

Comments by community received on CCS FY12 Budget Survey

- ▣ Slight increase in class size
- ▣ Cost associated with each category would be helpful to make an informed decision. Also the average classroom size. This mailer is great. Thank you.
- ▣ Decrease frequency in world language primary and offer only one language to 6-8
- ▣ Consolidate schools ie K-5, 6-8 Shelburne and Hinesburg and/or Charlotte, Williston; look at regionalization as numbers decrease.
- ▣ Reevaluate the current EEE program. Is it right model in right space in terms of cost. Look at outsourcing it or combining with other schools. Taxpayers are paying for a 2:1 ratio of student:student and paying for individual student in a high cost setting with high ration of professionals. This is an important and essential program but needs to be re-evaluated in relation to cost and current budgetary limits. I am not saying it isn't necessary and to get rid of it.
- ▣ There is NO ONE getting 3-6% pay raises in this economy, teachers are out of touch!
- ▣ Administration: 1, EEE program: 4 Items 1-7 will have an inadequate impact on costs. Suggest that the board and the town be truly open minded for district consolidation.
- ▣ Teachers do not have the right to economic immunity in the face of economic downturns. The private sector has been coping with layoffs, salary freezes, and employee benefit reductions, while teachers and the school district continues to avoid economic realities while passing more and more burden on taxpayers. This must stop!
- ▣ Reduce enrichment program to 1/2, no "B" teams, reduce computer teacher to 1/2
- ▣ Hard to answer class size without knowing current class size, based on class size when my child was there would not increase, or have more aides. Not sure what the enrichment program consists of.
- ▣ What gains can be made from energy conservation, reuse of educational materials Ask teachers to move, do more. How much will cutting the sports program save. Cut the bus to games. Add drama activities to arts. Put the challenging work of the enrichment program inside the classroom. World language: online program.
- ▣ Best to do no further reductions
- ▣ Parents drive in anyway in their gas-guzzlers.
- ▣ We need bilingual Americans
- ▣ No further reductions if you can.
- ▣ Maybe look at Arts
- ▣ If increase class size, have a para-educator in there
- ▣ No more reductions-thanks!
- ▣ French is Dead!
- ▣ CSSU district office reduction and teacher salary reductions! Why can't the SU (District office in Shelburne) reduce their budget and headcount? Retire some teachers: 2, Reduce size of CSSU district office: 1
- ▣ Reduce teachers and/or salaries: 1, Cut district office spending
- ▣ We need to look at everything each budget cycle. What about administrative costs (CSSU) and teacher salary/benefits? With decreasing enrollment, the property taxes must not increase!
- ▣ The school should produce accurate statistics and publish them in the Charlotte News, updated bimonthly.
- ▣ Class size: 20 for grades 3-8 per teacher on average.
- ▣ Have reasonable services, not the ideal. Consolidate resource people's functions. How many students actually ride the busses: morning? Afternoon? Many students are driven to school: how many?

Comments by community received on CCS FY12 Budget Survey

- ▣ Why is the CSSU Central Office left off this list? Schools have made lots of cuts already; they should too.
- ▣ Until the school systems can stop the NEA and Unions from running the salaries for teachers, you will never get a hand on controlling costs. We can thank 140 years of the "progressive culture" for the current problems with salaries and benefits. I say fire everyone who will not accept the Board's offer and hire those that will take what town wants to pay. Ah, but we cannot do this. Thank you invasive government.
- ▣ The Enrichment Programs and the mentoring Program serve too few students to make them feasible. There are parents and students alike who don't even know those programs exist, or have any interest in what they offer. The world language program affects all students and it will benefit them always. With our student count, CCS does not need a full time counselor.
- ▣ Another source of income that is overlooked is the rent paid for use of the gymnasium for non-school functions. It is known thru out Chittenden County as a cheap place to rent for the weekend and often the chargers are waived.
- ▣ I think the idea of a 2 principal system is a great one. A strong and united administrations speaks volumes to teachers and parents alike. Buses: most people drive; class size: if teachers insist on unionized salaries, we need less of them; sports program:, Arts program: problem is high salaries, World Language: never cut; no further reductions: not really an option;
- ▣ If space/facilities weren't such an issue-I'd say merge with Shelburne If we cancel programs, what will kids be doing during that time? Why aren't you asking about the admin structure (2 principals FT)
- ▣ Raises on hold for teachers making above (X) dollars.
- ▣ Not energy efficient for everyone to drive to school, but if I'm getting in my car, I'm more likely to drive the kids to school rather than wait at a stop. Sports program: handle through the town, pay separately; arts program: handle through after school .
- ▣ We need to find a way to keep our tax dollars to our school, not distributed throughout the state with Act 60. Can we create a resident tax: Reduce our town tax to a minimal amount because we lose the majority of it and, as a town, institute a "resident" tax which would be far less than paying all the taxes out throughout the state. We need to think out of the box because our facilities are sub-par and our tax dollars are not staying in our community. We are an intelligent group of people, let's figure what we can do to stop our taxes from helping out the state! Let's face it, everyone is not as democratic as they claim to be when it comes to their money. If everyone was for the Greater good, than the budget would not have taken 3 times to pass....I voted YES for all three budgets. Last thought, I know a resident tax sounds a bit looney, but I feel we need to do something that makes sense.
- ▣ We have a son who is not yet 2 years old but will one day attend CCS. We moved to Charlotte in large part due to the excellent reputation of the schools and do not want to see anything cut. We will vote for any budget that provides for a fun, exciting, caring elementary school experience for our son, including the restoration of enrichment programs that were cut (with the assumption that the path the school takes now will effect the education our child receives 4 years from now....)
- ▣ 1: Too many principals, too much administration. I have a master's degree, have taught kindergarten, high school, and at a major university. I cannot imagine why it was deemed necessary to hire so many principals. Administrators are expensive and don't teach. In the economic down turn it is ridiculous to put money into administrations. Think of the burden UVM has put on everyone with 20 some vice presidents instead of two a few years ago. This decision to hire two principals when the student population is smaller was not good sense-and

Comments by community received on CCS FY12 Budget Survey

now you propose on the reverse of this sheet reducing teaching subjects. My children received an excellent education at CCS, and I thank the teachers for what they did for my children.

- ▣ Get the bullies out of the school-administration and teachers in past turned backs on students who were bullied. Also, teachers asking for pay raise: no way: lower salaries
- ▣ Eliminate 1 principal.
- ▣ There has to be another way to fund local schools other than through Charlotte property taxes which are astronomical. All townspeople should contribute to schools. However those who are retired or no longer have children in the schools should be paying a lowered amount. I would love to see an income tax for school funding based on ones income rather than their property.
- ▣ Where are the options to cut salaries and benefits. The rest of us working folk have taken significant pay cuts (20% where I work) and the employee pays 50% of the healthcare costs.
- ▣ I am willing to provide a good education but I firmly believe it is the parents responsibility to provide their children with an excellent education.
- ▣ Combine preschool with Shelburne or Hinesburg to balance \$ spent or outsource to qualified private preschools
- ▣ We are willing to support sustaining all of these programs
- ▣ You are not a prep school-why does the taxpayer have to foot the bill for one? If you want special programs-let there be a fee-you have overbuilt when enrollment is going down and will continue to do so
- ▣ Perhaps enrichment program could be a "pay to participate" option
- ▣ Reduce administration one principal, lower salaries...
- ▣ 1st option Administration: first priority for cuts or consolidation to increase efficiency. Two principals=wrong. You need to be concerned about doing the basics correctly.
- ▣ What about cuts in the administration? The first cuts should happen there.
- ▣ Please no increases in class sizes.
- ▣ Cut administration first, then enrichment. The school needs to consolidate efforts and be more efficient, which means cuts in administration first. Improved focus on core curriculum.
- ▣ Certain topics should be offered after school for a fee.
- ▣ Since we have two principals and do not need two principals, they should take on additional teaching responsibilities. The math coordinator who has not been coordinating should be dismissed: Hire math coaches on as needed basis. Have a professional assessment done focused on economics to maximize efficiency: partner with Hinesburg.
- ▣ Fewer guidance councilors: a strong principal goes a long way towards discipline and prevention of bullying.
- ▣ Please look at options to eliminate buses: pay for a ride options.
- ▣ Please keep all arts: they enrich all students lives.
- ▣ CCS is a small school. Please eliminate administrators and lower special education costs: these costs are out of hand! Please focus more efforts on students in the middle. The need is greatest in the middle. Burlington schools have larger sizes and one administrator.
- ▣ Please continue efforts to consolidate districts: too many administrators: huge salaries
- ▣ Strategic review of all positions in school: mixed age classes based on differentiated learning. I would rather have my child in larger class with good teacher than smaller class with mediocre teacher.
- ▣ Offer early retirement, freeze lower salaries
- ▣ Maybe reduce bus routes only if it encouraged kids to ride the bus and not be driven to school because of convenience. Thanks for encouraging more town participation in the budget process. Good Luck!

Comments by community received on CCS FY12 Budget Survey

- ▣ It's a well known complaint but nothing really happens-too many school districts in VT, therefore, too many superintendents and the accompanying staff for administration. Reducing districts will provide funds to equalize teachers salaries and perhaps provide funds for across the state equitable salary increases for teachers.
- ▣ 2: Reduce administrative staff, overhead
- ▣ Reduce teachers salaries, hold them more accountable. Somehow need to evaluate teachers-are they doing their job? Does their pay reflect how hard they work-how well they are teaching?! It seems that many are at the top of the pay scale and are not as committed and energetic as younger/less paid teachers.
- ▣ Limit teacher salaries and benefits: teachers should pay more of their medical premiums.
- ▣ This survey doesn't serve to provide adequate opportunities for input. These questions are so vague and broad they serve little purpose in ascertaining information from the community.
- ▣ 1: reduce staff: student ration(administrators, etc, not just teachers) and hold the line on salaries (in CSSU) Get budget under control. American schools rank so low: don't care about your state scores. Go against nations with better education and we would be ashamed of our scores
- ▣ Technology person grossly overpaid! Too many office staff
- ▣ 1: consolidation of school districts to reduce administrative costs/staff shorten number of school operating days by eliminating NEA convention, winter break, closure for professional development
- ▣ I think all of the above in these times could be considered as luxurious and should all be considered as a priority for cuts. We can no longer have a Cadillac school model. We need a Chevy model
- ▣ Ideally, I guess, nothing should be reduced. Assuming that it is all necessary to get the job done and educate our children. On the other hand, a continually upward spiraling cost suggests much is being added which causes the question: Is it really necessary? Bus service seems to be underutilized with all of the traffic that appears at the school. Centralized pick up and delivery could work in most instances. Enrichment, world language, art, sports all vital. I think, but do they warrant additional staff and resource consumption? Most of that could be absorbed into curriculum, classes, activity. 20-1 is a nice ratio and has some back up in research but I'm not so sure it is magical. Plus it also seems that numbers are dropping in terms of students served. So maybe a natural settling out may take care of that.
- ▣ As the student population falls, staff size should also fall. That's where the costs are, in personnel.
- ▣ Consolidating bus routes is less than a drop in the bucket. Use multi-talented staff to cover the programs you already have rather than eliminating arts, language or sports.
- ▣ Examine what is enrichment that isn't presented in regular classroom settings. Look at other costs-administration, insurance, CSSU(cut costs there or opportunities for cost sharing?) support staff, building use-is there extra space for rent, say to the Charlotte News after the construction is complete?
- ▣ Reduce computer educator to .5% (second rank) World Language: keep in grades 7&8 only.
- ▣ There is always room for change. My six children all graduated from CVU and five were in the Shelburne system. Sports, arts and world language are essential, but can be looked at for cost savings. Need to tap into volunteer resources in our town. Lots of talent and though volunteers aren't as reliable, with some direction and verbal commitment could offer a lot to CCS

Comments by community received on CCS FY12 Budget Survey

- ▣ Perhaps a capital campaign, similar to university endowments. My concern over neighborhood bus routes is that everyone will start driving to/from school and the traffic pattern as it would not sustain the increase and safety would decrease and environmental impact.
- ▣ Some community members might be in a position to offer greater support to the school to maintain programs.
- ▣ 1 principal; Rank:1)
- ▣ 1 rank: cut administrative costs. Only need one administrator. Cut supplies and texts costs. Reduce prof. development funding -temporarily.
- ▣ We cannot continue to decrease bus funding. This bus availability is crucial to many families. We need to maintain close to home bus stops, especially for you kids who cannot be left alone
- ▣ I truly do not want the budget to be cut anymore. I would be in favor of an increase.
- ▣ Less extra programs, eg Four Winds. Focus on essentials. Less parental intrusion in classroom
- ▣ Sports: Raise private funds in community; World language: eliminate in lower grades.
- ▣ Have every department provide suggestions on a 5% reduction. Small things add up Economize on ALL supplies.
- ▣ Bus Routes: can you reduce miles by somehow removing stops where students have private transportation?
- ▣ Classes must come first. Sports are great but knowledge is king. Suppose state rules on this. Any way to cut some classes out? Reductions must be all over. No one's sacred cow should be kept.
- ▣ Best scenario is not additional reductions
- ▣ I understand how it is challenging for teachers to consider combining classes etc to increase class size and decrease costs. But the ratios have become extreme: thank so very much for asking townspeople for their opinions.
- ▣ Our country's future is in the education of our young people. CCS is excellent and provides for such a wide a variety of students. I wish we could increase funding! Thank you for all that you do!
- ▣ Renegotiate contracts! What other groups are getting the kind of increases the teachers are? When teachers were only paid that was bad. Not they are well paid, and need to share tightened finances.
- ▣ "A" teams only. Reduce computer educator to .5% and enrichment to .5=1 FTE. Worry about the basics and not enrichment
- ▣ Cut administration to 1.0 or 1.5
- ▣ Next year (or when the contract is over) go back to one principal our school budget is not big enough for that. That is where a lot of the people were alienated with the boards decision. Principal and vice principal is all the school has needed in the past and future.
- ▣ Enrichment: after school only
- ▣ Reduce Budget!
- ▣ I don't understand # 1 bus routes
- ▣ Increase class size by a little is OK; DO NOT DROP arts and world language. Partner with private sector to maintain current level of service. BUS: have bus as pay for service (user fee) and provide free service to low income (just like lunch program), use smaller buses: eliminate the bussing from property tax: SPORTS: eliminate from property tax. Partner with private sector to provide sports services. Have it be user fee based, but offer reduced tares for low income, or must a sliding scale.

Comments by community received on CCS FY12 Budget Survey

- ▣ Lower percentage raise for teachers. Teachers should pay a larger share of health insurance premium, just like the rest of us. We will vote against a hefty tax hike. Thank you for sending out this questionnaire.
- ▣ Cut admin if can World language: cut Grade 1 and 2
- ▣ Increase world lang. program. Increase early education. Be guided by known research on development of children streamline schedule-fewer days off during year so bldg is closed. Charge for use of bldg (rec dept).
- ▣ Require teachers to contribute to their pensions more, limit days off during school year, it cost money to have subs in the classes and teachers have a lot of time off during the year, contribute more to health care costs. 80% of the school budget is salaries and benefits (for current and retired). This is where cuts should be made. It is the same in most other businesses.
- ▣ Cutting more teachers is a mistake, increasing class sizes is a mistake (teachers already overextended). Cut administrators esp. in CVU union.
- ▣ Fund raise for extra money for programs. Get full funding for kids on special ed from federal govt.
- ▣ How much more can you cut? Maybe books!! Get real!
- ▣ Consolidate with Shelburne K-8 , similar town values
- ▣ Too many sports!
- ▣ Slightly increase class size
- ▣ Look at the costs from CSSU
- ▣ One principal
- ▣ Year-round school to avoid extreme weather days (more cancelations as needed without affecting year
- ▣ One principal, 20 students per class, greatly reduce aids and other support staff, eliminate mainstreaming
- ▣ Just offer one language and start at the youngest grades Sports,arts are enrichment.
- ▣ I want to see salary and benefit cost breakouts for a change, this can be cut and must be.. Get state waiver for guidance requirements and cut.
- ▣ Salaries and benefits are the big and growing unsustainable cost drivers-this is what you have to go after. Sorry teachers but you are being compensated at 2X the state income average.
- ▣ Increase class size within reason Change the laws in Montpelier so we get to keep more of our money. And make it easier to get rid of uninspired teachers
- ▣ Salaries and benefits need to be controlled
- ▣ No further reductions-unrealistic
- ▣ Bus routes not working now-must be a better way?
- ▣ Please find a way to phase out teachers on performance, allow new or recent hires to come in. Need to review benefit package. I realize the Union is a major issue-but there are ways to weed out less effective (High salary senior staffers) Also it is time to consolidate Supervisory Districts. 3 for Chittenden County is just too much)
- ▣ I'm distressed to see arts (which the school states is taught as an academic subject and which is included in the VT standards) listed here. Likewise world language-a skill which is invaluable in an increasingly global workplace.
- ▣ Decrease principal pay/fundraisers
- ▣ Thank you for all of your effort
- ▣ Consider Administration consolidation
- ▣ 1st Eliminate tenure for overpaid and/or not needed teachers Central office should be looked at for reduction. There are a lot of people there.

Comments by community received on CCS FY12 Budget Survey

- ▣ One Principal Don't need two principals
- ▣ Consolidate with Shelburne
- ▣ Eliminate technology teaching position
- ▣ Lots of teachers not teaching - too much administration
- ▣ Find areas to consolidate with Shelburne/Hinesburg
- ▣ It doesn't have to be all or nothing. Language - have parent volunteers; sports = parent volunteers. Class size = 24 students
- ▣ Lower teacher benefits 1st
- ▣ Bus routes - look at drop off/pick up queues!
- ▣ Absolute need to increase class sizes - current state not sustainable. Taxes too high. Enrichment is "extra". How is no further reductions even an option?
- ▣ Renegotiate teacher contracts and eliminate the union! Delete in grades 1-5. Pay for outside use of facilities, gym, etc. reduce costs through consolidation and eliminating duplicative and unnecessary administrative positions, "counselors", diagnosticians, etc. etc.