

Subject: Request for Transparency in Response to West Orange 2025-26 Budget

Date: April 30, 2025 (Updated May 2)

Dear West Orange Board of Education and Superintendent Moore,

As parents, guardians, and community members deeply invested in the strength and future of West Orange Public Schools, we are writing to request a full and public response to a series of urgent questions related to the 2025–2026 school budget, staffing decisions, and long-term planning.

We understand the district is navigating rising costs, limited revenue flexibility, and structural underfunding from the state and federal levels. However, the scale of this year's budget cuts — alongside the lack of clarity on how decisions have been made — has left many in our community concerned, confused, and feeling unheard.

As we hope you heard during our numerous members' public comment at Monday night's board meeting, we are not just asking for explanations — we are calling for transparency and collaborative problem-solving.

At the end of last night's board meeting, we finally heard board members provide an explanation for why the state aid reductions had a larger impact on the budget than what was reflected in the preliminary budget. However, these explanations still fell short of articulating the full picture of how we ended up with such a large deficit and provided no clarity for how the cuts will be allocated across the district.

We make the following requests for the West Orange Board of Education:

- **To release the full proposed budget publicly on the WOBOE website** in advance of the May 5 meeting, so that the public have sufficient time to review and understand the implications.
- **To delay the vote until five days after the public and free release of the budget** so the public can review and assess the proposed budget.
- **To fully and directly answer the questions and concerns outlined below.**

We ask that the Board of Education and district administration **address these questions in a public forum or written response before the budget approval meeting and with the proposed budget release.**

School-by-School Impacts

- How will each school be affected by staffing reductions?
- What metrics were used to determine how many staff to cut from each school? Which programs are under review for cuts? How was input solicited from principals?
- What other cost-saving areas were considered before classroom teaching roles?

- How much money does the new middle school consolidation save the district on an annual basis? How does this compare to the cost of implementing the consolidation in such a short timeframe?

Class Size, Equity & Legal Compliance

- What are the projected class sizes by grade and school?
- How will the district ensure equitable educational experiences across our schools?
- How will the district remain compliant with IEP and 504 plans in larger classes?
- Will additional aides or supports be added to high-need classrooms?

Budget Decision-Making & Alternatives

- What consideration was given to reducing administrative, central office, or non-instructional roles before making cuts to classroom teachers?
- How much of the budget is currently allocated to out-of-district placements, and what is being done to reduce that long-term?
- Does the district qualify for cap waivers due to enrollment or cost increases? If so, why weren't they used?
- When was the BOE first notified of this deficit? What steps were taken as the shortfall grew?
- Who approved multi-year insurance contracts, and were projected cost increases reviewed?
- What is the total central office salary expenditure? What redundancies exist?
- Has there been an audit or contract review to reduce outdated, autopilot, or underused expenses (e.g., software, supplies)?
- What specific services fall under the "Support" and "Administration" categories?
- Are external organizations that use our facilities contributing to maintenance costs?
- What services fall under "Co-Curr & Athlet & Summer" [sic] and why are these costs increasing by \$70,059 while "General Ed Staff" cuts total \$340,040?

Parent & Community Involvement

- How can parents help? Which programs are most easily subsidized or supported by PTAs or donors?
- What specific actions can the community take to advocate for funding restoration?
- Will the district consider restoring assistant principals at the elementary level to help with the loss of general staff?
- Can the district publish a list of "sponsorable" or matchable programs for outside support?

Transparency & Communication

- Will the district publish itemized data on which positions and programs were cut at each school along with the rationale?
- Can the BOE commit to detailed public updates throughout the budget process, especially as decisions evolve?

Long-Term Planning

- What is the district's multi-year plan to prevent future budget crises of this scale, given that state funding is expected to continue to go down?
- What is the plan for upgrading or replacing aging buildings and infrastructure?
- Will the Board create a **Community Budget Advisory Council** to bring forward solutions and ensure community partnership moving forward?

We recognize the immense difficulty of this moment — but transparency, trust, and public collaboration are the only way forward. We ask that you treat this not only as a call for answers, but as an invitation to partner with the families who make up this district. We are ready to help.

Respectfully,

[Signatures on next page]

Gregory Civic Advocacy Group

William Donahoe, Gregory
Lauren Donahoe, Gregory
Emily Pease, Gregory
Lisa Brittan, Gregory
Erica Jannetta, Gregory
Anthony Jannetta, Gregory
Leah Kahn, Gregory
Becca Kahn, Gregory
Shawna Seals, Gregory
Faust Bowerman, Gregory
Hermela Sahlu, St Cloud
Jason Tavarez, St Cloud
Emily Brosnihan, Gregory
Jessica Gagliano, Washington
Christina Mixon-Gonsuron, Gregory
Louise Auzenne, Gregory & Roosevelt
Lauren Portada, Gregory
Matthew Kebbekus, Gregory
Joey Auzenne, Gregory & Roosevelt
Raun Harris, Gregory
Alexandria Harris, Gregory
Lauren Noonan, Gregory
Paul Noonan, Gregory
Eric Camins, Hazel
Laura Camins, Hazel
Jessica Gaeta, Kelly
Alexander Baron, Kelly
Xiomara Jimenez, Gregory
Daniel Jimenez, Gregory
Meghan Heide, Gregory & Roosevelt
David Heide, Gregory & Roosevelt
Jessica Vyas, Gregory, Edison, WOHS
Kyle Vvas, Gregory, Edison, WOHS
Janna Hawkins, Gregory
Danielle Karr, Gregory
Marissa Krakowitch, Gregory
Alyssa Bowen, Gregory
Abby Cheung, Gregory
Stephen Cheung, Gregory
Kiara Lo, Hazel
Brian Lo, Hazel
Denese Longsworth, Hazel
Stephen Longsworth, Hazel
Meredith Mullen, Gregory
Chase Anzalone, Gregory
Katie Magee, Gregory
Dan Magee, Gregory
Richard Butterworth, Gregory
Vanessa Ramirez

Kimaya Vyas-Herdman, Hazel
Theo Herdman, Hazel
Chelsey Cary, Hazel
Pedro Corcega, Hazel
Rebecca Myers, Hazel
Oswald Myers, Hazel
Ericka Ribeiro-Chacon, Redwood
Fernando Chacon, Redwood
Jennifer Taylor, Mt. Pleasant
Aaron Taylor, Mt. Pleasant
Eden Kyse, Kelly & Edison
Tim Kyse, Kelly & Edison
Kamisha Downing, Redwood
Erin Dana-Sterling, Gregory
Matthew Sterling, Gregory
Sharda Rogers, Redwood
Kenny Rogers, Redwood
Kavita Ramcharan, Gregory
Pamela Johnson, Redwood
Kate Langlois, Gregory
David Langlois, Gregory
Anne Betkowski, Edison, WOHS
Catherine Mitchell Zelmanovich, Mt. Pleasant
Alisa Zelmanovich, Mt. Pleasant
Scott Aaronson, Redwood
Sarah Fischler, Hazel
Francis Fischler, Hazel
Kailey Spencer, Gregory
Marc DePoe, Gregory, WOHS
Adam Jacobs, Gregory
Nicole Dougherty, Edison
Keith Dougherty, Edison
Lauryn Weinshank, Edison & WOHS
Matthew Weinshank, Edison & WOHS
Linda Nicholas, Redwood
Derrick Yuen, Gregory
Joan Bosisio, Edison
Eric Henry, Edison
Christine Chiodo, Gregory
Ed Chiodo, Gregory
Huseina Sulaimanee, Gregory
Michael Smolanoff, Gregory
Alexander Trautner, Gregory
Jennifer Hughes, Gregory
Brendan Griffith, Gregory
Nicole Roberts-Eversley, Gregory
Christina Ramos, Gregory
Jose L. Lopez, Gregory
Alwin Eversley, Gregory
Dan and Rachael Mueller, Gregory

Cara Piccerilli, Gregory
Aamer Bajwa, Gregory
Stephanie Dutan, Washington
Darlene Heller, Gregory
Marija Cahoon Hanson, Washington
Eric Hanson, Washington
Eva Marin, Hazel
Joseph Lucchetta, Hazel
Thea Sachs, Hazel
James Sachs, Hazel
Rosemary Collazo, Hazel & Kelly
Katie Butterworth, Gregory
Jill Harris, Gregory
Jeff Harris, Gregory
Mary Manzo Lee, Gregory
Stephen Lee, Gregory
Jackie George, Gregory
Jim George, Gregory
Kat Espiritu-Philson, Gregory
Maggie Jerger, Gregory & BMELC
Maia Raposo, Gregory
Brian Dochney, Gregory
Dave Glynn, Gregory
Kimya Pitt-Woolridge
Susanne Madani, St. Cloud
Leslie Turner, Gregory
Tierney Norris, Gregory
Greg Norris, Gregory
Miriam Fager, Gregory
Jason Fager, Gregory
Emily DeSena, Gregory
Paul DeSena, Gregory
Kristin Arno, Gregory
Dan McKenzie, Gregory
Jill Wimmer, Gregory
Max Frankel, Gregory
Katy Otte, Gregory
David Otte, Gregory
Klara Lindberg, Gregory
Jordan Kramer, Gregory
Nicole Hooks, Gregory
Hailey Barton, St. Cloud
Syed Sulaiman Hasany, Gregory
Ferwah Rizvi, Gregory
Sabrina George, Gregory & Roosevelt
Branson George, Gregory & Roosevelt
Jamie Hardy, Hazel
Kurt Brondo, Hazel
Nicole LeBlanc, Gregory & Edison
Laura Hartman, Hazel

Seth Jabour, Gregory
Kelly Jabour, Gregory
Elena Tedeschi, Gregory
Hayden Marrero, Gregory
Makeda Marshall-NeSmith, Gregory
Margaret Corhan, Edison
Debbie Rappaport, Edison
Marili Pérez, Redwood
Justin Grimm-Greenblatt, Redwood
Margarita Sáenz, Redwood
Kerryann Abbey, St. Cloud & Edison
Jenni & Colin Gilroy, Gregory
Natalie Dickerson, Gregory
Jason Hutt, Gregory
Rachel Rice Ackman, Redwood
Caitlin Ursini, Redwood
Nick Ursini, Redwood
Shawn Roberson, Redwood
Leslie Roberson, Redwood
Jasmine and John Kielb, Gregory
Jennifer Consilvio, Gregory & WOHS
Catherine Kopil, Hazel
Adam Fabian, Gregory
Erin Fabian, Gregory
Gabriella Newrock, Hazel
Jennifer Rose Starwalt, Hazel
Troy Starwalt, Hazel
Diane Chanco, Redwood
Kelly Espinoza Redwood
Gerardo Espinoza, Redwood
Matthew McKenna, Gregory
Kimberly Tarr, Gregory
Andrea Bassin, St. Cloud
Kimberly Tait, Gregory
Tamika Gabriel, Gregory
Jenny Zurita, Redwood
Chanelle James, Gregory
Rebecca Wood, Hazel
Darren Nurse, Gregory
Leigh Haus, Gregory & Roosevelt
Lourenso Ramautar, Gregory & Roosevelt
John Gagliano, Washington
Kristin Cruz, Mt Pleasant & Liberty
Traci Rodriguez, Liberty & Washington
Moses Rodriguez, Liberty Washington
Andrew Lamberson, future Gregory (UPK)
Heather Price, future Gregory (UPK)
Christine Clemens, Gregory
Randy Clemens, Gregory
Tricia Smith, Redwood

Christopher Hartman, Hazel
Lee Ann Cherry, Gregory
Chauncey Cherry, Gregory
Christina Montuori, Gregory
Angel Escalante, Gregory
Yajaira Vasco, Kelly
Lucy Liow, Gregory
Marcella Clatworthy, Kelly
Nicholas Clatworthy, Kelly
Catherine Rosetti, Gregory
Michael Hodum, Gregory
Elizabeth Loerke, Hazel
Preston Gisch, Hazel
Krista Punsalan, Hazel & Roosevelt
Katie Stevens, Gregory
Alex Stevens, Gregory
Caroline Brindzak, Gregory
Viliam Brindzak, Gregory
Lennard Visman, Gregory
Ashleigh Rainey, Gregory
Lauren Zoltick, Gregory
Catherine Fagan, Gregory
Samuel Finesurrey, Gregory
Scott Holt, Gregh Beckett, Gregory
Jill Glynn, Gregory
Stacy Firestone, Hazel
Adam Firestone, Hazel
Rachel Engel, Gregory
Adam Engel, Gregory
Laura Corsetto, St Cloud
Josh Young, St Cloud
Yorleny Brizuela, Washington
Anya Estrov, Gregory
Ashlyn Bergman, St. Cloud
Anna Kharina, Gregory
Adam Shumsky, Gregory
Shalon Cruz, Redwood & Liberty
Kurt Dirige, Washington/BMELC
Elbereth Fernandez, Washington/BMELC
Nastaran Shahrokhi, Gregory
Ellen Martinez, St. Cloud
Fernando Martinez, St. Cloud
Diana Trautner, Gregory
Ximena Greenhouse, Gregory
Paul Greenhouse, Gregory
Jennifer Monzon, Hazel
Abbye Fogel, Gregory
Kathleen Monich, Future Gregory (UPK)
Al-Nesha Jones-Petite, Hazel & Roosevelt
Eli'sha Petite, Hazel & Roosevelt

Chandra Sakajani, Edison
Christina Brown, Gregory
Lamar Brown, Gregory
Heather Jordan, Gregory, Edison & Roosevelt
Grayson Jordan, Gregory, Edison & Roosevelt
Sarah Traci, Gregory
Daniel Traci, Gregory
Anna Karbashyan, Gregory
Marne O'brien, Redwood
Janejai Sererat, Edison
Cornelius Maher, Edison
Kathleen O'Rourke, Gregory
Christopher Pierznik, Redwood & Liberty
Jennifer Abounader-Ciesla, Hazel
Andrew Ciesla, Hazel
Pamela Norris, Edison
Oliver Crawshaw, Edison
Jackie Hendy, Edison & WOHS
Jeff Cureton, Edison & WOHS
Jennifer Jones, Gregory & Edison
Andrew Kessler, Gregory & Edison
Matt Dragon, Roosevelt
Ninoska Grant, Washington
Marvin Ruiz, Washington
Khimberlly Nunez Grant, Washington
Jacob Grant, Washington
An Lu, Mount Pleasant
Anna Cabigting, Mount Pleasant
Lance Krakowitch, Gregory
Piotr Kuczynski, Gregory & UPK
Bethsaida Olds, Gregory
Megan Melamed, Hazel
Alex Abell, Hazel
Lesley Radens, Gregory
Seth Poiley, Gregory
Nikki Maloney, Gregory & Edison
Andrea Ramirez, Hazel and Roosevelt
Carlos Turizo, Hazel and Roosevelt
Sarah Barrett, Redwood
Diogo Martins, Redwood
Amy Singer, Gregory
Nadia Gabaud, Washington & UPK
Evens Benoit, Washington & UPK
Kera Nyemb-Diop, Redwood & UPK
Jimmy A Ramcharan, Gregory
Elizabeth Shiflett, St. Cloud & Roosevelt
Carolina Marion, Future Gregory (UPK)
Julie Bookbinder, Roosevelt & Gregory
Theo Herdman, Hazel & Roosevelt

Kimberly Moye, Gregory
Monica Jean Baptiste, Gregory and UPK
Randi Cohen, Gregory and UPK
Danny Cohen, Gregory and UPK
Nathalie Lemos Mt. Pleasant
Christopher Lemos Mt. Pleasant
Natalie Nardini, St Cloud & WOHS
Michelle W. Malkin, Redwood
Michael Beach, Gregory and Roosevelt
Michelle Beach, Gregory & Roosevelt
Erika Espinoza, Washington & Liberty
Maribel Sanchez, Washington
Alice Siegal, future Gregory
Matthew Siegal, future Gregory
Sonja Seglin, Redwood
Jonah Krivant, Gregory
Gina Spenillo, Washington
Ysusf Williams, Washington
Laura Goffinet, Edison
Katherine De Los Santos, WOHS & Washington
Christian De Los Santos, WOHS & Washington
David Ochoa, WOHS
Rina Ochoa-Godoy, WOHS
David Ansvananda, Hazel
Consuelo Rojas, Washington & Roosevelt
Julie Reiber, Hazel and Edison
Candi Kreinbrink, Gregory
Rachel & Greg Tombari, Gregory
Brian Carvajal, Gregory
Alicia Kinloch, Gregory Elementary
Darren Ursino, Gregory Elementary
Liseth Zúñiga Washington
Diego Córdor Washington
Virginia Soler Washington
David Allan-Matheson, Redwood/ Liberty
Hajnalka Allan-Matheson, Redwood/ Liberty
Andrea Ace, Gregory
Julie John, Roosevelt and Kelly
Andrew Keshner, Roosevelt / Edison
Britt Keshner, Roosevelt / Edison
Dylan Scalora, Roosevelt/Hazel
Heather Estonactoc, Redwood
Eli'sha E Petite Hazel/Roosevelt
Al-Nesha T. Jones-Holiday Hazel/Roosevelt
Jaime Pineda, Edison/Liberty/WOHS
Laurie Hart, Gregory/Roosevelt
Jason Hart, Gregory/Roosevelt
Alana Brown, Gregory

Brittney Major, Gregory
Dawn White, Gregory
Virginie Mariés, Roosevelt & Gregory
Michael Liskow, Roosevelt & Gregory
Shannon Riccioni, Washington & Liberty
Mary Byrne, Washington
John Byrne, Washington & Liberty
Justin Eagle, Gregory
Carrie Eagle, Gregory
Sonia Gallardo, Gregory
Adam Jacobs, Redwood & Edison
Mehwish Qureshi, Mount Pleasant
Donna White, Kelly & Gregory
Monica Brown, Washington
Kendra Vernon, UPK, future Mount Pleasant
Brandon Vernon, UPK, future Mount Pleasant
Happy McPartlin, Gregory
Brad Nacht, Gregory
Radhames Rodriguez, WOHS, Washington
Erica Wnek, Future Gregory
Patricia Krakow, Gregory & Edison
Kristin Catalfamo, Gregory
Atara Bernheim, Gregory
Larisa Daiga, Redwood
J.Wayman Henry Redwood
Maggie Hindia, Gregory & Edison
Sherif Mokbel, Gregory & Edison
Deborah Alejandra Popowski, Gregory
Mike Biette, Gregory
Cheryl Bays, UPK, future Gregory
Samantha Bays, UPK, future Gregory
Keryn Karlsen, Redwood Elementary
Alexander Karlsen, Redwood Elementary
Madine Despeine-Udoh, WOHS, St. Cloud
Jayme James, Redwood Elementary
Erin Assenza, Gregory Elementary
Michael Assenza, Gregory Elementary
Britt & Josh Zimmerman, Gregory & Edison
Kristin Russell, Gregory & Edison
Melissa Stanard, Hazel
Richard Stanard, Hazel
Renee Bovenzi, Gregory & Edison
Francesco Longenecker, Gregory & Edison
Sarah Bednarcik, Redwood
Matt Bertram, Hazel
Kylie McGinnis, Hazel
Ilene Cohen, Concerned WO resident
Laura Noesner, concerned WO resident/future WOHS
Ryan and Marlena Oden, Gregory

Harold Brown, Gregory
Bianca Blanco-Jimenez, Gregory
Harold Jimenez, Gregory
Kiarah Moore, Washington
Patrick Paragas, Washington
Suzanne Forgione, former Washington
School teacher
Angela Teixeira, Redwood
Nataki Williams, Redwood

Jacquelyn Visman, Gregory
Lennard Visman, Gregory
Jeffrey Conrad, Redwood
Alecia Foote-Skeete, washington/WOHS
Shani Porter, Redwood
Jeryl Nalupta, Mt. Pleasant and Liberty
Vincent Nalupta, Mt. Pleasant and Liberty
Alisa Zelmanovich, Mt. Pleasant
Mitchell Zelmanovich, Mt. Pleasant