



**Byron Center Public Schools
2009-2010 Planning
Ideas from Parent Meeting
March 10, 2009**

I would like Superintendent Takens and the Board of Education to take note, or consider the following as they make decisions for the future of our schools:

1. Employees co-pay for health insurance (4)
2. Save block schedule at WMS
3. Save block schedule at BCHS, 7 class choices (2)
4. Eliminate free family sports passes for staff, institute ½ price for staff member only
5. Stop providing free BC shirts to staff
6. Stop paying staff to take tickets, supervise at sports events. Use other team members (to build community) and sports parents.
7. Add minutes to day & reduce number of school days (3)
8. Cut “fluff” academic classes rather than dollars per student involved in Fine Arts.
9. Close Nickels Intermediate (5)
10. Restructure/reduce bussing and transportation parameters
11. All programs should be equally reduced in funding. Parents can fundraise the difference. Sports are not more important than fine arts.
12. Evaluate all positions to essential staff
13. Support School Choice (6) Upper grades only (1)
14. Cannot afford to pay teachers who do not perform. Redirect or retire those who do not.
15. Support staff cuts
16. Boundary realignment for elementary schools
17. Reconsider extra curricular
18. Use parent groups to fundraise for field trips, supplies
19. Give community a “per student” allocation for shortage of funds needed
20. Restructure school calendar to support when it’s most effective to staff/operate building, i.e. less summer off, more time in fall/summer
21. Restructure school day to insure our children are getting the best time frame (4 day school weeks)
22. All day, every day kindergarten
23. Do not mail BConnection
24. More communication, this communication was not sufficient
25. Go green, don’t mail things out.
26. How do bonds work
27. Where are proposals for cuts
28. Combine student mailings from same school
29. Eliminate field trips
30. Pay to play sports. Most countries don’t even have school sports, rather club sports.
31. Keep all the arts. Without the arts, we’re just another district.
32. Get rid of BCHS advisory (2)
33. We enjoy advisory time at BCHS, our sons benefit from this.
34. I enjoy teaming at Nickels, but it can be eliminated at this time

35. Teacher Prep time needs to be more equal among the teachers K12. From parent perspective, it is not even.
36. Make pay cuts across high salaried administration
37. Eliminate any non-essential jobs, literacy coordinator, curriculum position, Assistant principals.
38. Stop paying teachers to supervise sports events, use parent volunteers.
39. Find a way to help with Special Olympics Funds.
40. Be more specific about BCHS
41. Maximize electives at BCHS
42. Save money - don't use air conditioning in summer or dial down
43. Try not to cut things the kids need: sports, art, band, AP classes.
44. Cut transportation, especially in town (2)
45. Cut field trips, except for special ed.
46. Keep all day, alternate day schedule, do not establish all day every day. These are important years for us as parents.
47. Continue to allow choice for Kindergarten schedules as far as full day, every day or full-day, alternate day
48. What colleges can students have dual enrollment with?
49. Dropping transportation will increase the absentee and drop out rates
50. Don't cut textbooks, not all kids have internet at home
51. Pay to Participate needs to happen. Pay to play! We are here for the arts and will consider taking our four children out if staffing cuts in the bands.
52. Offer early retirement (2)
53. Decrease the counselors
54. Suspend wage increases, we go without, they can
55. Drop noon bus run, offer all day, every day or all day, alternate DK and Kindergarten
56. Extra days built into calendar for potential "snow days" should be re-negotiated with staff to reduce salary costs.
57. Prefer half day, every day Kindergarten. Consider half days with parent transportation at noon run with no bus run.
58. Concerned about salary for Assistant Principal at WMS
59. Evaluate saving block schedule at BCHS, while reducing teacher planning/advising time
60. Encourage retirement of teachers
61. Is there a way to trim the fat? Remove staff that doesn't perform at high standards.
62. List options to cast hope to those that may be hit hard, i.e. other sport opportunities elsewhere if athletics is cut.
63. Could para's/volunteers be added to classes as sizes are increased?
64. Parents want to help, we just don't always know where/how, when.