

**CAN DO Budget Session**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2009**

- Approximately 40 attendees
- Presentations from parents, teacher, community member, District 2 PTA Chair
- Breakout sessions held to discuss the groups' concerns and priorities, what we need to do, what we need to learn. Top responses summarized below:

Concerns & Priorities	What we need to learn	What we can do
Class size	What areas of District budget are top-heavy or padded and could be cut? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What are essential parts of HQ budget (custodian, cafeteria) and what are padded (consultants, administrative)?</li> </ul>	Educate ourselves about budget and issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attend school budget meetings</li> <li>▪ Learn the issues</li> <li>▪ Learn the decisions to be made</li> <li>▪ Identify ways to sway decisions to the outcomes we want</li> </ul>
Potential teacher cuts; loss of good teachers from school and from the district.	What are the rules around fundraising? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What can we do?</li> <li>▪ What is not allowed?</li> <li>▪ Can we post goals? (i.e., we need \$400 for stamps; we have raised \$300 so far)</li> </ul>	Go to meetings – at school, district, state levels. Split up efforts of our community between school-wide, city-wide and state-wide efforts.
Quality of education with budget cuts	Calendar of events we could attend	Build coalitions – parents have the power!
Maintenance of programs, such as art, that will likely be impacted by budget cuts	If there are cuts, how do we post what we will lose and how much money we need to fill that gap?	Talk about what we know/understand from the meeting with others in this school and other schools.
Want voice to be heard	How can we come to an agreement school-wide and city-wide on priorities and what could be cut?	Database of parents or student interns to tap into for instructors for enrichment programs such as art, P.E., music
Prop 13	Is the headquarter budget public?	Mobilize parents from each classroom.
Short-term versus long-term political goals	More about the state budget	Learn more about the state budget
How to get more DFES families involved in the PTA	What are other schools/PTAs doing?	Decide what is our rallying call
How can we get more involvement from everyone in our community?	Are other groups doing the same thing? Are there citywide PTA meetings?	Create You Tube video
Risk of obesity if P.E. program is cut... kids need to exercise.	What can we learn from the PPS website?	Write letters, make calls (to legislators, community members, etc.)
Parents/families fleeing to private schools due to public school situation.	What are other districts doing?	Start a rotation ala "Traffic Duty" to get DFES parents to attend Board of Education meetings. Have a meeting "duty" schedule by class, with representative(s) from two classrooms to go to each budget meeting.
School closures	Can we use PPS to help get the information out?	Fundraising, as an alternative to fleeing to private schools.
	Can we use You Tube to meet our goals? And, if so, how?	Pressure on elected officials city and statewide. Exercise our voting power.
	Track voting records of elected officials versus voting histories	Mobilize to involve incoming parents to the public schools.
	How can we hold the district to their bargain?	Go directly to corporate sponsors for endowments, donations, tax write-offs.
		Show up! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be a body (to show we care)</li> <li>▪ Encourage people to sign up to attend events at district and/or state levels.</li> </ul>
		Find/define what role you would like to have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attend meetings</li> <li>▪ Write letters</li> <li>▪ Lead</li> </ul>
		Elect a representative to show up at the budget meeting.