

Budget Cuts Meeting Minutes

Date: April 25, 2024 **Time:** 6:00pm **Location:** Zoom/Library

Meeting led by Molly Tobias, Parent Chair. Notes taken by Jessica Hadreas
Attendees: Lindsay Bruce, Vice Chair; Remy Guitierrez, Treasurer; James Sullivan, Vice Treasurer; Shelsea Rawson, Teacher Chair

Dr. Castilleja:

Last year we were given 6.0 staff members. This year they are talking about just giving us 4.9 staffing. This would mean that middle school classes would be 30 students per teacher.

Currently we have a 6-period model with each teacher in class 5 periods and 1 planning period with 150 students. If the district does not give us the necessary, budget to keep our staffing our ratios will go to 38:1.

Two years ago, we were given 2 extra intermediate staffing so we reallocated them to make sure middle school was fully staffed and we could maintain our 6 period schedule.

We have already lost one staffing position which means we have our band teacher covering our math section. We also don't have enough staff to cover our PE section. Our current situation is not ideal, but we are making it work. If we lose any more positions, we will have to cut band/jazz band/orchestra.

As it stands, we have lost all art programs which would eliminate all electives for the middle school. This would be a great issue because parents would want to get their children into a different school that would offer electives. That would cause us to lose our K-8 standing.

Parents and the community must make noise to the district because losing one staff member at this moment means we would lose whole programs. We don't want to over crow our electives anymore then they already are.

We really don't want to discuss moving away form a 6 period day but the district is leave us with very little choice. Please make sure to reach out to your representatives and make your opinions heard.

Please keep in mind we are not the only school losing programs and staffing. The whole district is suffering so we have to speak out for all!

Comment from staff members

Matt Edwards (Band Teacher)

We are working with union reps and Dr. Castilleja to try and come up with a solutions but we can't do it alone. Don't assume teachers are not trying hard to figure this out and please don't assume everything will work out! We need to be active and tell our district that we need and want our K-8 program to survive and be funded properly.

This is the new generation of parents and you have to speak up so Madrona stays a K-8. Some of us staff member are close to retirement but we are not willing to give up the fight because we have seen first hand how great this structure works for students.

We need to make the district understand the domino effect they are causing to our school by not giving us proper funding.

Some take aways from the attendees:

- We need to make the district commit to the K-8 model.
- We serve the DHH population unlike any other school in the district.
- Maplewood is a partner we should turn to because they are having the same issues and are right beside us in this fight. It's time to unit to keep our schools K-8.
- There used to be 4 K-8 schools in the Edmonds school district but 2 did not survive budget cuts. Let's not lose any more.
- Children need different structures than what the other middle schools offer. If they get rid of Madrona and Maplewood those students would suffer.
- As parents and guardians cannot let this burden fall on the staff members. They are doing all they can but at the end of the day they need parents/guardians help to make the noise and make some changes.
- Let's make sure our DHH families are aware of what's going on because these changes would greatly affect them.
- Budget cuts in our schools are an ongoing issue. The state of Washington has consistently underfunded education. This year is an election year and let's make sure we make our voices heard and make the right choice for our children. Vote for people that will be making legislative changes.
- Budget is due to be finalized on May 15th.

Action Items:

- Show up to the May 14th district board meeting make some noise for our K-8 schools.
- If you have a child that was or is currently a Madrona student and they are willing to talk in front of people, please have them come to the May 14th meeting so their voices are heard as well.
- If you are able, please donate to the Edmonds art association endowment

- We are hoping to set up a committee that can help organize the following:
 - Email templates.
 - Phone scripts/Phone bank sessions.
 - Keep Madrona informed of any updates or changes to upcoming district meetings.
- If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please reach out to Maura [Join Madrona Grassroots 2024 Budget Advocacy Group on Slack | Slack](#)