

TO: Members of the Arlington School Committee
FROM: Susan Lovelace, Chair
DATE: February 26, 2008
RE: Arlington School District Budget Survey FY2009

INTRODUCTION:

Surveys and web surveys in particular are self-selecting and do not reach everyone:

- Not everyone has computer access
- Not everyone has time/interest in filling out surveys even though they may be interested in the subject.
- Because surveys by their nature offer prescribed choices, these choices may not make sense or be acceptable to everyone

This is just the nature of taking surveys. They are never perfect, and good practitioners know this and don't translate them directly into policy.

A total of 1,258 respondents participated in the survey.

The primary question asked respondents to select from a list of 14 possible options that either cut services or increased revenue in such a way that the combination of their choices would close the FY09 budget gap of approximately \$680,000. Respondents were also given the choice at the end of the list of 14 options to suggest an "other" option - 212 of the respondents provided an "other" response.

411 respondents provided open response comments on the final page of the survey that invited respondents to: "share any additional comments you have regarding this survey or the Arlington Public School's Fiscal Year 2009 budget."

Demographics of Responses

- 90% of respondents have or will have kids in the system
- 10% of respondents do not have children in the system (either grown or never had children in the system)
- Respondents were evenly divided between parents of students' grades k-5 and parents of students' grades 6 – 12.

Respondent Preferences for Closing the Budget Gap using the 14 Options Presented

Overall Responses (counting all 1,258 respondents):

Reduce staffing by 5 in High School core subjects	10.5%
Cut 5 sections in elementary grades 3-5	19.1%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$300 to \$2100	21.5%
Reduce staffing by 3 in High School core subjects	25.9%
Eliminate business classes and teacher at High School	27.1%
Eliminate one custodial position at High School	31.5%
Reduce supplies, substitute teachers, AYCC and professional development	33.6%
Reduce Principal support system wide	35.2%
Eliminate data analyst/curriculum developer	42.3%

Reduce central office clerical support	43.8%
Increase instrumental music fee from \$225 to \$450	46.8%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$500 to \$2300	54.6%
Increase athletic fee by \$100 per sport for first two sports	60.7%
Increase lunch cost from \$2.25 to \$2.50	79%

Respondent Preferences if have child(ren) in High School

Reduce staffing by 5 in High School core subjects	6.7%
Cut 5 sections in elementary grades 3-5	28%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$300 to \$2100	22%
Reduce staffing by 3 in High School core subjects	22.6%
Eliminate business classes and teacher at High School	27.1%
Eliminate one custodial position at High School	27.4%
Reduce supplies, substitute teachers, AYCC and professional development	34.5%
Reduce Principal support system wide	39.6%
Eliminate data analyst/curriculum developer	42.4%
Reduce central office clerical support	42.7%
Increase instrumental music fee from \$225 to \$450	47%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$500 to \$2300	58.5%
Increase athletic fee by \$100 per sport for first two sports	52.4%
Increase lunch cost from \$2.25 to \$2.50	81.1%

Respondent Preferences if have child(ren) in Middle School

Reduce staffing by 5 in High School core subjects	7.3%
Cut 5 sections in elementary grades 3-5	19.8%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$300 to \$2100	19.6%
Reduce staffing by 3 in High School core subjects	25.7%
Eliminate business classes and teacher at High School	22.6%
Eliminate one custodial position at High School	29.6%
Reduce supplies, substitute teachers, AYCC and professional development	32.7%
Reduce Principal support system wide	34.4%
Eliminate data analyst/curriculum developer	36.6%
Reduce central office clerical support	38.8%
Increase instrumental music fee from \$225 to \$450	49.2%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$500 to \$2300	55.9%
Increase athletic fee by \$100 per sport for first two sports	56.1%
Increase lunch cost from \$2.25 to \$2.50	75.7%

Respondent Preferences have child(ren) in Elementary School

Reduce staffing by 5 in High School core subjects	11.2%
Cut 5 sections in elementary grades 3-5	11.5%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$300 to \$2100	19.4%
Reduce staffing by 3 in High School core subjects	25.9%
Eliminate business classes and teacher at High School	24.9%
Eliminate one custodial position at High School	33.5%
Reduce supplies, substitute teachers, AYCC and professional development	32.3%
Reduce Principal support system wide	32.5%
Eliminate data analyst/curriculum developer	37.8%
Reduce central office clerical support	42.2%
Increase instrumental music fee from \$225 to \$450	44.5%
Increase full day kindergarten fee by \$500 to \$2300	49.9%
Increase athletic fee by \$100 per sport for first two sports	60.2%
Increase lunch cost from \$2.25 to \$2.50	73.4%

Open Responses Overall (exact responses attached):

- Strong support for increased fees over staff reductions – over 20% of comments specifically opposed cutting teachers and/or increasing class size
- Strong interest in directing APS to seek savings through energy efficiencies – over 10% of comments suggested turning down thermostats, using energy-saving light bulbs, reducing paper waste, and cutting down on electricity
- Strong support for increasing the cost of lunch – over 10% of comments suggested increasing the lunch to between \$2.75 and \$3.00
- Strong interest in having school employees pick up a larger share of the health insurance costs – over 10% of comments suggested that the health insurance cost to employees be increased
- There was a fair amount of interest in finding creative fundraising strategies – suggestions included: soliciting voluntary contributions from the public; an auction; seeking corporate donations; seeking grants; asking for increased support from Arlington Schools Foundation and a “money making drive”

NOTE: comments were copied exactly as written by respondents and have not been edited for grammar or spelling

#	<p>Please select from the list below the combination of cost reductions and revenue enhancements that would close the remaining FY09 budget gap of approximately \$680,000</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p>
1.	add traffic supervisors and give them a pay raise because they deserve it they put there lives on the line for our children
2.	reduce admin staff by 35%, reduce Superintendents pay 10%
3.	Cut crossing guards
4.	Close an elementary school/consolidate
5.	negotiate health care costs and yearly inflation increases, decrease salary of superintendent
6.	reduce pay of crossing guards to \$14 / hour
7.	eliminate instrumental music program at elementary schools
8.	identify ways to raise revenue
9.	Offer voluntary open enrollment at elementary level to determine whether class sizes could be naturally improved. Total number of kids per grade/total teachers budgeted = ?? Is that closer to the desirable class size?
10.	Further increase athletic fee. Increase fee for high-cost sports.
11.	eliminate more central office staff and consulting and districtwide professional development budget of 225K
12.	reduce Supt's salary by 10%--approx. \$12,000?
13.	Eliminate Chuck Coughlin once and for all. Make the middle school reductions that Chuck's drama prevented last year.
14.	Reduce waste, rent function space in school gyms, cafeterias, etc
15.	cut instrumental music or move to afterschool: Is an extra and currently intereferes with academics
16.	Introduce a language immersion stream, with a fee
17.	Eliminate manager of puchasing and cost containment. Combine purchasing with town, as there is already a purchasing officer at town hall, and both town and schools could pay part of his salary.
18.	Textbook freeze, use only in-house professional development,. no study groups
19.	I checked the athletic fee increase however I would only recommend half that amount if any at all. \$100 per sport is TOO MUCH!!! (Unless the family max will continue to be \$675)
20.	Increase cost of Bishop Bus; even though this is a direct hit on me, I prefer that increase than a loss of staffing.
21.	try and settle with Bouris and Coughlin Fire Levenson

22.	Reduce cost of heating in classrooms by turning down the thermostat
23.	Eliminate principal positions at all schools. Creat one principal position to oversee all schools. THINK OUT OF THE BOX!!!
24.	plus \$10,000 more in athletic fees - don't know what they are now (are they as much as instrumental music fees?)
25.	Spearhead casino gambling to support only special education costs thru out the state,removing the burden from the cities and towns.
26.	Cut one House Master at the High School
27.	Cut out the ACE program! (must be worth at least 100K)
28.	reduce cost of legal problems; do not hire grant writer (use someone in district or send someone to a training); get donations of some supplies from businesses in exchange for a promise to buy other supplies from them; don't cut substitutes; freeze on buying new books
29.	these plus increase instrumental music fee by only 1/2 as much proposed to \$330
30.	Stop paying huge legal fees to defend horrible decisions by the Superintendent. Atleast \$250,000 could have been eliminated without pursuing the Coughlin/Bouris matter. Don't think we taxpayers won't see through this.
31.	consultants & public relations firms
32.	\$360K Incr. lunch cost to \$3.00; \$25K incr. music to \$315
33.	\$45,000 buy less stuff
34.	Unplug all refridgerators and other electrical supplies in classrooms. Energy saving in schools!!
35.	REDUCE HEAT!!! All students & teacher compain the schools are too hot. My kids wear short sleeve shirts in the winter! My totals only adds to \$650k, but I have to believe curriculum wide heating costs would save at least \$30k
36.	\$390,000++ - Appeal to state to reduce Spec Ed Required Expenditures
37.	increase what we charge Arlington Catholic for use of the football field, If public school kids must pay more for sports then they must pay more also
38.	Eliminate metco director position, eliminate middle school ACE
39.	Cut \$10k more from "buy less stuff" section
40.	Parental donations ~ \$100 each ll no one is required to pay but those who can might if they knew what their children would lose.
41.	Eliminate all out of state travel, eliminate all mentoring for Principals, and free all administrative salary increases
42.	Increase lunch an additional \$0.50 to \$3.00 or cancel hot lunch
43.	create competitive contracts with school suppliers/contractors
44.	cut how manv neople that supposed don't get turned away. more neople than not are having a hard

	time making ends meet
45.	I think it would be important to evaluate operation/maintenance cost of the schools to look for waste. Spend to save and increase efficiency, day lighting, reducing carbon footprint reduce operational cost.
46.	Does every school have a library and two public libraries?
47.	Equals \$580K Reduce the number of mid-level managers and their stipends. If mid-levels are staffed full-time, look into combining teacher assignments or eliminating altogether. for the other \$100K
48.	\$10,000 remain. Maybe a reduced version of the remaining choices. Nothing affecting core education please.
49.	Increase staff co-payments for doctor visits to lower health insurance premiums
50.	drastically cut special ed or limit those who can qualify or if there parents want more services have them pick up more of the cost above a set minimum
51.	consider staff raises of a lesser amount
52.	Cut staffing for Cafeteria and ask for parent volunteers
53.	Pursue grant support from public/private foundations individually or in collaboration with local colleges/universities
54.	Parking Fee for Students who use parking lot (\$150/year for sticker)
55.	modify remaining choices to equal \$215,000.00
56.	ELIMINATE THE SUPERINTENDENT
57.	You have not provided enough information to make an assessment on staff positions as I do not know any background. I am not alone. In order to develop a more accurate survey you need to provide more information
58.	Reduce 1 Dean Position/Not Needed - \$70,000 to \$80,000
59.	increase athletic fee by more than \$100
60.	If Raising the lunch cost by \$.25 generates \$120K, then why not raise it by \$.50 and generate \$240K? Also, make up remainder with a combination of increased sports and Instrumental fees, but to a lesser amount than listed above. I believe in paying for the extras we use personally.
61.	STOP PAYING TOWN OFFICIALS SO MUCH MONEY-THEY MAKE MORE THAN THEY SHOULD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
62.	Reduce count of central office ast super
63.	increase athletic fee by \$50 per sport for savings of \$50,000
64.	I think there is a lot of administrative waste and disorganization in the special education areas. Closer watch of services and BETTER organization of the services would go a long way to cut costs and improve the current system. Perhaps organizing regional resources would help take of the kids better at a smaller cost locally.
65.	App. \$70K: Eliminate cost containment /purchasing position that was recently added

66.	fire levenson
67.	Decrease salary of Superintendent!
68.	accountability in all depts, especially anyone handling money - i am tired of seeing it misused. why do we not hold everyone accountable from the beginning to the end of their budgets, purchase order, approvals, invoices, payments - oh because we are dishonest and it is soooo obvious
69.	Make sure you look at creative ideas to reduce long term facility operating costs through capital investment into reduced energy consumption.
70.	negotiate with teachers union for cap on health insurance increase closer to town annual revenue increase
71.	Increase health ins premiums for all to be in line with industry - review all benefits to be more in line with industry
72.	Dont increase the health care by 12% only increase it by the 7% budged and make the employee cover the remaining increase. Nothing is for free...
73.	cut art at the elementary school level
74.	\$158,400 - Increase lunch cost from \$2.25 to \$2.60, with free and reduced price lunches still available.
75.	Add additional cost for more expensive sports
76.	purchase used text books from amazon.com for a 50% savings, consolidate the 5 levels of education at the high school from 5 to 4, possibly merging the 2 college prep courses,only allow the employee to recieve the very generous health insurance cost and have their spouse pay average premium,
77.	this shouldn't be in a survey
78.	increase lunch to \$2.75 that would double the red. to \$240K
79.	Raise taxes
80.	eliminate the travel coordinator, eliminate clerical staff in special ed, increase lunches from 2.50 to 3.50, eliminate supertintendant's foreign travel costs, eliminate out of state professional development junkets, eliminate all professional development for 2 years, look in to the Italian consolidate to supplement an italian foreign language program in the APS school system, at one time they taught classes for free, eliminate summer staff or reduce hours, open a summer school program for profit
81.	increasew what emp pay for ins.
82.	Investigate adding a fee based on ability to pay for those students receiving special education services
83.	Eliminate two assistant Sped directors 76K and manager of purchasing 65K
84.	CUT ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES
85.	Put the cell phone tower on Peirce back on the table asap
86.	teachers/town employees must pay more for health insurance!!!!!!
87.	Reduce the guidance staff at the high school and/or eliminate a house dean position at the high

	school. There are 3 now. Why not cut by 1?
88.	reduce superintendent's salary by \$680,000
89.	balance of \$90000 from conservation, etc
90.	As a parent I have a child who already misses the cut off due to the ridiculous cut-off date, which has no grace period. We pay enough for full time child care, and to increase this while other surrounding towns do not make you pay at all, also low-income families should be required to pay something and if they can't afford it then they should be required to volunteer a certain amount of hours to cover the cost that is being eliminated. To increase of class size is ridiculous especially when more children are requiring extra help and special needs services, also teachers face many children with behavioral issues and other which is a huge distraction in and outside the classroom. If you need to reduce the custodial position in the school then the children who get detention should be giving back to school community by cleaning school.
91.	\$90,000 elementary school(Only Cut 2 sections lets include K- 5 in the evaluation and keep sizes below 24 for k - 2 and 26 3 - 5. \$90,000 from jr. High, \$32,000 increase 100 instrumental fee, \$75.00/sport for \$80,000
92.	Reduce energy consumption - especially electricity
93.	review all administrative salaries before cutting teacher and support staff salaries, there should be many more choices above, other ways to cost cut
94.	save the other \$55K in partial "buy less stuff"--don't increase class size!
95.	NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH STAFF SO THEY PAY A LARGER SHARE OF THEIR HEALTH BENEFITS LIKE ALL OTHER WORKERS DO
96.	Could students get community service hours assisting in clerical office support and custodial duties?
97.	Increase deductibles on health insurance, keeping premiums smaller
98.	Can students do custodial work at AHS as part of community service if that position is eliminated?
99.	Increase employees' contribution to health insurance. I don't know what the current plan specifies or what contractual obligations the town may have but the days in which health insurance is provided in full by the employer are over. 12% increases in insurance are typical, particularly in MA.
100.	fill some of Arlington's empty store fronts with businesses. Let business take up the slack for providing educated workers.
101.	reduce administrative team at supt.'s level; elem. principals at more than one school
102.	Reduce staffing by 2 or 3 in High School core subjects instead of by 5.
103.	could increase the music fee to \$300; 450 is too big a leap
104.	do away with staff support
105.	re-negotiate health care coverage with unions
106.	There should be an option to reduce staffing in non-core subjects. As well, elimination of paid extra-curricular positions.
107.	\$55,000 - Cut superintendent's salary by \$55k

108.	Raise 120000 through public endorsement at athletic facilities throughout the town
109.	\$120,000 increase lunch cost further, from \$2.50 to \$2.75
110.	There are some creative ways to reduce health insurance costs - by making the deductible higher, then having the school system pay the difference between the old deductible amount and what the employee now has to pay out of pocket if they go inpatient at a hospital usually can save a substantial amount without creating an overwhelming expense for the employee - if this is unclear, please speak to your health insurance representative.
111.	don't have any info about the data analyst/curriculum developer -- big \$, but have no knowledge of what their contribution is. My wacky idea is to make Peirce a town-wide 5th grade school. Perhaps this could be done without a principal (with supervision from lead teacher or asst supt. that would save cost of a principal, and give students at unrenovated schools a chance to be in a new school. i would guess since there is a larger number of 5th graders in one school, the class size could be more efficiently split, saving a teacher salary also, without making a very large class. obviously, there would be increased transportation costs, but perhaps a net savings. is there any non-professional work that could be contributed by the community? for instance, if we eliminate a custodian, could some of that work be made up by students? could part of data analyst or curriculum developer be done by non-professional staff? parents currently contribute money for supplies -- could that be increased -- it would be a uniform fee for all grades, spreading the load...
112.	increase lunch cost to 3.00
113.	Get rid of the inhouse suspension teachers. Let suspension stay as out of school or charge the families for in-house suspension with teacher support
114.	eliminate middle school by increasing more elementary and high school (Grade 1-6; high school 7-12)
115.	Sell naming rights at High School; sell placards at all fields
116.	Can the town purchase a lower cost health plan that has higher deductibles and increased copays? This could have a large savings as well, regrettably, however, the employees would take on more of the cost burden, however this is happening in many industries, including the work force who work for health insurance companies.
117.	increase staff share of healthcare cost just like everywhere else
118.	Faculty and staff pay more of Health Insurance cost. \$135,000. In my business this cost has gone up 11%. We passed 75% of that to the employees. Our staff pay 33% of the cost. Also, you may have to make up the difference with limiting increases in salaries. (I haven't had a raise in three years. Beats unemployment.)
119.	reduce paper consumption - send notices electronically; raise fees for sports and music, but each for lower amounts than suggested here; beg residents to be realistic and raise taxes
120.	town employees pay large % of their health insurance
121.	\$20,000 buy less stuff
122.	I know this is a union issue, but I think teachers should pay a larger share of health insurance.
123.	eliminate nonacademic curricula such as "Open Circle," "The Great Body Shop," FACS
124.	establish pay-as-you-throw trash system; reduce superintendent salary & support; market use of

	school facilities to outside groups to increase revenue; introduce aggressive energy conservation practices (e.g., reduce heat in schools to max 67 degrees F. instead of often over-hot temperatures, use energy-efficient light bulbs, copy onto both sides of paper for class worksheets, recycle), increase METCO contribution
125.	cut Nate Levenson's pay to make up the difference
126.	Cut Reading Coaches
127.	Look for energy savings; if not found, cut two HS core (\$90K) teachers & increase inst. music fee by \$70 (\$20K)
128.	Why not combine the jobs of curriculum leaders and deans at the high school? Also, why do Curriculum leaders only teach one section while other districts have those positions teach 3 sections.
129.	Raise instrument fee 50 not double, raise kindergarten by 100-150. I am not sure what a data/analyst curriculum developer does so I don't have enough information to determine if this would be a position to eliminate to fill the gap. I would not eliminate business classes, essentially we all deal with business every day so it does not make sense to eliminate an element of the curriculum that every one needs to understand.
130.	increase health insurance contributions for town employees
131.	Library in Elementary, Art in Elementary, Music in Elementary
132.	Increase athletic fees more than \$100, cut some sports as necessary to maintain core curriculum and core staffing
133.	Teachers pay more towards health insurance like the rest of professional people
134.	stop providing unfunded but mandated services, sue the state for support for mandated services
135.	Increase rent on the International School - \$100K
136.	Increase lunch cost even more, Raise the rest through a fundraising campaign
137.	Reduce budget for school committee itself - no catered meetings
138.	Have students perform custodial work in rotation. This is common in private schools
139.	I'm a bit over, maybe a smaller increase in athletic fees
140.	move money from other town services to education budget
141.	Discontinue foreign language program at Ottoson
142.	reduce heat in buildings +\$ +Green
143.	Increase the Lunch to 2.75 or 3.00 (Still pretty cheap). This would save an additional 120 to 240K respectivley
144.	Increase lunch price to \$2.75
145.	There must be other places for savings: eg, the kids say that the buidlings are kept way too hot in winter; reducing temperatures to 68 degrees or less would save money on fuel costs. Similarly, the lights often are left on at night when nobody's there. Those are just two examples of places where the system could save. I also think the system could make money by renting facilities and expanding

	before-school time, after school, and summer programs, as well as adult education.
146.	analyse budgets from other towns that provide better education at a lower cost per student
147.	cut supplies to basics (copy paper, tape, staples, etc.) and everyone gets a \$\$ amount to "spend";
148.	eliminate extra administrative positions/assistants to assistants etc.
149.	Have current teachers and administrators take an across the board smaller increase in salary.
150.	collect \$100-\$150 per child
151.	Fire the drama teacher in middle school
152.	Reduce health insurance costs by switching to State plan and increasing employee contributions & amp; copays
153.	fundraising efforts TBD
154.	reduce superintendent salary
155.	Raising fees is preferable to cutting services.
156.	\$30,000 Consolidate purchasing with other towns/districts to get lower prices and/or get donations/discounts from big office supply stores
157.	Note that using "averages" in this survey is not an accurate representation of the actual size of most classes. the descriptions should be more representative of the reality.... don't lie with statistics....
158.	reduce special education where not needed; our daughter goes to special English classes with Mr. Lorden (Bishop-K) even though her teacher Ms Lombard tells us she speaks fluently English like other kids; our daughter was born in the US to two German parents who have lived for the last 10 years in the US
159.	Why not have fees for books so there is not necessarily a reduction in textbooks?
160.	Reduce thermostat settings by 5 degrees district wide more during vacations
161.	Eliminate consultants, Enhance income oppurtunities from plant usage
162.	\$55,000 Buy less stuff
163.	Pass on health care cost increases at least in part.
164.	I would take the remaining balance out of Superintendent Levenson's pay
165.	plus reduce staffing in World Languages only
166.	Reduce Superintendent's salary by \$30K
167.	reduce music instruction in elementary schools by 1 to 2 times per month, this would impact ALL elementary students equally rather than just those hit with the larger core class sizes
168.	use no electric lights unless *absolutely* needed - day and night

169.	make up \$155,000 difference by modest increases in fees split between kindergarten, music, and athletics. Or consider increasing lunch costs more. Try to keep AYCC and prof. dev.
170.	misc 10,000
171.	Although this is not directly related to the problem of the school budget, the Town of arlington should develop a 2 tier tax system. Where as businesses in Arlington will be taxed at a somewhat higher rate than residents. Many other towns do it and the excuse that our businesses will leave the town is not acceptable. Where will they go to one of these other towns that have a higher rate already. This way some of that extra revenue can be put toward our education system.
172.	Eliminate out of state travel, have same ratio of guidance counselors in middle school and high school
173.	cut only 2 sessions in elementary school; don't use substitute teachers in the middle or high school, if teacher is only out for 3 or less days - use studies, designated reading, educational TV - older students rarely get anything from a short term substitute; rent out school facilities to outside groups when not used
174.	small increase in employee payment for health care
175.	Cut back on Athletic programs
176.	Close one elementary school. Do we really need 7 elementary school buildings? I believe the last study completed showed we have room for all of our students in 6 buildings.
177.	Apply for all available grants, researching same. Follow all IEPs honestly, minimizing the need for out of district placement. Seek collaboration between districts to reduce costs, by purchasing supplies and services jointly.
178.	oversight and cap legal expenses
179.	reduce administrative overhead..too many from custodians to asst. super.
180.	Cut pay for superintendant
181.	Reduce the number of kids attending Minuteman or change them a fee for attending this OPTIONAL program.
182.	Special Needs busing and any other busing?
183.	identify and clear the amount of money spent on unnecessary legal fees.
184.	Increase lunch fee further 2.75 or 3.00, would do it
185.	cut non-teaching positions system-wide
186.	If you reduce HS core staffing, please make sure the good teachers stay!!
187.	Increase lunch cost to \$3-based on numbers provided above for the raise from \$2.25 to \$2.50, this would generate another \$240,000.
188.	Charge for overnight parking spaces in school lots. Bring more/enlarge after-care programs and increase after school space rental income. (Perhaps even encouraging the start of arts/sports/science/math programs on-site at schools (ie. Approach Soccer Club and see if they'd like to expand program to winter time and use gyms in schools to practice.?? Collaborate with Elderly

	Centers to build afterschool homework clubs on-site at schools.
189.	Eliminate ACE program in elementary schools because not all students can participate and participation is not based on grades, but is subjective.
190.	No more increases in pay for Levenson
191.	omit professional days for teachers and end school 2 days earlier in June
192.	End the war! Take that money.
193.	Increase health insurance cost to employees - the rest of us pay more , why are town employees immune?
194.	decrease the pay in upper admin.
195.	why does AHS still offer vocational classes when so many Arlington students go to Minuteman? has usage of these classes been reviewed?
196.	1. What about making all afterschool programs "equally good" and the profit could go to the Arlington Schools? 2. Is there a bus fee for the school that has buses?
197.	Cut Polaris-PR Firm + Legal Fees = ??? No one knows how much this is--is this a "transparent" budget ?????
198.	Take over after school programs by outsiders and collect that revenue.
199.	As a teacher in a core subject that may lose a faculty member, I strongly believe that our education system should do everything possible not to lose teachers. I'm not sure how your average class size was estimated, but from experience at AHS, the average size, especially at the Honors level is between 22 and 30. To me, these sizes are not allowing our students to get the quality of education they could had the class sizes been kept to between 18 and 20. Between last year and this year, I have gone from having class sizes of 16 to class sizes of 26. I can tell you that there is a difference in the education. I am still doing all that I can to provide an excellent learning experience, but I am one person. I am a teacher and want my voice to be heard that if you increase class sizes (class sizes increasing merely by one student is just no plausible- they'll be between 2 to 7), you continue to devalue and decrease the quality of an Arlington education. This is why the good teachers are leaving.
200.	Improve Transportation system (reduce costs) for Special Ed Students
201.	increase property taxes to cover the difference; i'm tired of the schools being shortchanged when half the cars driving to Brackett are BWM's, Saabs and Volvo's.
202.	Cut supplies & Textbooks (not counselors/teachers) \$35,000; Increase music fee to \$300 = \$45,000; Increase athletic fee by \$50 = \$50,000. Total = \$680,000
203.	decrease some percentage of each to reach \$80K: part-time data analyst; part time custodian; part time business teacher; buy less stuff
204.	\$40,000 - Misc. Cuts
205.	Buy Less Stuff \$10,000
206.	implement strategic sourcing/procurement for all school supplies/lunches/activites to get economies of scale

207.	\$135,000 Cut 3 sections in elementary; \$35,000 Buy less stuff; \$30,000 Increase kindergarten fee by \$100
208.	Although a nice idea, it's impossible for a layperson to pick from this list without details like, what are considered business classes,
209.	take the last 10K from "buy less stuff"
210.	ask all pto's to contribute money for FY 09 based on a fair and equitable formula TBD - have a town-wide fundraiser, getting businesses involved, i.e. half of all proceeds got to Arlington public schools....
211.	MCAS
212.	look carefully at healthcare costs - more competitive provider, more sharing of the costs like in private sector

#	Please feel free to share any additional comments you have regarding this survey or the Arlington Public School's Fiscal Year 2009 budget.
	Response Text
1.	As Gordon Jamison has shown for a long time we are getting short changed on state funding. More should be done to get this resolved. Also more needs to be looked at in regards to controlling health care costs, why are we hijacked by them? Also town employees need to pony up more in health care costs or perhaps they lose jobs?
2.	Until the School Committee learns to work with and respect the Teacher's union you will continue to have budget shortfalls.
3.	Please avoid cutting teachers/increasing class sizes at all costs.
4.	Thank you. It certainly drives the point home.
5.	Cut first in non-instructional services. Increase fees rather than cutting teachers. No increase in elementary class size over 25. Higher fees rather than eliminating arts and sports. The crossing guard near my house is paid to cross adults - this is absurd.
6.	I firmly believe that the most important thing is that we do not reduce the number of teachers teaching our children. all children in our schools would suffer if that happens. I also feel that at this time employees need to pay a greater share of their health insurance. This is the current reality of workplace benefits everywhere. I also wonder what sorts of energy conservation measures could be taken in school buildings particularly to conserve the cost of heat and electricity. Perhaps Sustainable Arlington could become involved in this.
7.	Feel that long term the big issue will be health care/medical and other (retirement) benefits - not just for teachers/school employees, but for town employees overall. Town must look at a way to lower these costs - either by renegotiating contracts or by finding a less expensive/minimal plan for all employees.
8.	my goal was to spread the pain widely - cuts to staff at both elem. and high school levels - but to raise fees less.

9.	I think wherever possible, we need to not raise fees - they tend to keep out those who need it most - especially music and sports.
10.	I really appreciate the opportunity to provide input. It was very helpful going through the previous exercise. GOOD LUCK!
11.	None of these choices are easy ones. However, the High School has taken much of the burden in past years, and there is not much more to cut there.
12.	elementary classes should be kept as small as possible. Ottoson should take its share of the cuts, and I am saying this as a former Ottoson teacher retired. No school should be exempt. Instrumental music private lessons can be had by those families wishing it by hiring outside the school for their children at such places as Lexington Art Center. (We do not need to provide lessons within the school.)
13.	The School Committee/Superintendent and Town Meeting have been way too generous in the salary increases they have approved in the teacher contracts. If you look at average private sector wage increases in recent years, they have been much less than 5 percent. The school administration contributes to this problem by not providing honest numbers to the Town. They give numbers on the average increase in the steps that are agreed in the contract, but no information on how staff receive salary increases by changing steps. When you present the budget figures for approval, they should be for total personnel cost increases from one year to the next. If these were kept to about 3 percent, consistent with the private sector, you wouldn't be in such difficulties now.
14.	I strongly believe you should not HIT up new kindergarten parents again for 2nd time in a row.
15.	If increasing class sizes in elem. is considered, please develop a system-wide plan for how these teachers would be supported with an aide in each room, or shared, or something to offset the large size. thank you for the opportunity to comment.
16.	With two kids at Brackett School, one who will enter Ottoson next year, I'm very concerned about our direction. I appreciated that no cuts are on the table for the dreaded middle school. I'm worried that increasing class sizes at the elementary level will leave better/gifted students marginalized and bored. I understand that special ed is a priority, but we've found that the larger the class, the more attention gets paid to struggling kids and better students get underserved. ACE has been eliminated, right? What's left to challenge our future leaders?
17.	I am really pleased to have our kids in a school district that offers such "extras" as sports, music, and full-day kindergarten, but I think that during these tough times, we should be asking families that can afford it (such as our family) to help share the cost of these extras more fairly. As long as "scholarships" are available to lower-income families, I see absolutely nothing wrong with asking parents of those kids who participate to shoulder the costs. I think most parents would agree that this is preferable to cutting costs in real academic programs, either by increasing class sizes or by eliminating programs entirely. I'd also like to add that cutting costs by bringing some SPED programs back to the district seems like a win-win situation, as long as the in-district programs are of good quality. The preschool initiative seems like a terrific start. More of this would be great!
18.	Increasing class sizes should not be an option - everything I've ever heard speaks to the benefits of smaller class sizes. We shouldn't compromise the children's education - there are other options on the list that don't effect the quality as much. Fees are probably the best option.

19.	Most neighboring towns and cities are also facing similar budgetary challenges. Band together and share resources. A full-time curriculum developer, for example, is very important, but there's no reason that there need to be more than a few of them in eastern Massachusetts.
20.	We pay for music lessons outside of school--much more than the suggested increase so I believe raising this is justified.
21.	Pre-emptive action should be taken to mitigate the risk of cost increases above what has been provided for in the 5-year budget. Negotiations with health insurance to lock in a multi-year rate, perhaps? Also, if health insurance continues to rise the burden must be shared with the teachers, it can't all hurt the children. Thank you.
22.	Even though I know we cannot afford school library programs (and please recognize that are program, as it currently exists, is pathetic), I would like the school committee to make a long-term plan for restoring a good program townwide K-12 and to look to the state for support, funding, and establishment of guidelines, frameworks, and staffing requirements.
23.	Why doesn't the town/school district hold a money making drive (similar to the Jerry's Kids Telethon)? While there certainly would be a large number of ornery individuals who wouldn't pay an extra cent to the town/school district, there are also individuals who would be happy to donate to public schools, but simply don't know how.
24.	I believe a class size of up to 28 children in a grade 3-5 level would be horrible. Class sizes of approx 20 is a challenge as it is now in the upper elementary classes. With the demands of MCAS and also getting the children ready for middle school I believe it is especially important to keep class sizes below 20.
25.	You need to change the equation: - Consider outsourcing all janitorial services. - Move to an employee-funded 401k and away from any defined benefit plans. This will not cut costs in the short term, but will eliminate the risk of an unfunded liability in the future. - Consider outsourcing the lunch program. The food quality (nutrition and taste) is terrible. Your survey incorrectly refers to increasing the "cost" to 2.50. This is the price, not the cost. What is the cost, and if we loose money why? - It's a small cost, but the crossing guard function could be served by a volunteer partnership between the arlington police, parents, and (yes) middle school kids. - Find a way to charge parents for a small portion of the Payments To Out-Of-District Schools. Parents that elect out of this school system (yes, due to special needs they determine Arlington cannot meet) should share some small portion of the direct costs. - The professional development cuts should have been listed separately and as a % of the current total. And the funding here should be cut further. Other professionals self-fund further education and teaching should be no different. - This box is way too small!
26.	I want to thank Sean Garballey for the hard work he did as chair of the budget subcommittee.
27.	messing with the special ed part of the budget is going to cost more, in time, money, and good will, than is worth any savings. lack of adherence to sped plans is pandemic in our schools - we need better administration and honest communication to REDUCE the amount of contentious interactions - that is the smartest way to save and foster goodwill.
28.	Last year (06-07) my daughter's first grade had 3 classes, they cut down to 2 for 2nd grade. I was really upset at first, but it's been just fine having 24 kids per class. They may not get the one on one they did in 1st grade, but they are all learning and doing great. I don't think it's horrible to have slightly bigger elementary school classes. especially if we can keep K and 1 the smallest class sizes. It's a very hard

	<p>decision to make. I also think we could reduce a lot of waste in the school - waste of time and resources. Teachers at my daughter's school are buying one workbook and photo copying everything in it for all the students in the class. The time, paper, ink etc it takes to make the copies must be close to the cost of more workbooks right? Not to mention they copy a book that uses both sides of the paper onto sheets using just one side so double the amount of paper gets used. In the cafeteria, food waste is unbelievable. I know we cannot force kids to eat but so much gets thrown away. I think the "sides" should be optional - kids don't eat them anyway. I know guidelines require a vegetable on the plate - but they go right into the trash, 9 times out of 10.</p>
29.	<p>There should be a new sales fee when real estate is sold that would be tied to education since the property values are tied to the quality of our schools.</p>
30.	<p>In High School larger class sizes shouldn't be a problem if supports for students with learning differences remain at the current levels. In reality, with more students in each class, SPED staff will not have to split themselves as thinly as there will be less classes to cover. Increasing class size at the elementary level seems more significant. However, like the High School if supported by SPED at the same level shouldn't feel overwhelming. Many schools outside of Arlington have high numbers in classes throughout elementary school. Supporting the teachers will need to be looked at, as they will have an increased work load.</p>
31.	<p>Superintendent should have received no raise and should not receive a raise for 2007-08 or 2008-09. Poor management and poor communication about many issues warrant this, especially in financial crunch times like this. In fact, if Ms. Bodie replaced him, got a raise, and there was no asst. supt. for a year, the schools would be much better off. The sweet retirement deal received by the previous supt. has also contributed to this fiscal shortfall. School Committee needs to get tougher about retirement packages that few of the rest of us are getting from private employers. (E.g., what pension??!) Town needs to join Mass. state workers' health insurance pool. Health insurance costs are way out of line. Teachers need to pay a much larger share or give up this benefit. Then the teachers' union would need to find its own health insurer and charge members accordingly. Teachers should be asked whether they can obtain health insurance through a spouse's/partner's policy, saving on costs for those teachers who have no other recourse to insurance. This is what the rest of us who are lucky enough to have insurance have to do. Class size averages are dubious numbers, since they factor in special ed. classes, which typically have only a few students in them, and they also leave out large classes like band, chorus, and physical education, which are also part of the required curriculum. A more meaningful number is the average class size for regular (non-special ed.) academic classes. So what are those numbers? High school classes are already too large. Many HS classes are already poorly taught, since some teachers seem overwhelmed. Making the classes bigger will reduce quality even further. Schools need to pay much more attention to energy efficiency. At least put some plastic over the leaky windows at the Stratton and in the high school. Turn down the heat considerably (67 degrees in all schools) and have people wear more sweaters. Stop propping doors open, allowing cold air in. Fix the leaks in the HS near the gyms--at least wrap the windows in plastic. There's no insulation, and heat is vanishing at great cost. And turn out the lights! School system should raise rents for all after-school programs by 10% and require program directors to report their salaries, expenses, etc., or be dropped as a provider. They use heat and other utilities and should be required to pick up a greater share of after hours (3:30) expenses and to report their income, etc. Eliminate all Ottoson and HS travel that can't be accomplished by bus or the T. Foreign trips should be completely eliminated. Report on who has the travel concession and how that contract was bid on--what are expenses to the school and/or teachers involved? How are teachers paid to accompany students on foreign trips? We'd like to go to Italy or France or Japan, too, but can never afford it. So get real. Stay home when money's tight! Lots to do around Arlington. Kids can perform for nursing homes, etc., if they need a new audience. Great to</p>

	<p>broaden horizons with international travel, but this looks like an unmitigated luxury to the rest of us. If nothing else, it contributes to the perception of wastefulness within the schools. Cut FACS classes at the HS--especially the child care and cooking classes. Also any shop classes. Let students who are interested in those courses take them at Minuteman Tech. This is vocational education that is better handled there, and we are already paying for Minuteman. Ideally we could afford it all, but we can't. Schools also need to band together for a very public fundraising effort within the town. A townwide auction, or a benefit concert or other performance. The rest of the town needs to appreciate the hard times the schools are facing, and administrators need to do more to make the public aware of this. They also need to put more effort into finding individual or family benefactors who would make large gifts to the schools--as the Robbins family did, when they paid for the town's library. Where's the leadership to create the kind of endowment that schools like Boston Latin and Brookline HS have? Set up mechanisms to accept estate bequests and actively ask for these types of donations.</p>
32.	<p>My kids are not in the public school system yet. We are disappointed by the lack of language education and considering private schools instead. But these are expensive and I do want my kids to be a part of the public system (I also pay taxes to that system). It seems to me there is a financial opportunity here for the Arlington Public Schools. There are a number of Arlington families paying to send their children to language immersion schools (International School or German School). But these schools are very expensive. Many of us would be very interested in paying some money into the public system to gain that advantage. You need to hire teachers and parents willing to pay for the immersion program would essentially fund those teachers. These teachers would be teaching all the usual classes, just in a non-English language. Not a short-term solution, but perhaps something to consider. I also believe it would draw people to Arlington, driving property prices up and therefore the tax base.</p>
33.	<p>Ottoson--Extend the cuts there.</p>
34.	<p>Need more description of arguments pro/con for each proposal in this survey. Maybe you could have links or short popups on the survey items.</p>
35.	<p>Class sizes in elementary school are already more then 20.9!! How about cutting the superintendents wage!!</p>
36.	<p>From past experience, it has worked very well when the schools and town combibe administrative services (ie technology). Thus, I feel that the puchasing position could be effectively combined. Furthermore, Town Hall and the schools have some common purchases (office supplies, technology, etc.) and if the same purchasing officer made purchases on behalf of both the town and the schools, this could lead to lower prices. I support the increased all day kindergarten fee as it would likely be absorbed mainly be dual-income families, who are more able to pay a higher fee.</p>
37.	<p>Increasing class size should not even be an option. It's the single biggest factor in a child's educational chance of success. Cut stuff, not people.</p>
38.	<p>It is painful at best to be part of a survey that slashes an already tight budget. What are the prospects of increasing our state aid???? Isn't that where it should start from???</p>
39.	<p>I commend the superintendent for a coherant and articulate budget rationale, including a statement of the problems and guiding principles to inform our decisions. I was an educator in Arlington until 2 years ago.</p>
40.	<p>Redo the O'neil formula regarding the split of funds between town and schools.</p>

41.	Whatever you do, please do not cut teachers!! Large class sizes are a problem at any level of the school system. The teachers need a chance to do their jobs and the kids deserve enough attention to learn.
42.	You've been given a finite amount of funds use it wisely. And don't think for a minute that an another override is a sure thing. We need better leadership not fewer teachers or programs.
43.	No problem.
44.	Having recently graduated two children from the system, I learned that Arlington has some great teachers and some not so great teachers. More effort should be spent weeding out the not so great. Recovering the salaries of those who gave up a long time ago would pay for two MOTIVATED teachers to make learning exciting again. Don't be afraid, the union can't condone "retirement in place". This is a better way to get savings in my opinion. BTW - I selected reduce one AHS custodian because the place looks horrible now, having one less custodian can't make it look much worse!
45.	Any increases in class size should take into consideration the number of special education students in each classroom. These children must be counted at a different ratio than one to one, especially if the classroom teacher has no additional classroom aides.
46.	Re: kindergarten fee - parents are used to paying big bucks for day care - it is still a huge savings to come down to the amount we are asking. even if my child were in music and sports I would still add fees there - cutting teachers and support is the last thing to cut. thank you!
47.	Please do what you can to keep class sizes small in all grades including middle and high school and increase fees for those items that are not state-mandated (e.g. full-day kindergarten, athletic fees, music fees) so parents like us can do more fundraising...We can't fundraise to keep class sizes small and teachers and others in the building. Thanks for your hard work and difficult decisions.
48.	Buy less stuff--I'd cut the "stuff" but not the substitute teachers
49.	Cutting teachers and increasing class size should be a grim last resort as the teacher to student ratio is and will always be a critical factor in measuring the quality of education that Arlington provides. I see no problem in increasing fees for special programs while not turning away those who cannot afford. Are there any other programs of this nature? (Drama?)
50.	-Lay-offs at any level would be a mistake. -Corporate donations -Ask for volunteer grant writers to research and write grants -Create an Alumni relations and donations volunteer position- there are parents in Arlington who have the time to volunteer to do this. -Fundraise
51.	None of the options are optimal, but these are tough times and tough decisions need to be made. I hope that all cuts made are based on the best educational solutions and not for political reasons.
52.	great idea to run this survey - it is "painful" to have to make these cuts. any way to have it automatically keep a running total for those less arithmetically inclined than I?
53.	I think we should try raising money in order to lessen the deficit. Maybe townwide this could be done at an event like Town Day or something. I definitely don't like constantly taking away from any/all of the students in Arlington. It seems these are always the only choices. We are a great community and I don't understand why we can't afford to give our children the best education. Anyhow, that's my

	opinion.
54.	ouch
55.	A good learning experience for all of us. I think Prop 2 1/2 is a horrible thing, but I know we are bound to it. I also think our superintendent is doing a great job under very difficult circumstances.
56.	Better to increase class sizes for older students than the very young ones. Many high school students will soon be going off to colleges with class sizes in the hundreds anyway. Don't cut substitutes - already too many so called "study halls" where kids do no work. Principals should mentor each other like teachers do, not have outside mentors. Aggressively seek donations (of needed supplies) from businesses, even if it means we allow a little bit of advertising at the secondary level.
57.	when will it end? will there be any schools left? when will we get a new superintendent?
58.	My son is going to be entering kindergarten next year. While I know that not everyone in Arlington is on equal financial footing, I would be willing to pay considerably more in school fees to avoid cutting programs--more in full day fees, extra fees for extra activities, etc. Of course it would have to be made in such a way that those who are not able to afford it don't have to pay. But I'd be willing to pay as high as about \$3000 a year. Would still be less than the preschool!
59.	I appreciate being asked. I think having a survey is valuable. I do hope the Town is able to prioritize education over a few other items. I am very concerned about the financial stability of the town in general. Arlington has little to no businesses, and is still trying to build out any and all remaining property. I am concerned about the Symmes redevelopment and how that will affect the schools. I wish the town would put more effort toward retaining and recruiting businesses to the town, rather than working toward making this entirely a bedroom community.
60.	It would be a travesty to eliminate any more elementary teaching positions! I absolutely do not want to see my child in a class with numbers in the mid to high 20's (currently in a class of 20 students). It is not fair for the students to be in a class with this many children...it eliminates any possibility for one-on-one support. It is not fair to our teachers to have this many students, either. They will get "burned out" and not have as much time to put into their work with all the extra correcting, planning for more students' individual needs and re-creating the way that they teach particular lessons (geared toward a smaller group). Please do not make cuts in the classrooms!!!!
61.	\$500 increase for K too big a shock Teachers in core subjects trump extracurriculars
62.	Please stop lying to the public about how you are spending money. Clearly some very poor choices were made and we will be paying for those choices for years to come. We will remember that when you ask for an override.
63.	Other things should be tried beyond the choices listed here.
64.	School Committee needs to rely more on expertise of the Superintendent. He gets paid to make the calls, school committee needs to defer to his experience, and get out of the way more.
65.	Really tough choices, don't have a solution but wish for a task force to look at ways to raise revenue
66.	I favor avoiding teacher cuts and keeping class sized as small as possible. The quality of the current Dallin 3rd grade education has suffered this year and its not fair to subject this group to more of the

	same again. If we do need to increase class size, don't do it to the same group of kids year after year. Spread it around.
67.	My son's class at Hardy already has 25 students in second grade. He had 26 or 27 in kindergarten, and this large class size has continued. I hope this does not get worse in the future.
68.	This was very helpful. It would be good to explain why salaries are rising faster than 2.5%, and what can be done about that. Also, the health insurance costs are huge; describing what can be done to lower them (such as higher copays and deductibles, etc.) would help.
69.	I appreciate the intent of the survey, to inform the community and to get community input and ideas. In my opinion, though the survey is well designed, the framing is too restrictive and the choices offered are too limited. Just for example, I'd favor more attention to in-system and regional grants, to holding benefits, to both inter-school and inter-community collaborations, to rental of school facilities after hours, to development of community-based health insurance, to holding school-specific or community wide "idea contests." And I'd certainly favor more direct community involvement in actual instruction -- that is, many Arlington residents, many of whom have both teaching experience and valuable perspectives, could be occasional classroom guests and presenters, if only they were asked. Every resident is a potential community and educational asset. This would also strengthen students' connection to and valuation of their own community, whose importance I feel is continually underestimated. None of these may address the situation completely; more hard-nosed budget analysis may be called for. Yet I think we need to broaden our horizons, and to encourage more creativity and outside-the-box (and "no-box") thinking from school officials, the school committee, parents, and everyone. Thanks for your consideration, and with best wishes. Bill Berkowitz Bill_Berkowitz@uml.edu
70.	Every effort should be made to avoid cutting any teacher, custodial, or office support. This is not the answer. Inventory should be taken at each school concerning supplies and teacher input considered when ordering new curriculum sets that may not be needed. Cuts can be made without affecting teacher jobs and class sizes.
71.	Good luck! Thanks for working hard for our kids.
72.	I understand there is a need to cut, but you have to remember that teacher assistants are very much underpaid. What are you going to do about that?
73.	What about asking parents/others who feel connected or involved in local public education to donate funds? We do this for our church and other causes we believe in. Why not for our own children's education???
74.	Cut "Survivor" type fun classes at Ottoson?
75.	Dallin 3rd grade has already taken a hit this academic year. It would be unfair to our children (and teachers) to maintain two sections w/ two teachers. Classroom management for teachers exceeds learning potential. I believe my child has suffered in receiving appropriate higher-level challenges because of the class sizes and disciplinary problems. A reduction in teaching staff next year (down to two teachers) would also offer less of a chance for a good teacher/student match -- another important factor to consider in the education of our children.
76.	Save Instrumental Music and Athletics. Children with talent, (athletic, academic, and musical), should have the same opportunities as those with special needs and disabilities. They should not be punished

	by higher fees or program eliminations!
77.	The problem should not be solved by cuts when the DPW is driving around in brand new trucks. The town school split needs to be adjusted. Support our schools.
78.	It is very important that ACE is not reduced or cut. This is a priority for our students
79.	We should be lobbying/advocating to repeal proposition 2.5%, or replace it with a proposition 4% or even 5%. This is a major obstacle for arlington and other towns across the state. Our government officials should be addressing this as it is important.
80.	Let's go after some of the sacred cows here rather than cutting the meat and potatoes of our district.
81.	Is there any way to ask for donations from parents of students? I don't know how much money this would bring in, but if every parent gave \$100 I would think that would be a considerable amount...perhaps you have already looked into this?
82.	Who ever thought that health care would become such a burden? I don't have any hard feelings about the hard choices, and I'm proud that things like "eliminate 5th grade science camp" aren't on the agenda. Best of luck!
83.	The federal and state governments have already heard about Special Ed runaway requirements, but the point needs to be made even more forcefully. Also, expenditures by the District to look at ways to improve the financial position of the whole school system would be viewed by us as an excellent investment, not as waste.
84.	I am concerned that all these cuts will result in the Arlington Schools losing their accreditation. I do not wish my child's future to be put at risk because her high school is no longer accredited.
85.	Request donations from families every grade student for \$100 or more per year, which would approximately give us 500,000 assuming there are atleast 5000 students in the entire Arlington.
86.	Keep the resources in the classroom. And bring the Unions back to the table to renegotiate the cost share on the Health Insurance costs. Whatever made us think that the Health Insur increases would stabilize or increase less than double digits, shame on us for passing the override with ridiculous assumptions.
87.	The School Committee must send a strong message to the Massachusetts legislature that aid to towns must be increased so that the burden of funding education is not disproportionately placed on the property tax. We cannot keep cutting the education budget and we cannot continue to rely on the property tax as the primary source of funding for education.
88.	thanks for giving the community at large the opportunity to offer input and insight to a difficult situation.
89.	I would rather see cuts come from admin and not teaching staff. The increases in fees/school lunch seem reasonable given statewide averages. I'm sure this has been looked into...but is there any way to reduce health care costs by chaning providers?
90.	Don't make classes bigger. Don't decrease teachers. DON'T TAKE BUDGET CUTS OUT ON THE KIDS!

91.	I think charging for Kindergarten, when there is no charge for any other grade is criminal -- this is supposed to be public school, not private!
92.	The reduction of programs and increases in passing on costs to students/parents would be more favorable than the full eliminations of vital roles and programs to the students. Contracts for office supplies, food suppliers, maintenance agreements and supplies, utilities, etc. would be a good place to review to renegotiate or downsize. I have a Purchasing Management background and when contracts roll over from year to year or not audited, there are often times lost revenue that can be recovered. Also an accounts Payable audit often uncovers duplicate payments, billing errors, etc. and can recover dollars to the bottom line. Another idea may be to charge fees for Reserved Parking for faculty, if they want a designated and close parking location, they may want the option to pay more for the luxury and will ultimately create revenue. Vending machines also create revenue if purchased outright. Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions and good luck in your difficult decision making. Elizabeth Theriault
93.	I am sorry that this is what has happened, it is difficult but I think there can be innovative solutions if one collaborates with the Vision 2020, committee.
94.	Great idea to get input from the parents.
95.	Take a look at management within the school system, such as assistant principals, headmasters, or whatever term you use. These positions often accept added pay for additional management help-but still retain there teaching function. Reducing these roles may help save some money, but not affect the overall school program. I am aganist reducing teachers or custodial staff in general. Class size and condition of the classroom are fundamental. Buting less stuff is an option, but not a long tern solution. OK for one year. Thanks for sending this along.
96.	I am very concerned about an increase in class side in the elementary schools!
97.	Try to get more revenue from the school lunch item - the proposed increase of twenty-five cents is pretty measly; a dollar increase is worth considering. The avoidance of large class sizes in grammar schools should be a high priority for several reasons: 1. those groups have a lower threshold of "manageable size;" 2. the development of those individuals will continue to impact the rest of the system for many years; 3. etc.
98.	If are fees charged are lower than state average, then increase them wherever possible, still allowing for waivers and free services where applicable. The priority should be to not cut direct services (teacher to student ratios and classroom services (AYCC, etc...)) and supplies, especially as teachers are already paying for much of this out of pocket, which is unacceptable).
99.	Can we: (1) Increase the Health Fee the town employees pay. (2) Town employees (specifically Police & Fire) should do "community service" and help fix up the buildings they work in (Maintenance). Many are Plumbers & Carpenters. So rather than lay some on off, they can put a ladder up and fix the roof. Do you know how much maintenance costs the town? Mandating community service would eliminate the deficit for All departments!!! (3) Let's stop plowing the bike path.
100.	What is the Federal Gov and State Gov responsibility toward helping to foot the bill for Special Ed Students? Keeping smaller class size, in the light of increased number if special ed students is essential.

101.	Of all the choices, I believe the idea of increasing elementary class sizes the most dangerous to the health of the school system. The kids are in these classes all day, every day. Twenty eight students is much too large at this level, whereas increasing class size to 23 at the high school level for a few periods a day would be manageable for kids of that age. Please try and avoid increasing elementary class size above all else!!!
102.	It is difficult for me to comment on some of the other cuts because I don't have the complete picture - for example how much
103.	I believe stongly that the elementary schools should be left alone!! The option to save "\$225,000 by cutting 5 sections in elementary grades 3-5; Increasing average class size K-5 from 19.6 to 20.9. One grade in each of six elementary schools would have classes averaging between 24 and 28 students" is unacceptable. The younger kids need smaller class sizes and more support. One more point - the Thompson school children need everything the school committee and the town can give them for support. They already feel like 2nd class citizens because of the older school, unsafe conditions to get to school, inadequate snow plowing, etc.
104.	Please, please, please, whatever you do -- do NOT make staffing cuts that will result in larger class sizes at the elementary level. Class size is one of the SINGLE most important factors that affects student achievement. I'd rather pay more for extra curriculars, lunches, etc, than have my children in larger classes! And -- THANK YOU for asking our opinion through survey monkey. What a well informed and tech-savvy school committee we have! Thank you !
105.	I do not think eliminating teaching positions and increasing class sizes are desirable. Have you thought about reducing paper consumption in schools? We are currently doing this at my company and saving thousands of dollars per month. A good paper-management system has the potential to save a lot of money as schools are intensive paper users.
106.	Have employees pick up a larger share of health insurance premiums. This is done in the private sector and there is no reason why it can't be done in the public sector as well. Also, how much is the METCO program costing the Town of Arlington? Why isn't this in the list of budget items? This program should be reduced or eliminated.
107.	While laudable to try to stay within budget, it seems time for the school committee to challenge the town and submit a budget that accedes the set limit, given all the increases that are not in control by the school committee.
108.	Why does this continue to happen year after year in Arlington? it's never ending. Who is managing the money? That person needs to be replaced.
109.	I would rather see fee increases than cuts to teacher's positions or salaries.
110.	please do not increase class size in elementary school. Okay to put in fees (or increase fees, for example, for full-day kindergarten, sports, etc)
111.	The annual increase in fees shouldn't be as much as 50%. If there is an increase in the full day kindergarten fee, there should be an alternative 1/2 day program in one of the schools.
112.	The "buy less stuff" category is mis-named to the point of being insulting. A budget of this size is difficult to analyze using 14 broad categories. Although I believe school staff and school committee have worked very diligently to find cost savings. In the end these are political decisions.

	The real budget issue can only be solved on the state level.
113.	Why haven't we targeted salary cuts in the district-wide administration??
114.	At present we have no one in the school system. Our 3 children and one grandson graduated from the Dallin School. As taxpayers, we have a vested interest in our school system and want it to remain No. 1...our property values depend upon it. mary F. garrity
115.	NO NEED TO BE FIGHTING AN UNFAIR FIRING OF 1 TEACHER AND 1 PRINICIPAL AND USE THE SCHOOL BUDGET
116.	On buy less stuff: I notice that many notices and (more importantly) worksheets are photocopied on one side only; two-sided copying would save some money. I'd put priority on trying to keep class sizes down, especially in an era when we advocate differential learning in the classroom and the mainstreaming of special needs students. It's really hard to accommodate the needs of students at different levels when classes are large. Thanks so much for doing a really tough job. We in the community really appreciate the difficult choices you have to make in a charged environment.
117.	Make every effort not to cut direct teacher costs. These are the most important direct role in the education of our kids.
118.	I tried to spread the pain...it's tough.
119.	I am extremely dismayed by the choices available under the "leadership" of Nate Levenson. The additional costs of senseless litigation and personnel searches that could have been avoided are not mentioned in this survey, but do not escape the notice of those of us who are burdened by them. Several years ago I presented data to the School Committee demonstrating that Arlington was WAY out of line with comparable towns with respect to out of district placements (translate: costs) for special education. The reason? There was such poor support in the system that people needed to advocate for alternative placements. That was before the review by Mass DOE Quality Assurance that exposed the extensive non-compliance of Arlington Special Education (which had been covered up for years by the SPED administrator and not investigated by the superintendents office or the school committee--in fact these data were dismissed when brought to their attention). Hence, it is supremely ironic and decidedly unfair to blame the budget shortfall on unanticipated increases in SPED costs by 10% (if I am recalling the face page of this survey correctly). There are many opportunities to partner with higher education in the active pursuit of grants for programming and research. I have personally suggested specific avenues to the Superintendent on more than one occasion. My two sons have graduated AHS, and I can say that it was not a moment too soon. My son without special learning needs received an adequate and occasionally outstanding education. My son with learning disabilities did not despite our best efforts. Especially at the HS, special education programming was like going back in time 50 years. APS brought this budget crisis on itself. It is not the victim of runaway costs from health premiums or special education or anything else. Rather than meeting the budget by cuts, it is critical that new sources of revenue and support be pursued. Please note that I have fought hard for every override that the schools have requested and devoted a significant amount of my time and energy to the APS. It saddens me tremendously that our children are paying the price for poor leadership. And I wonder what those folks who are paying \$600K for townhouses so they can live in Arlington and their children can attend APS will feel about this. Supportive? Outraged? The school committee and town government must be proactive in pursuit of partnerships and grants in a very public way to balance their image as victims of runaway costs and cutters of budgets and services.

120.	I don't recall hearing some of these options at the school committee presentation by Nate L. Some of them, ie, the lunches, are reasonable ways to increase revenue.....
121.	Lay out the budget, the organizations currently in place for support staff, custodial, etc. You are not providing any information that allows for accurate input.
122.	How much is the Lawsuit going to cost us?
123.	I believe the Elementary years are the most important overall. Younger kids need more one on one attention. These years set the stage for all future academic success. Please don't increase class size. Right now all incoming kindergarten students must pay for full day classes. Perhaps if this same type of payment per child system were to be floated out to all parents something could be arranged to stem the financial shortfall. If for every child the parents volunteered \$200 would class size still be an issue. I bet most parents wouldn't object to this.
124.	DO NOT eliminate any teaching positions. eliminate the excess pay that we pay the top town officials, i.e. town manager, et all. look at who we can eliminate at the town hall level- not the teaching level-- we need teachers-- and we need extra curricular activities that include music, drama, and athletics. cut the crap you know what you need to do for goodness sakes. !!!
125.	My understanding is that the top priority of the school committee is to try to make very painful choices while trying not to effect the day to day life of students. One of the proposed changes - increasing the class sizes of some grades in the elementary schools will have drastic implications for those students affected. My son is currently in the third grade of the Hardy School. This year, for the first time, the three classes in his grade are of reasonable size (he has 20 students in his class) Many parents have commented this year about how nice it is to have class sizes that most other elementary students, including other grades at the Hardy, take for granted. I think it is outrageous that this particular grade may have at least 28 students per class next year. That number appears to be well below the average class size across the district for both FY '08 and FY '09. In addition, I suspect that at least one of the two fourth grade teachers currently at the Hardy will have a very difficult time with 28 students. Given that the Hardy is located in a neighborhood filled with rental units, there is a good chance that the numbers could climb into the 30's depending upon who may move into the neighborhood before September. While I realize that any decisions to cut costs in this fiscal climate are difficult, this particular cut seems to run directly contrary to the school committee's stated goals of trying to keep the burden of the cuts away from the students. I urge the committee to take a closer look at this decision and really examine how this particular change would directly affect students. Thank you.
126.	My total actually ran over because I had to pick one more to make the total so I chose the supplies. I think that line should be broken down further because we still need subs and supplies in the schools. However, we can cut down on text books because we do have ne texts sitting in closets because we are always changing new programs. Maybe if charged a nominal fee at the beginning of the school year for supplies for the class. We already have the students bringing in supplies. Parents are usually happy to bring in tissues, wipes and other things. But if we charged a small fee for every family it may take the burden off the teacher also. But there is a substitute problem in the schools. We do not have quality subs to taking care of our students. Maybe because we have been paying them only \$60 a day for over 15 years and Belmont is paying \$75 and Woburn is paying \$100.
127.	get additional funding for supplies or development by having a booth at town day with baked goods or donations of goods for a raffle. Or have a town wide donated yard sale all money going to school supplies

128.	I WOULD NOT FILL THE PURCHASING AGENT POSITION. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SPECIFIC COST SAVING.
129.	I question some of the administrative support position's salaries that have been privately negotiated such as special projects and data analysis personnel.
130.	Dear School Committee: I think it's great that you are soliciting the input of the community. Thank you so much. It allows us insight into the hard choices you have to make, and it also prevent the parent community from feeling alienated and ignored (as we surely were during what may be termed the Bouris debacle). Thanks again. I do hope you manage not to increase class sizes too much, particularly in the elementary grades. But even in the high school, my daughter has done so much better in classes with 15 kids than in classes with 30, regardless of the subject. Warm regards, Martha Parravano
131.	Raising elementary class sizes should be a last resort. Keep the option of shutting one school on the table. We need to think about structural changes to the system since many of the cuts on this list will not be options next year and we will need to continue to cut next year. This is not a popular option, but we are going to continue to have budget problems and shutting one school (assuming there is space to do so in remaining schools) will eliminate costs (secretary, principal, heating, etc.) and give class size flexibility that comes with having more students in the same place.
132.	I think these numbers are fairly useless without at least another number indicating what percentage cut it represents.
133.	would like to see after school care affordable(play care)
134.	I prioritize small classes and core subjects. All extracurricular activities, support networks and so on come second, in my opinion. I also think most parents can afford a slight increase in lunch cost.
135.	I don't think the issues will ever be resolved if the increased cost of healthcare/benefits always exceeds the increases in revenue. There needs to be a change across the whole system regarding healthcare. People working in the private sector have been accepting decreases in coverage, increases in co payments and increases in their monthly cost of coverage for the last 15 years at least. I don't think we should have to pay for a plan which provides benefits well above what we are getting at our own jobs. Until something is done on a large scale, whether that be regionalized coverage, joining the state benefit plans, or extending the number of years until someone is eligible for lifetime health care coverage, we will never have enough money.
136.	You have to be very careful about increasing the cost of extra curricular activities i.e. music / sports. This will discourage participation and what is more important in education than a "well rounded" student. The school committee needs to take a long hard look at other issues like the current superintendent and what his salary is! He is currently making what a superintendent in a neighboring town makes and their school system is better and their teachers make much more money!
137.	Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide input. I really appreciate it. My main principles would be: *Teaching positions should not be cut. *Class size needs to be kept down. *Core subjects should never be compromised. *Well-attended programs that meet the needs of critical population segments should be maintained (I assume business is one of these but that's a guess.) *Key administrators need sufficient support to do their jobs and keep their morale up. *Custodial is already at a minimum. Morale is affected by dirty schools and unmaintained facilities. We need to be proud of our environment. *People should be asked to pay more in fees (athletic, music, lunch, Kindergarten) as the best choice in a terrible situation. since there is a way out for those who can't pay. *Extra

	administrative positions like the one to control purchasing should be cut. I don't have a list of all these positions but I assume there are others that could be cut too.
138.	accountability in all depts, especially anyone handling money - i am tired of seeing it misused. why do we not hold everyone accountable from the beginning to the end of their budgets, purchase order approvals, pre-approvals to the PO's, invoices, payments - oh because we are dishonest and it is soooo obvious. and the folks who are doing know they are getting away with it.
139.	How can we help grow the budget? Are we bound by law to not pass another override before five years have passed? It is shortsighted to short-change our schools....
140.	It is important for Arlington residents to realize that our town is a desirable place to live in part because of the strength of its schools. All efforts should be made to maintain excellence in the school system.
141.	It is imperative to maintain a balance of arts based offerings, and athletics. Too many times the arts suffer and that should not be the case. Please take in consideration that one of the main reasons that Arlington has prospered in the past 7 years is because of the school systems at the elementary level. We need to continue to foster all kinds of health outlets for these children and continue the offerings into the middle and high school levels. Thank you for your time.
142.	it is criinal that any cuts to scholastic services and programs including sports could be considered - the entire system needs to be reviewed by a fiscal oversite committe made up of people used to making those decisons in the private sector where companies live or die - not the public sector - teachers & staff (and all public sector employees) need to pay more toward their health and retirement like the rest of us that are footing the bill via mandatory taxes - I can only assume that there is much waste in the system from decades of beurocratic (sp?) processes much like the military
143.	it is hard to choose some of these options as we do not know what certain position entail it would be better if there was a discription next to the option for Example what does the Data Analyst do?
144.	Health care costs are taking a huge bite out of the town budget for education. We need to keep pressing the State for add with the escalating costs. This survey was very clear and I hope you get good feed back.
145.	Ask parents/families to pay for more rather than cut teacher salaries/increase class sizes.
146.	i believe you should spend less time spending money on junk the school sells and give healthier cheaper food that tastes good
147.	thank you allowing parents to voice an opinion
148.	Art could be offered afterschool as a paid program like kidstock, Brownies, language, extra gym class.
149.	If teachers need to be eliminated I would prefer that it be special classes (music, art, gym) rather than classroom teacher. Right now my daughter has 28 students in her class and I think that is way too large.
150.	ask for donations!
151.	I don't approve of the across the board fee for full day kindergarten, so i definitely do not feel the fee should be raised. I feel even more strongly that no porgrams should be cut. Increasing class sizes by 1

	or 2 children per class seems acceptable but not ideal. In truth, i'd say increase the lunch prices to \$3.65 and be done with it.
152.	I feel more details should be added- for example:I have no idea how many custodians are currently at the high school so I did not make an informed decisions. Thank you for doing this, Lori Talanian
153.	I was only 20K short of 680K on my suggestions. 20K could be made up by increasing sports fees by 200\$ rather than 100\$. ABSOLUTELY I WOULD NOT SUPPORT: - increasing class size in elementary; already too large, already no lunch or recess coverage, watching movies when no recess!! unacceptable! - increasing kindergarten fees from a few hundred dollars to over \$2000???? what about people with twins? Too large a burden on one constituency group!! - buying less stuff; I already paid over \$100 in supplies and needed donations for my 1st grader. This choice would result in nickel and diming parents and you would get uneven participation/donation. What about renting parking spaces overnight on school property? What about renting cafeterias to families for birthday parties, similar to Gibbs Gym? What about increasing the French school's rent at the Parmenter building? What about donation iron rangers (similar to the state parks) near the front of every school? Please contact me if you'd like. margot_mays@hotmail.com
154.	Please try to avoid increasing elementary class sizes. 28 kids in an elementary class is too many.
155.	The survey for Cuts is a bad idea. Should be a letter sent out and we take a vote
156.	It's a very difficult to have to make these decisions. I would not like to see teacher's positions eliminated. Too necessary.
157.	That was a very interesting and painful exercise. I think sharing it with the public was a good way to demonstrate that there are not easy answers. I'd suggest publishing it in the Advocate as well.
158.	I have had 4 sons in the Arlington schools. My oldest now is in college. I have a special ed child, that I know that the town has paid out more money than needed for his education. The reason for this is because the special ed. dept. doesn't always honor a child ed-plan, and in the end it cost the system more money than needed. Because the town always has to paid a private tutor after school or over the summer to settle what could cost the alot more if the Dept of Ed became involed. (and yes I have gone that way twice.) And in stead of sending so many children out of Arlington for their education, why not try to hire the help here, in the long run it would save money. (no out of town cost, transportation, or extra cost for that child.) just a thought.
159.	I think there is a math mistake in the two lines about kindergarten fees : \$90,000 savings with a fee change from 300 to 2100, and double the savings by changing from 300 to 2300? Shouldn't the first line be a change from 300 to 1300?
160.	Eliminate health insurance and establish a self-insured plan for all town employees. Eliminate special needs/special ed programs.
161.	We are cutting an already very tight budget, once again. I'm just wondering, along with I'm sure many others, what is the budget for the legal cost of the "ousting" of the Ottoson principal and teacher? Should we not just cut our losses instead of loosing so much more and maybe hold on to some dignity here in Arlington? I watched my very last school committee meeting when the decision for Nate and crossing guards \$\$ went into closed session. I was amazed at how swiftly you came back out with the decision to continue on with Mr. Levenson and giving him such a salary (with our budget as it is) so quickly and to not come to a decision on the crossing guard issues. It amazes me how the public

	again is being heard but not being listened to. I had the utmost confidence in the newly voted in members of the SC, last year, but see that some have their own agendas and have gone over to the side of proving a point instead of just eating crow and MOVING ON as all say they want to. To have to deal with this budget cut and blame it on health insurance, raises, etc. and not the new "line items" causing a great deficit in our budget in once again just another smoke screen. I hate emailing... sounds like I'm yelling. I'm not. I appreciate that your positions are volunteer... but volunteer for the right reasons, be honest and let's move on for all of our sakes. Lots of people are leaving Arlington education by attending private schools because of what has developed over the years. I feel that most of you mean well and truly want to help Arlington Schools. Do it then. Put all the cards onto the table. No tricks or smoke screens. That's when we'll all be able to trust again, see what is what and move past the negativity and bring Arlington Schools back to where they should be. On top.
162.	The work you do is greatly appreciated. With special ed costs, energy costs and health care/insurance costs soaring beyond 2.5%, we need to understand and educate the population about what a reasonable year-to-year cost of living increase is.
163.	Guidance, educational and emotional support for children is devoid in the Arlington Public Schools and the town should be ashamed! All the town seems to focus on is MCAS scores.
164.	Please don't cut any teachers' jobs, especially at the elementary level. Research shows that children learn better in smaller classrooms. If you have to cut anything, take away the extras. If a parent wants it bad enough, he or she will pay for it.
165.	I think that the fact that the APS are being asked to continue to chip away into the bones of its programs is inexcusable. The agreements that were made when the override was passed are not being followed since the assumptions made are not occurring, i.e. increased revenues from the state, increased health insurance costs.
166.	You seem to have worked very hard to outline services that could be cut, or which would directly impact tax payers (e.g., \$2300.00 for full-day kindergarten (without considering afterschool costs) is NOT free public education. Please, follow Governor Patrick's ideas of finding additional sources of revenue, (e.g., investigate acommunity service grants offered by local universities and companies). Try additional sources of teaching talent - hire individuals who can be funded by research, art, cultural grants, and/or special ed programs. Please, think out of the box. I don't see the Arlington School System as extravagant and wasteful. It is a good school system that could still stand a push forward (e.g., in its math and science curriculum). It is not reasonable to make decisions between scholarship, maintenance, arts, and sports. Somebody please talk to our State Senators and to our Governor! Respectfully, Lydia Volaitis
167.	Why is Arlington the only town in the collaborative with 2 assistant special ed directors? Elimiate one and save 76K. Also, have health and wellness coordinator absorbed by the AD and science coordinator to save 64,077. Also, why does the Stratton first grade have an average of 24.5 when these increases were to be confined to grades 3-5 per Mr. Levenson.
168.	AS A TEACHER AND PARENT, THE TOWN OF ARLINGTON CAN NOT LOSE ANYMORE TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF FOR TEACHERS. CLASS SIZE NEEDS TO STAY SMALL.
169.	I think this was a great idea. It allows people to see what the tradeoffs are and why the system is strapped. Thanks for doing it.

170.	The town MUST renegotiate contracts for employees to pay more for health insurance costs. This is IMPERATIVE. They are not paying enough of a percentage of pay for these benefits.
171.	Without having seen the budget I can recommend that team sports at the high school level could be funded through sponsorship by local businesses. For years, the arts community has had to beg, borrow and nearly steal funding and/or support. Why should high liability sports like football continue to be funded by the schools if we are in a fiscal crisis like this?
172.	It's radically clear we must, absolutely must, have another override in 2010. Good schools are what drives families to stay in a town, end of story. If only the state would fairly put Arlington aid back to 2002 levels...but that's a wish, isn't it? I think Gordon Jamieson's good ideas about creating some small avenues for town revenue are great. But I think the cell phone tower idea should not have been shut down so fast and so decisively. We should put it back on the table. I'll have a child starting Peirce the year after next, so obviously, as a parent, I stress the best we can do. An override is the only option as best I can see it. Hard choice, but the only one. Anyway, my two cents. Wish it were \$650,000 in cents.
173.	How much more can we cut? Both my kids are in high school now and this downward spiral into eliminating jobs, supplies, clerical and janitorial support has to stop. If you increase class size in elementary school, we run the risk of more problems with the kids later on in the school system. Reducing staff in core subjects in the high school is troubling to me. Colleges are looking at grades in high school and if your "lost" in a large class and not getting the attention, it could potentially affect college choices. A suggestion is to cut down on the legal dealings which is costing Arlington an enormous amount and is taking away from our children's education and the future of this town. I'm not sure how much these attorneys are billing the town but I'm figuring a ballpark average of \$300 - \$500 per hour.
174.	This is an excellent way to educate the public. Good luck, and thanks for asking.
175.	The fact we charge for Kindergarten at all is outrageous.
176.	Are we using our facilities to generate income for the system, by renting space etc. Are we keeping track of our energy use and making sure energy is not being wasted (electricity and heat)
177.	From the METCO web site: Finally, how about the cost to the Commonwealth? Are they getting a deal? Are they overspending? The cost to the State is approximately \$3,880 per student, including transportation, supportive services and the cost of all direct program staffing. If these students were in Boston, or in Charter Schools, or residents of the districts where they attend schools, the cost would be nearly double in all cases, and possibly three times that in other cases. Special Education services would also drive those cost significantly higher, acknowledging that in METCO districts receive only a small percentage of the cost they expend on Special Education services for METCO students. One would certainly hope that there are no out of district educations for METCO students as this would simply be cost shifting from Boston to Arlington.
178.	When I first moved to Arlington, schools were in far worse shape than they are today. At that time, in the early 90s, the town had an older voter base and I was dismayed to see people choosing to underfund schools simply because they no longer had children in school. Today that situation has changed, but I urge those who do have children in school not to mimic this practice by voting to cut programs that their own children do not require. I hope that the board will consider realities of education rather than follow mob rule. There are truths in education that should bear considerable weight. Small class size is much more important in elementary school than it is in high school -- for

	example. Also, as a former teacher, I can certainly attest to the fact that consultants and clerical staff rarely carry their weight. In this tough times, in order to protect the interests of children, I strongly recommend paring back curriculum planners as well as asking some staff to work a bit harder so as to protect the integrity of the classroom. The truth is that the workload in the private sector is usually much greater on clerical staff than it is in schools. There is room to cut in the offices. Thanks for sending out this questionnaire.
179.	As a school committee we should look at alternative methods or how to cut back and correct current deficit. You should also consider the current cut-off date for kindergarten. Parents/Families who need to qualify for free lunch etc should be required to supervise in the lunch room to work off the discount.
180.	Please look at the class size average over the elementary years for a particular grade before choosing that grade to bear the brunt of the 28 - 30. Ex: The Thompson 5th grade(2008-2009) 22+ average with 24 in K. Also look at mix, ELL, Special Ed students in those classes before choosing a large class. Make sure that K-2 are not too small, again remembering the mix. Include k-5 in the evaluation. If you do choose large class sizes for the 5th grade, get new students into smaller classroom sized schools if at all possible. Fees, please make sure to include families that may have to high an annual income, but not enough to pay fees. In the evaluation of scholarships. Thanks
181.	Please take a look at how money is spent. The trouble with government spending is that there is no incentive to save. Every department has to spend every dollar budgeted for fear of being cut the following year. Often, there is a flurry to spend all the money by year end. I am convinced this budget shortfall can be met without any of the cuts you have asked us to address. It's called management! That's your job!!
182.	It would be helpful to see a pareto chart of the expenses. What are the top items that cost the most and how can cost be cut out of those items.
183.	I would gladly raise taxes (as much as needed) to support spending more on our students, if the override blockade was not in place, so we would not need to cut the budget in this fashion.
184.	I cannot believe that the town is even thinking about cutting the items listed. These are our kids we are talking about here and they need every advantage they can get. I have no problem kicking in whatever I can to keep these programs.
185.	The instrumental increase should definately be one considering the athletic fee is per sport. Most kids paid on average at least \$450 last yr. including the cheerleaders.
186.	I vote for representatives to the school committee to understand these tradeoffs, and vote their conscience about the best way to make ends meet. I do not have the information available to make the educated guesses to about prioritize these cuts. That said, I prioritized non-academic and non-classroom cuts or revenue increases. Best of luck with this difficult process
187.	Any cuts that affect direct services to students should try to be avoided.
188.	You gave far too few cost cutting choices. What about reviewing administrative salaries, compare it state levels? What about asking the town for more funding? You also can not increase the kindergarten class sizes, they are already ridiculously high for a wealthy community. I appreciate you involving us in this survey but you made it too simplistic to gain any real insight.
189.	Please do not increase class sizes on elementary level. It does effect kids learning.

190.	Why can't we look to more ways to earn money? For example, renting out school spaces for functions and sports could certainly close this shortfall.
191.	Reduce the \$56+ million town debt by half. This will free up \$4 million dollars a year. Do a one time property tax increase to generate \$30 million and pay off half the debt. Ignoring the debt which is twice what the town can afford is the real problem. Arlington overspent and is refusing to pay it off
192.	You could do to elementary art what you did to the elementary library positions. That might save you some money.
193.	I feel very strongly that you must not cut anything in the performing arts or athletics. Raising fees for both would be fair. I also feel that class size is very important. The bigger the classes the more kids get lost. Better to cut back in other areas.
194.	Thanks for all your hard work for our kids. I know it's complex, but what about asking town employees to pay a larger % of their health care costs? Are we competitive? Past competitive? Please don't cut class size. Ask those of us who can pay a little more for extras to pay, within reason. More for sports, more for instrumental music. Please don't cut curriculum or class size. I'd say cut the custodial position at the h.s. if there were a way to get the h.s. kids to do more of their own cleaning up (ha!). And if the custodian was about to retire.... Thanks for the survey. It was hard.
195.	WITHOUT A GOOD BUSINESS TAX BASE, THIS PROBLEM WILL NEVER GO AWAY. TEACHER PAY AND BENEFITS ARE EXORBITANT AS IS SUPERINTENDANT'S PAY. SPORTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL ARE A MATTER OF WHO YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU KNOW. DISCONTINUE ALL SPORTS AND HAVE INTRAMURALS THAT CAN BE PLAYED BY ALL, NOT JUST THE CHOSEN FEW. IF YOU KEEP COMPETITIVE SPORTS, THOSE PLAYERS WILL HAVE TO PLAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE. IT IS THEY WHO ARE GETTING THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND BENEFITS NO ONE ELSE. STOP COWTOWING TO THE LIBERAL BASE IN THIS TOWN THAT THINKS ITS KIDS ARE ALL PREPARING FOR HARVARD AND NEED TO SPEAK CHINESE IN KINDERGARTEN. BE KINDER TO WORKING PARENTS BOTH IN THE POCKETBOOK AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE WHILE THEIR PARENTS WORK TO PAY THESE EXORBITANT TAXES. CAN'T WAIT TO MOVE OUT OF ARLINGTON.
196.	This survey is a great idea - helps everyone to see the painful decisions that must be faced. Health insurance is a HUGE problem. Good luck.
197.	Yikes, I couldn't even make the cuts needed! Is it possible to think creatively about some of the needs the schools have. For example, could a custodial or clerical position at the HS be cut and the work be done by HS students for community service hours?
198.	Nicely done. It would have been best to have a calculator at the bottom to total up your choices so it's clear that you've made \$680,000 worth of cuts. Might have been good to include a link to a thorough explanation of what improvements have been made despite all these cuts, especially mentioning the Special Ed improvements, that the High School was given silver medal by US News WR, that we've instituted both extra reading and math assistance, etc.
199.	It is absolutely imperative that programs for the more advanced students be preserved -- especially ACE.

200.	Good luck!
201.	I'd be glad to pay more for sports, music, etc. instead of seeing teacher positions cut. Smaller class size = better education.
202.	It doesn't appear to me that leaders have made an effort to control health care costs, which impact all the rest of the increases. I have not heard of any creative thinking, strategizing or effort to address this area.
203.	Clearly this is an awesome task and I appreciate wanting people's input. There are no easy choices AND our children already seem unengaged and adrift too often. We as a town need to pull together and find ways to curb spending and still offer our children, the future of Arlington what they need from school and the community. Perhaps task forces, parent volunteers or some brainstorming might help. Good luck.
204.	I applaud your effort to produce this survey and it makes me feel proud to be a part of the town; it also taught me more than I knew about the budget and decisions required.
205.	I'd rather pay higher taxes or town-wide user fees (such as a trash fee) than make the cuts described.
206.	I am a taxpayer in this town, and my oldest child who is now a senior in college fell pray to this school committee and its budget cuts. If anyone remembers their graduation from Arlington High in 2004, a member from the school committee spoke and we heard nothing but apologies from the speaker to the graduating class, they are the first group of students who really felt the crunch. My child spent more time in the cafeteria on "study hall" because of all the cuts. My daughter is a student in the second grade at Thompson and it makes me sick to think that again, the children will feel the crunch for the errors and promises that have been broken from the school committee. The children should not have to be in a classroom with more than 20 students. In this day and age when more and more children with "special needs" are integrated into these rooms with no support. Have anyone of you on this committee came down to a classroom and just spent the day watching what the teachers have to deal with on a day to day basis with a child who has been forced into a regular classroom. I would like all of the members including Nate to think if they lived in this town and it was their children who would be squished into a classroom of unacceptable numbers, would you be pushing for cut backs and lay off's? I would rather see an increase in sports fee's, and music fee's. We will never see a sport fee increase because this town prides itself on sports. You don't ever hear anyone saying "boy arlington has great MCAS scores, or really good schools". You hear only about the sports at the high school. My son played football in high school and I had no problem paying the athletic fee. I also had to pay 1500.00 for my daughter to go to full day kindergaten and amazing I came up with the money again to pay for public school. Increase the fees for the athletics and the afterschool music programs. The after school programs and athletic programs is a privelege and not a right of passage. Children getting an education is the promise of the school committee and this town. Cut a janitor at the high school if needed, but as usual this will fall on deaf ears and you cuts will be made and the children in this town will be the one to suffer. Does it ever make you wonder why so many children are attending Minuteman Tech, catholic or private schools?
207.	Good luck - this is never going to be easy. Would the town and school employee unions be willing to integrated their health insurance plans if it meant keeping more jobs? My company saved a lot of money on health insurance when we consolidated insurance plans.
208.	Have a massive fund-raising campaign, also asking/begging those who have more to donate money.

	Also asking and making it possible for more parents to donate more volunteer time and fund-raising efforts to the schools.
209.	Do not use my responses in your survey. I don't necessarily agree with your basic analysis, so I don't wish to be a part of it.
210.	If health insurance costs are rising so much, perhaps the plan participants should carry a larger percentage of the responsibility for the premiums.
211.	What about fund-raisers?
212.	I think increasing the size of classes in elementary school would be a huge mistake. Teachers already need assistants with the current class sizes.
213.	Couldn't each school make the choice on where they cut costs if you give them each a number they must meet? I feel only each school and their administration can speak to where they can lose funding and still survive. They are closer to the day to day than this survey population. How can someone fill out this survey and recommend losing one custodian in the high school when we have no idea how many there are now and what it would mean if one is lost? I would guess that most that are surveyed would be more likely to choose cuts that least effect them rather than what is best for the town as a whole, so the results should be considered lightly. Also, please know that filling out this survey does not necessarily mean these cuts are supported. Thanks and Good Luck!
214.	I would rather take my trash ,myself, to a dumpsite than cut any people or services in the school budget. I believe our childrens' well- rounded education is more important than many of the services we are getting for our taxes.
215.	You need to downsize special projects support, legal fee's,travel expenses,administration support,H.S. guidance dept.
216.	1) do not ask parents for input on things like clerical staff - we do not have enough knowledge to provide input which is useful 2) do not increase class size! 3) definitely increase fees for music and sports but doing so with waivers for those who can not afford them 4) please be transparent by keeping your budgets online 5) thank you for asking for our input; I appreciate all of your work very much!
217.	Can all non-core subjects be eliminated?
218.	How much of the public school's budget has been spent on legal fees around the Ottoson affair? Every dollar wasted on this is money that could have been spent on the kids. Nate Levinson's salary should be reduced for failing to fully consider the cost to the community of his actions
219.	The School should allocate a clerical person to look for grants and the pay scale for that person should be adjusted for the amount of grants found and funded.
220.	When discussing staffing reduction options, it would help people to know what current staffing is and where, specifically the staff cuts would be made. For administrative positions, it is not clear what the curriculum analyst does. In general, I would not favor any cuts in teaching staff...I know for fact that some of the classes are quite large already and I think it is hard on teachers and students to have large classes. I also hope Arlington is doing what it can to lobby at the State level to improve state funding for key things, like special needs requirements that eat up so much of a budget. Also state should be doing more to help local groups with containing health insurance costs.

221.	I chose raising a lot of student fees, because it did stipulate that no one would be turned away because of an inability to pay. How do you know how much you'll save in those situations? How do you estimate how many folks wouldn't be able to pay? Do you make certain that families know what steps they would have to take in order to participate in something if they couldn't afford the fee?
222.	This is a difficult process. The high school numbers seem low due to the variation in individual classes which should be noted.
223.	Organize complaints concerning unfunded State mandates, especially for Special Ed., to State legislators and Patrick administration
224.	Thanks for asking us.
225.	I put most of my comments in the last page. I know that there have been many cuts in past years. Best not to compromise teacher/student ratios, although I do feel STRONGLY that leadership is very important too. My children have experienced several novice/new teachers who seem to have little guidance or curriculum, and so although the teacher/student ratio is fine, it's a totally unproductive year. Without knowing anything about what the data analyst/curriculum person does, i may have marked them for a cut, but i DO think curriculum support is critical. I can't understand how a new teacher is hired without being given a curriculum which would include content, yearly pacing, interesting activities from past years, etc. I would also argue that the school dept and school committee needs to keep pressure on the finance committee to see if the 5-year plan can be altered in terms of taking special ed costs out of the 4% cap - that puts an unfair burden on the schools. It seems to me that the town has barely cut any staff, while the schools have probably cut 20 or more.
226.	While I appreciate the openness your survey provides, it seems very deliberate in making your point. I'm not sure if I should feel welcomed or offended.
227.	Keeping class size low in the schools is very important to our family.
228.	What a mess. There's apparently no solution that doesn't involve either bumping the K fee, cutting teacher positions at the HS or cutting them in K-5.
229.	Like most, any cuts are painful, but the special needs requirements should also be considered and there are no proposed cuts despite what seems to be the bulk of the increases coming from there.
230.	The elementary schools could share a principle.
231.	1) Start charging families for in-house suspension to cover the cost of teachers hired for same. 2) Cheerleader buses - why a large bus for 9 cheerleaders. Must be a smaller bus which would cost less or sell the remainder of the seats to people who want to go to game but can't afford the gas. There are many grandparents who would go to games but for the price of gas and parking make the bus pay for itself. I've seen family members on the bus at times. 3) Why increase fees for sports when I look at the budget what you are getting for sports as it is almost covering the sports why an additional \$100,000.00. Again the kids who are staying out of trouble playing sports and giving back to the town via community service and taking care of the fields and clubhouse are penalized. Why should these athletes carry everyone else. Start charging drama they use electricity when they use the lighting and sound system plus janitors after hours; charge band for the extra electricity, etc. Why is everything dropped on athletes. 4) Start charging everyone who enters anathletic game. Way too many people are sneaking into these activities. 5) As the parent of an athlete I can tell you we are asked to do numerous fundraisers for each sport n addition to paying extra fees. I'm getting very tired of these kids taking the

	<p>brunt of these budget discussions. I understand that special education is a state/federal issue but if you ask me (I can attest to this because I have dealt with this with my children if you have a child who is a great student you are all set, if you have a child with an ed plan or in special education you are all set if you have a child like mine who is just in the middle - you are screwed. I have asked for tutors, etc. nothing. I can't tell you how many parents I hear say I got my kid on an ed plan to get the best. Half of the kids on ed plans don't need them - they need a kick in the butt to do their work and get it done. Enough is enough - too many people in this town know how to work the system and personally, I'm tired of paying for it. I am a single parent and I don't know where I'll come up with additional funds for sports. I have one in college raising two children on less than \$50,000 per year - yes, my medical has gone up, my heat has gone up, my lights have gone up, my taxes have gone up, BUT MY SALARY REMAINS THE SAME. Have you thought of this. Leave the athletes alone we pay our dues - ten times over we buy the equipment as the band buys their instruments. At one point a few years ago I was asked to pay a rental fee for sports equipment which amounted to more than it would cost to buy. I bought the equipment only to be asked if others could use it. Mr. Levenson I've had enough of the sports fees - keep it up and you'll make a million on in-house suspension if you charge for it because these kids have nothing to do in this town as it is and increased sports fees will find a lot of families not able to keep up with it you'll make loads on in-house suspension. Keep the thinking caps on as I for one have had enough. Start going after the people who don't pay for their full day kindergarten, etc. I see more people with free lunches, etc. who can buy and sell both me and you - it's all in how these people work the system. NO MORE SPORTS FEES - FIND IT ELSEWHERE - other clubs. These kids give so much of their time.</p>
232.	Please keep class size down, it has proven correlation to student success!
233.	I am very concerned to hear that class sizes may increase in the upper elementary(3,4,5). My son is in the Thompson, one of the schools where the size increase would go up. He is currently seeking services, but has not received any yet. If he does not receive services, he will greatly be affected by larger class sizes influencing not only himself but the teacher and other students as well. Studies prove that smaller classes sizes increase learning retention and many other benefits.
234.	eliminate middle school, add more levels to elementary and high school
235.	<p>The cuts that need to be made are indeed drastic and extremely difficult to make; that much is clear. It seems that what must be given priority is maintaining current class size throughout the system. Personally, as a parent of two Dallin students (a 1st and 3rd grader), I do not want to see my 3rd grader to be deprived of smaller class size based solely on demographics. This, of course, goes back to last year's last-minute announcement that a teacher would be cut from the 3rd grade. At the time, Nate Levenson assured us (insofar as he could) that he would be disinclined to keep the student-teacher ratio that currently exists in the Dallin third-grade (25:1). In other words, he would do his utmost to not place the onus of increased class size at the elementary level only on the current group of students at the Dallin 3rd grade. In other words, he would seek other avenues -- perhaps by increasing class size in one of the other grades at another of the elementary schools -- to share the budgetary burden. I would hope that Nate Levenson was not making these statements simply to mollify parents who were upset at the time of the cut in teachers last year.</p>
236.	Kindergarten charges should be increased. A One time fee for every student in the school system. If 3000 students in system a \$100 surcharge would raise 300K with all students sharing the pain as opposed to music students, athletic participants and Kindergarten students.
237.	staff has to share the increased cost of healthcare or get less costly alternatives

238.	Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. This may sound 'out there' but have the teachers and students been asked to offer suggestions and ideas to reduce costs/save money. We recently did this (and continue to encourage it) in my company and you would be suprised by the very simple ideas that have saved lots of money....Could even be work flow, process changes...??
239.	The school system should do a better job of staying within its budget. The taxpayers don't have an unlimited amount of money to just keep handing over. Think out of the box and do a better controlling your expenses.
240.	I appreciate the budget dilemma but this has got to be handled as a business. First increase revenue as fairly as you can. Next balance the budget with cuts if necessary. Good work and good luck. Leave no idea on the table.
241.	schools need stronger special education programming at elementary level
242.	good luck
243.	It is very frustrating that certain huge expenses the town pays(health insurance for town employees, for example) seem to go unquestioned, or rather unthreatened. Why is this? When most people working in the real world have assumed larger and larger portions of their health insurance, why are town employees exempt from this 21st- century reality? To this long-time resident, tradition simply doesn't cut it. If Arlington is to be run like a business, let's run it like a real-world business and not come back to the residents every time there is a budgetary shortfall, in the school system or wherever. When belts must be tightened it's only fair that all employees (those who keep their jobs too)contribute. Not just Arlington residents and people who lose their jobs. In my opinion, budget overrides are not meant to cover budget shortfalls. They are meant as one-off fixes for very specific situations.
244.	My toughest decision was to layoff 3 positions at the High School. But my son is in Elementary School. But I am sure that these workers will land on thier feet, with another job, in another school system, if given enough of a notice, by the Arlington School system.
245.	Brackett recently hired another secretary...I think one is fine. I think class size could increase to 24 in some grades. FYI...I am speaking with almost 20 years of teaching experience in elementary schools in a system that is making similar cutbacks. Another idea...have a before & after school fee-based program that is run by the school system. I know it is a big money maker in my system and I, for one, would use both the before and after school care.
246.	discourage any reductions in teacher positions or increase in class size, or decrease in student curriculum or enrichment programs
247.	increase taxes to support our children!
248.	cut paper costs!., email notices, etc. to parents. find a way to reduce insurance rates
249.	I was wondering what legal fees have been paid over the last year???
250.	Tough choices I wish you didn't have to make. Best of luck.
251.	I would be interested in learning more about over-rides. How much would each household need to contribute to offset the budget defecit?

252.	Increasing class size, especially at the elementary and middle school level, should be avoided at all costs.
253.	please keep the core mission of the schools = education = as intact as possible. Extracurricular activities are nice, but parents can pay more for these
254.	The state requires so much and does not fund anything. Special ed without any funding is hurtin all towns. Is there anyone pushing any of this nfo to the state???
255.	I find that it is truly a travesty that we are faced with making these kinds of decisions regarding the education of our children and those we entrust to educate them. Although there are other areas other than education that also suffer it a shame that in this country our priorities are such that we continue to cut funding in education.
256.	Town employees healthcare deductions should be increased. Property taxes have increased where has this revenue gone????? For town management employees what was their yearly salary increases?
257.	This is a very difficult and painful exercise. Thank you for the survey. I also want to thank the school committee and the superintendant for their hard work. Special thanks to Susan Lovelace, Jeff Thielman and Ron Spangler. They always come to school committee meetings prepared and demonstrate a deep understanding of the difficult financial and human issues that need to be solved in this time of decreasing revenues, increasing costs and the need to keep our education system current and competitive.
258.	Long-term, look to employees (esp. higher-paid ones) to pay a higher share of the health insurance burden. Pull out of Iraq and save \$1,000,000,000,000.
259.	Money should be taken away from the heads of the school department and allocated to the teachers who do the actual work in the trenches. All states, cities, towns and their school departments spend far too much income on salaries allocated to those who do not earn them.
260.	Good Luck! Thanks for asking our input.
261.	taxes increase
262.	How much ability is there to push back on the feds to fund some of the special education and no child left behind initiatives that are amndated without funding.
263.	I realize that unions may oppose this, but the health insurance burden has become untenable for most people and I think it is not unreasonable to ask employees to contribute 5% more to their health insurance. I don't know what the total savings would be, but I would be interested to know the number.
264.	I think we should do whatever we can to keep class sizes low and support the teachers. I don't think it is appropriate to eliminate a custodian at the High School; it is a big job and the students deserve to go to school in a clean and well-maintained facility.
265.	I protecting class size (number of teachers) is most important to me.
266.	Institute a town-wide school recycling program, saving money on solid waste fees and decreasing waste. Incorporate it into the curriculum.

267.	Don't cut teachers!
268.	My daughter has been in a classroom of 27 children this year for 3rd Grade. If a particular class is going to have a classroom this size, I do not think they should have the experience more than once in their elementary years. Although they have a full-time teaching assistant in the classroom, at this grade level, there is more noise, more disruption, more activity, etc. It's very difficult to ask a child of 8 or 9 years old to have the skill to block out the noise around them and focus as necessary. Also, I think it would be an absolute shame to discontinue business programs at the high school level. I got my first "real" job through the work study program in Arlington High back when I was in high school and it taught me valuable lessons on survival. Maybe we can offer music and art in the elementary years an optional class that is taken after school hours, for a fee. Maybe the library resources in at the elementary grade can be taught by volunteers? I did this when my first child was in 3rd grade when we didn't have a librarian and it seemed to work ok. Maybe part time librarians? We currently have a part time nurse and a full time librarian. Not sure that makes sense. Increasing lunch costs seems like a very reasonable way to make more \$\$ for the schools as well. It's much cheaper for families to make lunch at home instead of sending money every day as well. Another option to make money for the school systems -- rent out the gymnasiums for program offered after school. In the winter months, the kids would LOVE a place to go to run off some steam.
269.	I don't think we should cut any courses or staff. Increasing cost of full day k would equal what families would pay if they were sending a child to private preschool. I think increasing lunch prices 25 cents is not too bad and if a family was sending a child for private lessons to play an instrument it would cost alot more than 200.00. I firmly believe we should not increase class sizes. Thank You for asking my opinion. Your hard work and time is much appreciated.
270.	Identify more areas to capitalize on parent and community volunteers -- do you have a listing of volunteers needed by task?
271.	Increase the employee share of health care costs.
272.	I would also suggest a voluntary solicitation for contributions from families. I would be happy to contribute money to avoid cuts in resources. My view is it is easier to collect vs. trying to rebuild funding after cuts are made.
273.	Increase employee share of the health care
274.	I think it is about time that union employess pay their fair share of health insurance premiums. Other companies succesfully manage health care costs by offerring varying levels of insurance, shifting more costs to the employees. As a taxpayer I am tired of paying for increased health insurance costs. My husband is a Masters preprared professional making less than school teachers and is expected to pay a higher costs for health insurance.
275.	My cuts total >680 as I would not do the maximum cuts proposed in athletic fee increases and supplies decreased spending.
276.	Clerical staff is stretched now - who will be doing the background work if any more are cut - computers are good but not that good!
277.	DO NOT ELIMINATE A CUSTODIAN. THE PLACE IS A "DUMP" AS IT IS AND OVER RUN WITH MICE. THERE ARE POTENTIAL HEALTH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS. I DIDN'T SEE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT POSITIONS QUESTIONED OR

	NON-CORE SUBJECTS. I AM AGAINST RAISING CLASS SIZES .
278.	You can not, in good conscience, eliminate any teaching positions. Effective education begins with quality teaching, and class size has a lot to do with "quality teaching." That may be somewhat simplistic, but it's also accurate. The creation of a collegial atmosphere by administration, (superintendent, building principal, department chairs, etc.) based upon mutual respect and support for the teacher, is also critical to the overall classroom experience.
279.	I don't think it is necessary to lead the survey with facts that targeted special ed students and teachers. If these are non-negotiable, why not discuss other non-negotiables such as decreasing administrators salaries.
280.	Class sizes at my childrens elementary school are already at the standards of increase. My 2nd grade class is at 24 and 1/3 of that class sq. footage is not usable due to a leak in the roof. I wonder how you would get more students in the room. Also, I would deny all open enrollment or charge a per student fee for having that priveledge. Also, I would charge the afterschool care programs a fee to use the school
281.	With all the construction in Arlington and new families moving in all the time, don't the schools get more money from the increased tax dollars. Maybe School Administration salaries should be cut!
282.	I attended a budget subcommittee meeting once and was appalled to see the extravagant catered meal that was provided. Having worked for many government institutions, I know that a catered meeting is rare. School committee members should be happy with bottled water and bring their own snacks.
283.	I'd be happy to pay more in taxes to keep the quality of our schools high. Preserving relatively low student/teacher ratios is foremost, so I guess support, supplies, etc. will have to go. Short of that, increasing fees seems to be the best strategy. If the state average for fees, or in eastern MA, is higher than what we charge, that's an easy first step.
284.	I wish I knew more about budgets, and about the specifics of some of the positions listed here. My primary concern is class size, particularly in the younger grades. Best of luck w/this impossible task, and thanks for asking for input from the community
285.	Clearly some difficult decisions have to be made. Cuts should be made only where kids are least affected - but clearly those cuts have already been made! We need more money state wide for the schools!
286.	you must increase fees for extra-curricular activities. tax payers townwide cannot be expected to subsidize music lessons, football teams, and the daycare that is the other half of full-day kindergarten
287.	Thank you for the chance to participate. It is going to be a difficult process; more information is always better.
288.	Three things that came to mind: 1) I am not sure of the specifics regarding the role of the data analysis/curriculum leader. I thought teachers and department heads take care of this responsibility. I think before we can make an educational decision on cuts we should know the specifics. Also, another area where the schools could save money is looking at the secretaries. The guidance secretary works all year long but the guidance counselors do not work during the summer and there is no longer a director of guidance. So why does the secretary need to work. This could be looked at again. I think it would be sufficient to have the guidance secretary work two weeks at the end of school and two weeks before

	<p>school starts. Also, does the main office need two secretaries working the entire summer? I also think there is one house dean secretary that works in the summer, is that necessary if the deans don't work in the summer? I also wonder why the secretaries are given a shopping day in December. Again, this wouldn't save a tremendous amount of money, but little things here and there could give the school a few more books or supplies. Also, many teachers wonder why the house deans make \$80,000 but department heads and curriculum leaders are far below that salary. It makes teachers wonder where Arlington is putting their emphasis (discipline vs academics). I am not sure if this is realistic, but could there be incentives given to teachers that are eligible to retire to encourage them to retire. This would allow the the system to hire younger teachers at a lower salary. I have no idea if this is realistic.</p>
289.	<p>Private schools commonly rely on students to perform part of the custodial work. This also gives students incentives to keep the school in good shape.</p>
290.	<p>Hard choices!!</p>
291.	<p>I'm angered and disgusted with the anti-tax sentiment in this town. Every property owner, including those with no kids, has benefited from higher standards of Arlington schools, and the effect this has had on their neighborhood and their property values. Arrangements can be made for elderly or other people who really can't afford the higher taxes. If people really want to spend their money at Walmart and live in a slum, that's their business, but could they please do it someplace else?</p>
292.	<p>there are not enough choices in order to come up with the 680,000 number you just about have to check all options</p>
293.	<p>Where possible I would prefer to see raising fees etc rather than cutting services and increasing class size.</p>
294.	<p>Significant cost is at the multiple elementary schools. Focus should be on consolidating and further reducing common cost at those locations. Freeze/reduce high salary superintendent position and that position's immediate team. Leave the principals and teachers to do their job.</p>
295.	<p>I think there are way too many international field trips taking place at the high school. Every fundraiser I participate in helps the kids pay for travel, but to be honest, I'd rather see the money pay for things like textbooks.</p>
296.	<p>Don't be swayed by extremists with strong points of view. Do what you know is best for the students.</p>
297.	<p>Tough choices. ugh. Thanks for soliciting community input.</p>
298.	<p>It was a little difficult to decide where cuts should be made since the full impact is not known i.e if High school staff are cut, it looks pretty simple, as if each teacher will have one more student in each class. Is this really the case, or does it mean each tacher will have to teach more classes in which case teachers may leave Arlington to go to other distrcts that promise a 4 class case load.</p>
299.	<p>Put some of the added insurance expenses back on the employees instead of the town. Everytime my health insurance premiums increase where I work, I absorb that cost from my own salary - it should not be paid for by the town.</p>
300.	<p>Cutting year after year will put the schools into a death spiral. What is being done to address the structural budget deficit?</p>

301.	Thanks very much for asking our opinions via this survey.
302.	The support services at the high school, guidance counselors and social workers, are extremely important and should not be reduced. These services are necessary to keep high academic achievement for all students on track. Please do not consider a cut in these areas.
303.	To eliminate Teachers or Staff is ludicrous when the shortfall can be made up by making Parents come up with \$\$ for extra's such as supplies, after school programs, instruments, lunches, ect... If parents want their kids in these programs they should pay. The core subjects of learning should not be compromised
304.	I think we should do whatever it takes not to cut teaching staff and prof. development because it is the teachers that make the school system. We have to make sure that Arlington is viewed as a good place to work, and we need to work hard to retain talented teachers. I would prefer to pay for programs such as ACE, music, performing arts etc. to be able to retain qualified teachers.
305.	I feel very strongly that other options for cost savings should be explored, and new sources of revenue considered. For example, the kids have complained about some of the "extras" -- such as special concerts and science camp. Couldn't that money be used instead for regular programming? Also, there should be new ways to bring in funds -- through grants, facility rental, etc. Finally, I believe that children should have a say. Why not give them a version of this survey to ask what cuts they would consider (at their grade/school level)?
306.	I do not see any active alumni/ae fund raising going on at the school level like it does at the college level. I believe you all are missing a big opportunity here.
307.	Thank you for sharing this survey with us -- it helps to keep things in perspective. I feel Sp.Ed. can and should bear some of the pain. Team decisions should be based on the true needs of the child -- not what the parents demand. A number of students should be removed from a full IEP and transferred to a 504. The school system cannot afford to hire assistants for individual children. These students should either be placed in a resource room or grouped together. Their deficits are acknowledged, but not to the detriment of their peers. Resource rooms with TAs should be maxed out at 12 students. Demand that mainstream teachers maintain a website of weekly homework assignments, goals, and support links. Demand accountability from parents that their child's education if a TEAM effort -- not just one-sided.
308.	I am an elementary teacher in the town, and having a class size of possibly 28 would be incredibly stressful.
309.	How about an auction to raise money. Where parents/business donate antiques, product, time, or service. All proceeds go to the school.
310.	I understand that facing such a budget issue is difficult. I would hate for the budget constraints to heavily affect the children - larger class sizes, less teachers, but I do understand that the money needs to come from somewhere.
311.	I teach in the Lexington school system now where I have/have had up to 25 students/class. I can't believe the class sizes in Arlington! Smaller class size does not automatically equate to better teaching/learning!!! Also... the increase in the cost of lunches by 25 cents seems like a no-brainer!!! Cutting supplies, clerical support really means that teachers and students end up with less...

312.	Different Health Insurance plan with maybe higher co-pay, etc, could possible decrease cost.
313.	THE CUTS ARE TRULY PAINFUL... The limited social emotional focus in the elementary schools is incomprehensible. Relationship building and interpersonal skills need to be woven into the curriculum!!
314.	Eliminate trips with the Leadership academy; how about some fund raising activities - silent auctions etc.
315.	The State has made provisions for towns to join the State employee health plan, which is less expensive than most town plans. If the unions haven't yet agreed to do this, they shouldn't expect much sympathy when it comes to other issues. The benefits are similar, but the state is better able to negotiate low rates with providers which saves money for the state and any participating cities and towns.
316.	I think that it's more important to have small elementary school class sizes than it is to have small high school class sizes, because high school students are probably more self motivated to learn. If they are confused, they will study. When I was in elementary school, I was in a class of 27 students, from kindergarten through 8th grade (private school). By 8th grade, most of the students in my class could not read at grade level. The school hired a reading specialist to help them catch up. Also, a number of the students in my class could not do basic math problems. I think these educational deficits were a direct result of having too many students to one teacher. A good foundation in elementary school will help students when they get to high school. Basic skills are so important. If children get lost in elementary school, they won't know how to catch up. Please keep elementary class sizes small. Thank you for your time. - Jan Rogers
317.	Please do not cut teaching or staff positions. Everyone has worked too long and too hard to develop the school system we have now. I believe the people are willing to help solve the gap without further diminishing the quality of our schools.
318.	I work as a teacher in Wayland. The school has a disability policy for employees. After 60 days of paid leave, the school cost shares with a private insurance company 60% ins. co. 40% school. Apparently, this is a cost savings for the school system. I don't know if this is just the school system or town wide. Has this ever been considered?
319.	The main problem is that the Town of Arlington should increase their support of the public schools. Any decrease in the quality of the public schools will lower property values, which will decrease future revenue from property taxes. We moved to Arlington in large part for the good schools - and we would seriously consider moving from Arlington in the future if the schools deteriorate. Overall, we do not mind paying more fees for sports, music, art, and kindergarten to avoid increased class sizes or cuts.
320.	Wow, what hard decisions. I don't envy having to make them.
321.	Thank you for soliciting feedback from the community. You have a very hard job ahead of you. Good luck!
322.	What could Arlington's business community do to help the schools in areas of providing supplies or other provisions? How can profits made in school fundraisers (i.e. auctions netting up to \$30,000 or more) be applied to help these deficits?

323.	<p>Increase Taxes to match costs. If healthcare goes up 7%, oil goes up, insurance goes up, TAXES have to go up. TAXES in ARLINGTON ARE CHEAP compared to other states. PLEASE increase TAXES, and STOP this POLITICAL MUMBO-JUMBO of a 5 year plan. Make Arlington the best school system in the state for the full spectrum of students. Arlington should LEAD the way. Families that value education are happy to AVOID Arlington schools right now, and pay \$25,000 at BBN, Belmont Hill, and others. By paying 20% higher Taxes, EVERYONE would have a private school education in Arlington. If you KEEP CUTTING the schools, the wealthy students flee to Private schools or move. Arlington CAN and SHOULD reduce class sizes. 16 pupils for Elementary school and 20 students for JR and SR High. China, India, Vietnam, and Ukraine are about to eat our lunch. You can pay now, or pay later. Innovate, Become super efficient, and raise taxes ahead of this yearly cry. Arlington needs leadership that will convince people to ENJOY paying more each year. If the deficit is \$1.5M, everyone in town, each town, should send in \$250, and give the town and immediate \$3M surplus. If Bush sends everyone in town a \$600 or \$1200, everyone should invest it into the Arlington schools. 18,000 X \$600 = \$10.8M additional money into the system. Increase teacher pay to attract the best teachers for every subject. Pay the highest salary of all surrounding towns, but eliminate teachers who don't perform. Inaction leads to chronic symptoms. Thanks for sending this out. In the meantime - all this talk about lack of space in Arlington for NEW properties and new Taxes is shortsighted. -Please go to West Cambridge on MASS AVE. Arlington should begin building Underground parking, street level business & retail, and 3 floors of residences above. Mass Ave is 3 miles long. There's 100's of opportunities here, to create GREAT URBAN/Suburban living areas. -State Senator should begin lobbying for the RED LINE EXTENSION from Alewife to Hanscom Air Force Base. Create an Alewife Station Parking lot just off RT 128 to alleviate congestion at Alewife. - If they can submerge the central artery, tunnelling through Arlington & Lexington, below the bike trail, setting up a station in Arlington Center & Arlington Heights should be a piece of cake. -Create a 4 level parking garage in the town municipal lot in Arlington Center. 2 underground and 1.5 above ground. Build a residential building above this, 2 floors, with 50 units, and a center garden plaza above. (See Post-Office Square for good example of a great garage.)</p>
324.	<p>I understand there are state laws prohibiting PTAs/PTOs from purchasing necessary equipment like textbooks, etc. However, there is no way to lobby the state to suspend certain regulations during critical shortfall times without losing the state funding that would (if it were there) be used for this. I do understand some of the reasoning, but sometimes in real life, it is hard to understand.</p>
325.	<p>First choice MISLEADING! AVG DOESN'T SHOW WHOLE PICTURE!!! RIDICULOUS. MY CHILD WILL HAVE 27/28 IN HER CLASS! POOR QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN, POSSIBLY WITH AN AGENDA. See you Monday, Nate.</p>
326.	<p>My son is currently a third grader at Dallin and his grade has gone to a larger class size this year (his three second grade classes are now two third grade classes). He has 26 children in his class which I feel is too many. It was very difficult for many of the kids to adjust to the class size. Many children could not concentrate because of the noise level. I feel that his grade took the hit last year and should not be a result of budget cuts again this year. I would like to see next year's fourth grade remain three classes. The class size was just too large this year.</p>
327.	<p>Consider that a two or three year age gap btw. children is quite common in families. You would be hitting the same families with a K tuition increase. Wasn't it raised from \$1500 to \$1800 two years ago? Or, consider a sibling rate. You are offering a similar idea in athletics capping the fee at first two sports.</p>
328.	<p>Reduce special education expenses</p>

329.	Thank you for asking for input. Thank you for outlining options and what type of savings would result. It makes it clear to anyone participating how hard these decisions are to make. I am wondering what is the average class size at the best public schools in the state and what it is in the range Arlington currently falls into. Class size is very important to me, but I think less important with older kids than with younger children. It would be good to know more about this.
330.	Try to keep Staff cuts to a minimum. Where possible, other areas can be compensated in various ways, but, if we are to empahsize quality in the classroom, we need the personnel who will "deliver the goods."
331.	While our kid's have graduated, we do have grandkids, in Arlington, about to enter the system, so we remain interested parties.
332.	Thanks for the opportunity to vote. High school classes and size are most important for preparing for college or for entering the employment sector.
333.	I would like to know exactly how the average class sizes reported on the previous page were calculated. They seem low. I am 100% sincere in believing that the Supt is overpaid and should feel the burden of these cuts.
334.	Favor cuts that affect everybody a little as opposed to cuts that affect fewer people a lot. Favor modest fees as opposed to increased class sizes, etc.
335.	I would love to see a sliding scale for athletic or music fees, along with a generous scholarship package. A sliding scale is fairer than just waivers, since some families can pay more than others. I would be happy to pay a higher fee knowing that I was helping other families afford activities for their kids. I would also like to see more public fundraising, like the fundraising that saved the jobs of reading specialists in the elementary schools.
336.	I like the idea of a survey (especially as it will curtail some of the criticism of the difficult cuts you must make), however it was not really possible to make informed decisions on the basis of the information provided. How much support is already given for "x"? Why are all core subjects linked together as a possible place to cut instead of treated piecemeal? What exactly does the person with the curriculum development position do? Additionally, provided there is a provision for helping those who truly cannot afford to pay more, why, should someone not pay additional monies if they engage in more than two sports? Perhaps some of the shortfall could be made up there?
337.	The proposed large elementary classes are very disturbing. My daughter and her classmates absorbed this cut last year, and now it is proposed this same group of students bear the brunt of balancing the budget again. This cut is a large burden to a small number of students. I would prefer to see more equity in the painful cuts that must be made. It is becoming increasingly obvious that a redistricting plan must be devised to provide more equity in class size among our elementary schools. Also, please be aware that the proposed 25.5 students in grade 4 at the Dallin school does not include special education students who are integrated in these classrooms for different subjects. There are currently four of these students in my daughters class, which brings current enrollment to 29. I also hope that the number of students on IEP's, 504's, and those identified with behavioral issues is considered when determining which classes will become larger. It appears from the observations of students and parents that there is a larger concentration of these students in the Dallin current third grade than in other grade levels. Thank you to the committee for all of your hard work.

338.	you MUST increase athletic fees and non-mandated full-day Kindergarten supplemental payments if you want to convince the rest of the town that we are not paying for child care and for extracurricular -- as opposed to phys ed -- physical activities.
339.	I am concerned that to keep class size large enough rising seniors might be pushed into AP classes that are not in their best interest. I recognize the budget pressures, however we must think of the kids first. There are probably not 25 kids who should be taking AP Latin. Either we need to be happy with below average class size or stop offering the class. It is not fair to a student to put them in a class above their head. I have no easy solution to this and I know this is a detail, but kids can get hurt. Senior in high school are still kids.
340.	I think the Arlington Public Schools do a fine job of educating our children. I have had the opportunity of observing other public school systems and you can't make me believe that Arlington doesn't rate right up there with many other towns in this area and in some cases much higher. As I stated in the survey Arlington needs to find a way to generate more revenue from its businesses by taxing at a higher rate and stop asking the residents of the town to foot the bill all the time.
341.	Pay as you throw!!! I wish we would have started such a system. It is good for the environment and it generates revenue. Not under the school's control, I know, but still.
342.	The five year plan is broken, funding from the state has *not* been restored and that was part of the plan. We need to pass an override before we drown.
343.	SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED ECE [SPECIAL EDUCATION] PLAN: As a parent who has seen first hand the tremendous benefits of the Arlington Early Childhood Education program on my child, I am pleased to see that the plan proposed by ECE Liaison Lori Villani hopes to reduce the need for these costs in the long term by improving access to its Early Intervention program. The centralizing of the program and sharing of resources at the high school also seems like a very smart idea. It has been demonstrated time and time again that the earlier kids receive therapy the greater the benefit and the greater their ability to move to the mainstream, both in school and in life. Aside from obvious the benefit to the children, I think it also makes great economic sense. Earlier services mean fewer of the more costly services later. Aggressively providing services to the students in need will indeed in the long run keep significantly more students in the system, and the budget breaking transportation costs should be reduced. While I realize that the proposed changes mentioned here are not addressed specifically in the online survey, my comments are I believe pertinent to "pound wise" planning for the long term budget.
344.	Somewhat difficult to pick from the choices without knowing the baseline number of how many of some staffing and items, or when fees had been already increased
345.	You mention in the introduction that there is a 7% increase in healthcare expenses. I'm a little uncomfortable with the way the 'painful choices' are presented, and not a single one of them asks the recipients of this healthcare to chip in to pay for the increase. I'm not at all saying that teachers are overpaid or get terrible healthcare. However can't you raise 15,000 or 50,000 by asking people to share the burden?
346.	My son plays athletics. It is fun for him but he will never make the good use of it compared with the educational and music programs he is in. Make cuts with athletics. I will imagine that, since Arlington is a sports town, other outside sources will step in and make contributions to keep sports alive.

347.	I think that the Arlington Schools Foundation should start playing a larger role looking into ways to create an endowment that will support and *protect* services. It is truly unfortunate that we are constantly seeking to cut costs rather than looking at ways to make the Arlington school system an educational model. Has a focus group been put together to look at ways to plan for the future taking advantage of the wealth of financial resources and talent in Arlington? We need to get more creative and free up the schools from a focus on tests to a focus on getting the most out of teachers and students and strengthening relationships between school and community.
348.	Why can't Arlington employees, including teachers, join the state health insurance plan, which would save a lot of \$\$ and still give everyone the same coverage? This is rarely mentioned in the Advocate or in school committee.
349.	We do not fit in any of the categories. Our children did not attend Arlington schools after a certain point because of dissatisfaction with the tolerance for bullying and the lack of attention to different learning modalities, failure to follow IEPs, and poor quality generally after 5th grade.
350.	I teach high school myself. I have never gotten any useful information out of a "Curriculum Developer." They have always wasted my time; I wish Arlington wouldn't waste money on one. Also, a class of 20 at the high school level is very manageable.
351.	Concerned about money wasted by Spt. and SC on legal fees. Should have figured out expenses before deciding not to contest issues. Total waste of money and time. Too much grandstanding. Shame on you.
352.	Keep elementary class sizes small- this proactive action eliminates problems- academic ones and social- before they happen
353.	If the schools were a private sector business, they would be in bankruptcy. Any private sector ceo would quickly bring the costs into line. Its time for the school committee to do its job.
354.	Overall this survey does not detail each line, for instance: -what does the data analyst/curriculum developer do? doesn't the asst. supt. develop curriculum? -what is principal support? secretaries? -what is "central office support?" -how many custodians are currently at the HS? -you list the current fee for everything that has a potential increase on the table EXCEPT athletic fees-we know how high they are because we're paying them, but who else answering this survey does not? 20 students in an elementary school class is manageable...my daughter has been in classes at Bishop for all 6 years with classes that size. 20 students in a HS class is manageable as long as behavior issues are addressed by guidelines so as to not interfere with the learning of others. All day kindergarten is not even mandated...isn't it a no-brainer that we should be charging at least the state average? Again, as I stated last survey, there are so many students receiving extra help out of the classroom that sometimes it is easy to forget that that can make the classroom numbers more manageable. A lot of money and resources are being used for early reading/writing development that is aiding the classroom teacher with the 20+ students. I didn't see any mention of the middle school...just a curiosity.
355.	This is totally insane that you let this happen each year. I'm shocked at your lack of leadership and accountability.
356.	I think we could do a lot more outreach in the community for volunteers particularly seniors and I find very little fundraising is done in the Middle School unlike the elementary schools.

357.	The choices given in #3 are like a menu of foreign dishes. Can I have a half portion? What is the YCC that comes with the substitute? Can I have five of the Elementary Schools and one HS teacher with a transportation fee? Many folks are up on the school situation but the pre-combined alternatives and abbreviated terms without explanation are off-putting to this participant. I would like to see a more flexible set of choices with a glossary for the more ed-speak terms. Thanks for giving the PUBLIC a chance for input in the Public School System. Next time, please give us a freer hand or a bigger "other" box.
358.	I would rather see us paying greater fees for programs that are optional than to reduce professional staff, which has a direct effect on the quality of our children's education, or to cut non-professional staff which provides important support services to the teaching and administrative staff, and just as important, is an important group in the fabric of our community.
359.	cut out school crossing guards..go back to the old days...older kids as crossing guards...
360.	It would be a travesty to eliminate one of the now third grade classes at Hardy, bringing the number of kids per class to 28 or more. The range of abilities within the grade is enormous and it already difficult for teachers to provide children at the upper levels with a challenge. It will be impossible with even bigger class sizes.
361.	Thank you for taking the time to do this. I appreciate you including us in the process. I'm left wondering why the Arlington Schools are constantly in this situation? Is it because of poor forecasting or were the 12% health care increases and other cost increases really anomalous and impossible to predict. Keep up the good work!
362.	it is impossible to make these choices without more detailed background information. I don't know
363.	this gets bit frustrating from tax payer perspective, really wish you would make better decisions. If you cannot run on budget maybe time for new people. Getting sick of having to pay higher taxes because you people cannot do your job.
364.	There was insufficient information to explain what the effects of some of these choices were; for example, there was no explanation of what the data analyst/curriculum developer does so it is hard to gauge whether it should be cut or not. Also, I believe that the instrumental music fee could be raised, but I thought doubling it was too much. I might have chosen a lower raise there and cuts elsewhere if the choices had been clearer.
365.	Having a child at the HS and Elementary School I would be against any reduction of staff that increases class size. The increase this past year of the athletic fee has been a strain on our family as we do not qualify for a reduction in the fee and yet had a child who played three sports. I don't want to discourage his school participation, but will have to if the fee increases again.
366.	Can the rising cost of health insurance be addressed? Different plan? Different deductible? Teachers contribute a different amount? Also, a total increase of 5% in teacher salaries seems high.
367.	Reduce staff in superintendents office. Cut professional days for teachers. Leave music and sports alone. Why penalize the active children when all we do is spend money and resources on the "at risk children". Why are we paying the police to cross our children. The school committee is robbing Peter to pay Paul.

368.	I thought this superintendent was supposed to be the data whiz to present a budget that worked with the constraints. It's disappointing that this, his area of expertise, involves more and more cuts every year.
369.	We are among a group of people considering leaving Arlington due to current conditions at the schools, in general; and for a specific reason. For the second year in a row, Arlington is in non-compliance with our son's IEP and we have learned that our town has one of the worst SPED reputations among the wider SPED community. You don't have a great track record with us so far and we aren't sure we want to risk it with our son any longer and with our daughter (yet to enter the schools) at all.
370.	Petition private individuals to give extra money to schools.
371.	Please preserve the teaching as much as you can. As long as there is aid for those who truly cannot pay, it is ok to raise fees. If people don't want to pay more for school lunch, bring one. Day care costs more than what we charge here, and we should at least be at state average. I appreciate the opportunity for input. Josephine Babiarz
372.	Thanks for setting up this survey. I know you can't put all the options on such a list, but I wonder what else might be done. One could be tempted to make drastic/lasting cuts if this situation will persist for a while, or to nickel-and-dime cut if this shortfall will only be this year. I'm guessing the former is the case.
373.	We are new to the Arlington Public School system, hoping that any cuts you have to make will have the very least impact on direct classroom education to our students (don't mind paying more for extra services if it comes to that) feel it is most important to pay the educators to do what they are trained to do - give our kids the best possible education (in the smallest class size possible)! Thanks.
374.	2) While I support increasing the basic athletic fee per sport, I urge you to review the "adders" for most expensive sports in AHS athletic fees. \$80 is substantial, given that a season is approximately 2 month long. What is the rationale for basketball to be a "most expensive" sport? What is the rationale for soccer being a "more expensive" sport compared to lacrosse or volleyball?
375.	I would like to say that the choices I made on this survey are not made with complete understanding of the ramifications; i.e. who is the data analyst and what function does that position serve? That said, I would ask that the school committee please try to avoid cutting teachers and those who work directly with students--they are the heart of our school system.
376.	I cannot understand how I can pay as much money as I do in taxes and have to be faced with these decisions. Who is handling the money in this town for goodness sake?????
377.	Kids will suffer across the board with continued increases in class size and any more staffing cuts to core subjects such as math, english, science, foreign languages...
378.	Myself and many others in the community are looking at private schools due to situations such as this. Not only do I have a lack of faith in Lovelace, Sheffler, Spangler, as well as lack of trust in Theilman. You chose to reward your Superintendant, why doesn't he take a pay cut??
379.	Increasing Kindergarten is outrageous.

380.	Thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in these critical decisions.
381.	Living under proposition 2 1/2 has been impractical and brutal. I think the most crucial thing is to not cut teachers. That will increase class size, which effects learning directly. It also lowers teacher morale and makes it more difficult for Arlington to attract high quality teachers. It is the teachers who will provide a high quality education for our children, and cutting teachers should be the very last resort.
382.	Are there creative and imaginative ways to increase revenue? Sell things on line? Raffles? Work/study? Music students perform for money at various events and school gets a percentage for booking the talent? Art students sell their artwork and school gets a percentage? Accept advertisements from local business and other (Borders Books, etc.) Have a fun talent show at the Regent as a fundraiser? Have a fancy \$100/plate dinner fundraiser? Ads on Arlington List? Like NPR/WBUR has a thing where if you click on the link to Amazon from the WBUR site, WBUR gets a percentage. Just some ideas because I hate having to make any cuts.
383.	This works well as a way to educate the public as to the difficult choices the school system is presented with. However, as a survey of public opinion, it's not very useful. The choices are too constrained.
384.	Thank you for this opportunity to share in this process! Please avoid increasing the class size in the elementary schools; please do not cut custodial staff. The buildings need to be clean and well kept for students, teachers and parents to feel they are in an environment worth being in and respecting. We do not want to see all of the recently-renovated buildings not being cared for!
385.	Superintendent bonuses- are they still around? if so- they should be done away with. Decrease the amount of Art and Music (even though they are important for development) to 2x/month and share amongst schools. Why is it that Pierce school is allowed to stay open with 15 kids per class while Dallin has close to 30 in some of their classes?
386.	good luck...
387.	This was extremely difficult...I now have a better understanding for those professionals who are faced with making these delicate decisions.
388.	he Ottoson should be in the mix for cuts. Just because they had a tough year should not effect the entire school system.
389.	I am extremely concerned about the state of education in Arlington. I think class size should be smaller than it is already. I also think that the elementary schools need a school psychologist on staff and more special education teachers. I am a Peirce School parent and I feel that our school sorely lacks these support staff.
390.	Strongly believe special ed not be underfunded. OK to bring special ed "in house" BUT NEED qualified, competent staffing.
391.	Why can't we ever get bottom line figures for expenditures to Polaris, the PR firm for the APS or the legal fees we have spent under very questionable circumstances??? Would these offset the budget deficit?
392.	It's a shame that we face this every year. My husband and I came to the conclusion that moving to a state w/o prop 2 1/2 was the best chance we had of getting a quality public education for our kids.

393.	<p>As a citizen with no current connection with school issues or programs I believe I have no business responding to most of your survey. It seems to me that you are shirking your responsibility to make hard decisions based on the superintendent's recommendations. He is being well paid to manage the schools and you should not be looking for the opinion of the average citizen who has no knowledge of what the implications of these questions would have on the everyday operation of our school system. In terms of additional revenue, there is \$45,000+ outside Mr Levenson's window and \$100,000+ across the street. Whenever there is any activity at the high school, day or night, I can always find between four and fourteen cars parked in the fire lanes. If only five citations a day were issued for one hundred and eighty days at fifty dollars per violation, (5x180 x \$50=\$45,000) \$45,000 would be available to offset one of the four of your survey choices. If the one hour and two hour parking limits on Mass Ave. and the surrounding streets were enforced for seventy-two school days times one hundred vehicles times \$15 per violation (72x100x\$15=\$108,000)\$108,000 would take care of the "buy less stuff" issue, If AC students and staff pay for parking permits in the Russell lot why can't we initiate a permit parking program for AHS students on the streets surrounding the school? Bob Radochia</p>
394.	<p>This survey was somewhat unfair because it linked counselors and teachers to pens and paper. It should have given (or referred the reader to links) explanations of certain positions like AYCC. The School should be hiring licensed counselors, not students. How many custodians are there in the high school? Thank you.</p>
395.	<p>It would have been helpful to also post the educational goals of the Arlington school district against which these decisions are being made. Also, these questions were asked in a vacuum. For example, what would happen (impact) if one of the custodial positions is eliminated? What is the economic impact of increasing kindergarten costs. For example, what percentage of children are likely to not attend kindergarten because their family can neither pay the fee nor qualify for assistance? Hopefully, the school board is not making such decisions in a vacuum.</p>
396.	<p>Significant increases in user fees for optional programs should be the first approach to closing this budget gap. Class size and supplies in core academic subjects should not come at the expense of optional programs that are best supported by those students that participate in them.</p>
397.	<p>It would be interesting to know the value of the gap divided by the number of students. This may be a cost that many parents would be willing to pay.</p>
398.	<p>w/o understanding specifically where all of the \$\$ is spent, this is a difficult survey to complete. My suspicion is that there are many areas of waste in the system that could be eliminated with some smart business process re-engineering and w/o such a study, it is difficult to understand where the cuts can and should be made. I am in favor of privatization and outsourcing where appropriate to reduce spend.</p>
399.	<p>Thanks for reaching out to the community. We appreciate how difficult cuts must be.</p>
400.	<p>I am wondering if local fundraising could be done and allocated to a particular budget item? Also, I think increasing class sizes up to 28 in the elementary schools would mean lost ground for many of the students, especially those who struggle.</p>
401.	<p>Collapsing classes at the elementary level does a huge disservice to the children of Arlington at a time of critical development. Classes of more than 23 create large problems and children get significantly less support. Gaps that may exist will just widen.</p>

402.	<p>1) We need to move toward making HS Athletics self-supporting, particularly the exclusive sports that do not offer participation to everyone who shows up (ie sports that make cuts). Using tax money to fund exclusive activities with no educational value to anyone other than the participants goes against the grain of public education. 2) All-day K fees should not rise beyond the actual cost of the program; they should not be used to offset other costs. 3) You should explore the idea of placing teacher aides in the larger elementary classes. 4) I'd like to see, along with the actual FY09 budget request and the \$ figure for a level-services budget, a \$ figure and a service outline of what a worst-case ie foundation-budget school system would look like, and also a \$ figure and a service outline of what a best-case ie you-get-all-the-money-you-need-to-do-the-job-right school system would look like. The public could then know where we are on the spectrum of worst-to-best. 4) Thank you for the opportunity to do this survey!</p>
403.	<p>In my opinion, teachers positions should not be cut no matter what. Also, class size needs to be examined . . . a 'realistic' class size maximum should be established. I believe that >25 kids in a class is not a healthy/enriching environment for either the students and the teachers. The current grade 3 class at Dallin School were hit very hard last year going from 3 classes to 2 classes. I believe it is unfair that this grade will again severe suffer loses this year. Large class sizes are difficult to manage - I'm sure the teachers would agree. I'm sure class size does have a correlation to achievement no matter what Mr. Levenson says. Perhaps the School Committee should spend some time in the classrooms to see for themselves who the victims really are.</p>
404.	<p>I'm sure you'll get complaints about the format or choices from some quarters, but thank you for asking the public for its detailed input.</p>
405.	<p>I strongly support keeping class sizes at the current limits. Do not increase class sizes. I strongly support retaining teachers. Do not cut teaching positions. I regret that anyone would lose a job this year, especially with the economy concerns constantly in the news. Please consider what volunteer hours & skills families and community members can contribute to support the principals, clerical and custodial staff that might find their resources reduced.</p>
406.	<p>I hope that the current third grade (fourth grade in 2009) at the Dallin School will not be forced to take "a hit" again this year.</p>
407.	<p>This is painful! Is there any chance of an earlier override?</p>
408.	<p>Elementary class sizes of 28 are not acceptable. Both of my children are out of elementary school, but as an educator, I would strongly recommend this step not be taken. Other avenues need to be explored. 24 is tolerable, 25 is pushing the limit. After that, there is a critical mass factor that comes into play and should be avoided at all costs. Teachers experience great stress with over 24/25 students in today's demanding educational environment. Furthermore, our classrooms, especially at the newer schools, are not built to accommodate the larger numbers. Perhaps you can justify combining some of these sections, but where the actual numbers rise above 25, other means should be fully exhausted first.</p>
409.	<p>It would have been nice to know a bit more about the questions - ie, does eliminating one custodial position at the high school mean that 2 are left, or 12? Which of these items have already faced harsh cuts in previous years? Finally, I feel very strongly that maintaining small class sizes in the elementary schools is much more important than in the upper grades. (I'm saying this as a parent who has spent a LOT of time in her childrens' elementary school classrooms, both big and small, and seen how much more core learning was accomplished in the smaller classes in a given year.)</p>

410.	This is an interesting exercise to
411.	Two comments: 1. Given that historically, enrollment in Arlington has been flat (and not decreasing), this budget problem will clearly continue for next year and beyond. Will we all continue to "nickel and dime" our way through this process, or come up with a longer term plan (perhaps with some more drastic changes) which will ensure quality education for our children? 2. I am a Thompson parent (though not of a 4th grader). While the word "inequity" is often over-used with regard to our school, it is hard to ignore. Raising a class size to 28 at Thompson is particularly unfair due to the unique make-up of our student body (higher percentage of English Language Learners, higher percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch, more transient community - kids moving in and out more often than at other elementary schools). Further, I do not agree with your reasoning as to why Ottoson has been "spared" with regard to these proposed cuts. Lastly, why has Dallin also been spared, with no proposed classroom reductions?