Use the cost savings from those items plus the benefits of the admin salary freeze and any benefit to pay off the TAW debt and realize the savings from not paying interest. Then, reintroduce the non-mandated programs in the order of those that touch the most students at the lowest costs. Introduce pay to play when you have the cushion in the budget to make up any shortfall from those that thought they could pay, but find out they can't.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 3:05 AM
235	<p>I think that the only way to get out of this is to combine my 1st and 2nd choices. As a parent of four children in the district my own family has had to "tighten it's belt" I believe it is time that Millburn needs to tighten it's belt. On paper right now people may think they can afford to pay for these things but, when they actually have to make the payments that might change. Just look at how many forclosures there are in our district. You need to look at what came before and not repeat the same thinking.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 3:08 AM

Response Text		
236	<p>Questions #3 & #4 are not accurate - would not the cost be dependent on how many participants there would be? Costs per students should be listed as estimates. If parents had to pay it would be likely there would be less students so the cost would be higher. If these are to be fixed costs they should be indicated as such. Question #5 part 6 should be have been broken out further by amounts to help find a rate that is sustainable. As pointed out in the Milburn West meeting, if the amount of the tax referendum is too high, it will be voted down and now our problems are even worse. Finally, I would like to see a timeline of action items and dates on what is to be accomplished when - meeting by meeting. Thank you for putting this information together.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 3:32 AM
237	<p>1) If the tax referendum is passed, will there be an opportunity for the taxes to then "roll-back" to our current levels? (ie: a temporary tax increase to help resolve current situation) The fear is that once taxes are raised, they don't go back down, and we already pay some of the highest taxes in the nation.</p> <p>2) Given the likelihood of increased class sizes, consider the use of parent volunteers in the classrooms to serve as an extra set of eyes to aid the teachers with potential disciplinary issues due to the larger class size. This would enable to teachers to focus on teaching and the parent volunteers to keep the kids "in-line." Parents could volunteer in a grade level that differs from their own child's grade an effort to prevent any hostility toward the child of the parent if they are enforcing disciplinary measures.</p> <p>3) Consider use of parent volunteers wherever feasible (ie: various admin duties, library, front office, cafeteria, etc....)</p> <p>4) The disadvantages of grade level centers as presented at the forum seemed to be "weak." As such, it seems that the pros outweigh the cons for this proposal.</p> <p>5) Require admin to pay for insurance coverage for additional family members.</p> <p>6) Since we were first placed on the state's financial watch list in 2007, if there are any board members who were also serving on the board at that time, they were part of allowing us to get to the point we are at now; and therefore we would respectfully ask them to step down and resign from the board.</p> <p>7) Look at the possibility of combining some of the proposals above in an effort to cut costs. For example, move to grade level centers AND implement a "pay-to-play" program, along with increasing fees for music, art, technology, etc... and reducing staff as needed.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 4:18 AM
238	<p>I would be much more willing to pay additional monies for my child to participate in non-mandated programs while they are in school, rather than pay a tax increase that i will continue to have to pay even after my child has graduated. I also think closing West is a terrible idea. Money would still have to be spent to maintain the building and to teach the same number of students, and the thought of an empty building in the neighborhood is very undesirable. I understand that reducing staff is not ideal, but we all have had to deal with job loss and reduced incomes. Most working parents are dealing with layoffs and the lack of raises in this economy. Teachers and Administrators may have to deal with this too. For many of us, money is extremely tight, and the idea of a tax increase is scary. Taxes HAVE to be paid, paying for non-mandated programs might be optional, or at least short-term. You can't squeeze more money out of people who don't have it. Finally, I understand Administrators are receiving nice pay increases (7% or so), maybe those need to be renegotiated...</p>	Jun 2, 2010 5:36 AM
239	<p>I would support a smaller tax referendum (I think others would too) if it was in combination with parents paying a portion of non-mandated classes and activities AND an increase in class sizes. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE SPECIALS CLASSES. I would support paying a fee for them as long as there was some time of reduction in staff. I also would support paying for activities. I feel the district would get a better response from the community if they ask for a smaller referendem (because we need something), but yet show they are making necessary cuts. Lastly, I feel we are fortunate to live where we live and have involved parents. A few more children in a class with everyone working together could make Millburn 24 even better!</p>	Jun 2, 2010 1:06 PM

Response Text		
240	I would support a tax referendum if it were combined with some of the other options outlined above. My preference would be a combination of reconfiguring the district to grade level centers with a long term goal of shutting down Millburn West when enrollment no longer necessitates having two schools, and also establishing a "pay-to-play" program for non-mandated programs. If the tax referendum is too big, it may not pass, so I think we have to combine that option with others to make it more palatable to the public.	Jun 2, 2010 1:19 PM
241	The Millburn West staff is wonderful. I hate to see anyone leave. However, we must look to maintaining a balanced budget. I also believe some measure of a tax referendum is necessary to help clear the deficit and begin to restore the 25% reserve fund. However to rely solely on a tax increase is unrealistic. It sounds like once the deficit is cleared we may have more options available to us in the future. The Millburn District has done a great job with the students and I know none of us want to see that jeopardized. During these tough times we may have to rely on more volunteer resources without putting our children at risk. This might be an option to continue to carry the non-mandated classes (art;music;library;technology) that complete a well rounded education and give our kids options to explore their talents which for many may end up being their livelihood. My preference would be to look to a half time program with educated teachers on staff before we cut programs and look to volunteers. I pray for wisdom as we walk this road together.	Jun 2, 2010 2:02 PM
242	I selected yes on the pay - to - play options with the understanding that you could pick and choose which ones would apply or not pay at all if your child doesn't participate. I feel grouping an academic item such as AIM with sports and others is not good, and although they are still non-required, AIM and other academic items are vital for some students to continue successfully in school and therefore are not an option to drop.	Jun 2, 2010 2:35 PM
243	I think the district should be run like our family households. First you pay off the debt (through a combo of increasing revenues and cutting costs), then you build your contingency fund (savings). I'm incredibly disheartened and disappointed that our district has been run so financially irresponsibly. Whatever future paths are decided on, we HAVE to ensure that there are financial controls in place to mandate BALANCED budgets every year.	Jun 2, 2010 2:41 PM
244	We would be open to looking at a referendum only after major cost cutting measures as indicated above have been implemented. In any case the referendum would have to be for far less than the amount indicated in the financial presentations.	Jun 2, 2010 3:31 PM
245	Need more info on wording of referendum and payment for nonmandated programs.	Jun 2, 2010 3:53 PM
246	In question 3- I would choose some of the programs to pay for. I would not pay for all the programs.	Jun 2, 2010 3:54 PM

Response Text		
247	<p>As a family already in a low income situation, it is hard for me to support any extra costs to me as we live week to week. These choices would put a bigger strain on us as a family, but at the same time, we don't want to see Millburn taken over by the state. Millburn is a great school and the teachers are great. We have one child finishing up her 3rd yr and our second child starting next yr. We really don't want to see the extras, ie: art, library, music ect.. go away nor do we want to have to explain that we can't afford to pay for our children to do this, when they need it to learn that aspect of their life as we did as children. And have a little fun in school other than in the normal classroom situation.</p> <p>Why was their not the opt for reduction of salaries for admins?? Also what about the option to FREEZE ALL wages across the board for a number of years like everyone else in the country has had to do. My husband got a pay cut a year and two months ago...and now he makes less then he made 7 yrs ago when he started his job. We had to reconstruct our lives around this. It was not easy, but it was what we had to do....</p> <p>When will we have our final say in what happens and when will this all take affect. I know you said that if it was a tax increase you had to let the village know by Aug. BUT when will the PARENTS of Millburn students be advised of your decisions?</p>	Jun 2, 2010 3:59 PM
248	<p>Survey was extremely difficult to complete without the financial information needed to make informed decisions. There are a lack of financial controls when spending the referendum \$\$\$. I believe the board has the districts best interests but a lack of financial controls and know how is a concern for me. I would like to see a combination of the above.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 4:52 PM
249	<p>I believe a referendum will be very difficult to pass in our community. It is my belief that other measures need to be taken. After all other measures are taken into consideration and action then a referendum for a smaller amount should be considered. I would hope that grade level centers can save a significant amount of money that it would be put into place for the 2010-2011 school year no matter how many man hours need to go into the planning now and this summer.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 5:28 PM
250	<p>Please cut the Library and Band and we can source out through the other 2 libraries in the area or go online to get books and band find and outside source.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 5:30 PM
251	<p>Changes to the decision making process used by the school board & superintendent that has lead to this financial debacle are needed before any money is thrown at solving the problem. Throwing good money (via a referendum) after bad money won't solve the issues that got us into this mess. We must deal with the the situational crisis, as this is attempting to do, but we must also deal with problems with the system that put us here.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 5:54 PM
252	<p>Keep west open and maintain k-8 centers at each school</p>	Jun 2, 2010 8:48 PM
253	<p>Teaching our children out of rented trailers at an overpopulated facility with insufficient utilities while leaving a new school building empty must be one of the worst ideas I have ever heard.</p>	Jun 2, 2010 9:13 PM
254	<p>Milburn West should be the 6-8 school if reconfiguration would occur.</p>	Jun 3, 2010 4:09 AM
255	<p>Not sure where these numbers are coming from. Are these padded numbers?This survey is way too general to truly get the true thoughts of the community. Would have liked to rank importance of programs to get community perspective. How does this survey help answer any questions at all?</p>	Jun 3, 2010 5:08 AM
256	<p>I am willing to pay for my student to be in band but i want a quality band director who would be worth in the increase in cost because we do not have that now.</p>	Jun 3, 2010 3:11 PM
257	<p>I cannot believe AIM would be put with band, choir etc when there have been many studies showing the importance of this educational experience. This is as important as No child left behind. PLEASE do not cut Aim as it affects our high educational learning experience and our future home values.</p>	Jun 3, 2010 3:40 PM