

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
<p>..ROBOTICS CLUB</p> <p>1.Where does funding for performing arts show up in the budget? 2.Why are there additional requests for funding for athletics but not performing arts, like orchestra, theatre, and chorus? 3.Why is transportation for athletics being considered as a CSD expense but chorus and theatre had to cover their own transportation without CSD funds? Note: Decatur Performs paid over \$13K in transportation costs this past year! 4.What type of funding has been set aside for much needed updates/maintenance of the PAC? Storage, repairs, upgrades to equipment? 5. What about the chronic leaking roof at DHS?</p>	<p>None</p> <p>With the volatility of the economy, including the housing market, I am very uncomfortable with you eating up the reserves at the rate of 8.9%. This is not fiscally responsible.</p>
<p>1) Compensation for IEP meetings that extend beyond contract time, 2) a raise for our fabulous paraprofessionals, and 3) 1-2 additional Behavior Specialists (e.g., Janet Montgomery is a wonderful example of years ago).</p>	<p>..</p>
<p>1) fully fund teacher, leader and staff PD with stipends and subs. 3) pay every full time employee a living wage. in Decatur/Atlanta that is over \$15/hr. Even brand new assistant teachers at College Heights, janitors, bus drivers and cafeteria staff. if we stand behind equity and anti-racism, we cannot pay people less than an actual living wage. 3) don't leave important money on the table through a homestead tax exemption that still provides tax relief to higher income seniors with high value properties. until we have met every academic and equity goal for every child and teacher, we should be leveraging ever penny of local, state and federal funding. you cannot justify budget cuts when you don't secure all local dollars needed. that's not fair to the children in this district today. higher income seniors do not need a local tax break. *also living wage for all staff</p>	<p>12345678910111213 "Hire a teacher to support addressing Culturally Responsive Pedagogy with classroom teachers"- Maybe if funds were unlimited but probably not best use of funds available at this time.</p>
<p>1) High dose tutoring for after school (one of the best academic interventions available); 2) Lengthening the school day and reducing the number of school breaks (which presumably would require more teachers)</p>	<p>1) As reflected by my ratings, the absolute priority for delivering high quality, equitable education, in my opinion, is to focus on hiring and retaining skilled and compassionate teachers and support staff, who feel appreciated and enthusiastic about their work with students. Perhaps CSD could be a model school system in recognizing the key importance of investing in its teachers and support staff. 2) I don't have a picture of the gaps in teaching faculty and staff, but it seems like Language 2, especially Spanish, has been taking a big toll in the last couple of years, with less hours in the curriculum, lesser trained or under-supported teachers, leading to a lower quality Spanish education. 3) I could not comment on the reserved balance rate, as I do not understand how / when the balance is used. 4) I do worry about the emphasis on highly paid central admin positions when there is a shortage of (good) teachers / student-facing staff in the schools 5) Thank you to all the parents who have put this survey together and those who have answered too!</p>
<p>2 things: #1) Budget for providing opportunities for service learning & community building for our students.</p> <p>#2) Our athletics coaches at the high school are extremely underpaid in terms of experience, skill set, and time given to their teams. We need to pay our head coaches at least 3x what they are making or we will continue to lose great coaches (either to other schools/jobs or they just won't coach when coaching stipend does not cover their own childcare needs etc). Athletics is a huge reason why many of our kids are motivated and engaged in school. Most if not all of the coaches do this in care for the kids, and we take advantage of their caring hearts by only paying them \$2000 ballpark figure for endless hours of work.</p> <p>#3) courtesy services for our teachers - teachers may have flexibility in June & July (if they do not work an extra job) but they do not have much flexibility during the school days. We need to provide perks for their job - for example a concierge like they have at CHOA - where employees can have someone pick up dry cleaning, or drop off a package at post office, or have their car washed. These things are small but make a huge difference in the life of a teacher.</p>	<p>A budget that would offer more training, workshops and professional development for teachers and staff across the district.</p>
<p>A budget to support salary scale increase for paraprofessionals across the district.</p>	<p>A lot of the items above seem like they were already funded. Why were they targeted for the chopping block and then needed to be refunded? DHS has always paid for AP and IB tests so why was that cut?</p>

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<p>A consultant who can assist the City in pairing down the CSD budget (particularly admin costs) so that taxes can be reduced.</p>	<p>A teacher shortage is eminent. We need to keep the teachers we have. Pay them. Give them planning days. Stop asking them to keep changing major grading and/or curriculum changes with no time to prepare. Figure out what it will take to retain substitute teachers.</p>
<p>A DHS dashboard that is released weekly, has dedicated sections for Administration, and Schools. All information regarding those entities is updated there regularly and you keep copy of previous versions available for lookup. This would be the one source of truth for everyone in knowing the latest, no more searching around for information and being bombarded with different text messages or emails. Enough of that!</p>	<p>Academic competing teams - Trial Court, Debate, Robotics- all are way underfunded compared to others. This extra circular work prepares kids for success in the workforce. While I am a parent of a student athlete - and I support the athletes budget - academic competing teams require and deserve far greater CSD support.</p> <p>I am happy discuss this further - Roger F Krause, MA, JD</p>
<p>A full-time orchestra teacher for the high school or, at the least, a part-time orchestra teacher at the high school; additional counseling staff to assist students in preparing for the post-high school world, ie, pre-college counselors, career counselors, etc. (I understand that the proposed budget includes "counselors" but was not certain what type of counselor that encompassed); fund transportation/buses for the performing arts students, not just for athletes.</p>	<p>adding administrative lines is not the way to solve our DEI problems</p>
<p>A line item commitment from the district to universally fund preschool tuition at College Heights, for children from low-income families residing in the CSD community. This commitment is actionable and directly aligns to Strategic Goal #1 and Strategic Goal #4. For CSD to improve opportunities, access, and classroom environments so all scholars can achieve high academic results, equitable representation in advanced classes, and equitable discipline outcomes, an investment in our youngest community members must be made. Early learning opportunities shape long-term development and all children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society.</p>	<p>Additional comments:</p>
<p>A mental health hangout for high schoolers</p>	<p>Administration is already bloated for a school system the size of CSD. Class sizes are large. Our hard earned monies should be spent on actually educating our students not on settling lawsuits/paying exorbitant consultant fees for common sense solutions, and/or more people to sit around at headquarters contributing little to our children's education. Stop being in love with your image and actually do your jobs!</p>
<p>A program to support tracking or "ability grouping"</p>	<p>All students transportation needs to be paid for by the district. All Fine Arts programs budgets need a significant increase! A part time accompanist needs to be hired with benefits for the chorus department. An acoustical shell needs to be purchased for the music department. The sheet music budget needs to be increased significantly for all three organizations.</p>
<p>A School Administration Manager at College Heights ECLC: a dedicated position that would focus solely on the administrative duties of school-allowing the Principal to increase time spent on tasks related to instructional leadership. This position would prioritize and manage time consuming management responsibilities specific to the needs of CHECLC. This support would allow the principal to increase interactions around instruction with teachers, students, and decision-making groups in the building and with community partners. Currently CHECLC is the only school in CSD that does not have an allocated Assistant Principal position. The current CHECLC student population is ~250.</p>	<p>Any additional money in the budget should go directly to activities and programs that impact students and teachers and not to more admin.</p>
<p>A wider variety of healthier lunch choices</p>	<p>Appreciate this survey, thank you. Note that it was VERY hard to complete the ranking task, many options were off the screen and hard to keep 13 items ordered. Quite frustrating, and i nearly gave up. Might impact your results.</p>
<p>Activities are not funded to the level that they need to be to be equitable. All activities should be able to submit a request for funding -- there is no central way to make this happen. We need to fund all activities equitably not just those that are GHSA sports. Parents are often asked to give money for coaching supplements because the coaches are not given adequate compensation otherwise. We need more activities for ALL students to feel like they are a part of CSD. The "booster club" model is not working for all groups.</p>	<p>As a COD tax payer, I believe it's our School Boards fiduciary duty to keep CSD budget in check and keep the reserves at the state recommended level. CSD budget is the largest expense for COD residents. Over \$1M is being requested by the Superintendent for administrative oversight and programs that do not support the entire student population. To tap into the reserves at the level requested is an extreme overreach of the Superintendent's authority.</p>
<p>Activities at the middle and high school are 0 funded and we really need more of them not less. Austerity cuts made it so parents had to pick up all of the fees and cover students who couldn't pay for things as well. It's very difficult to find out this information until you are in the weeds of it but everything from musical theatre to band to science bowl to swimming has hidden costs that preclude some students from participating.</p>	<p>As a family member to a teacher, parent, and community resident who works with a lot of CSD families I have never seen stress so high and morale so low with reason after reason after reason shared and observed that is burning out teachers such as unwise decisions around grading that are gutting the IB programs of csd, confusing families, and exponentially adding to teacher workload; lack of transparency around budget and spending; lack of support and lack of accountability.</p>

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Additional administration at BHMS including instructional coaches and assistant principal	Asking for additional admin positions and central office staff seems to be a waste of our tax dollars and funds. There are way too many directors, Chiefs of ..., coordinators, and asst/assoc. superintendents. It feels like we are right back where we were with Dr. Dude, with the Superintendent working way less days than other area superintendents, with WAY TOO MANY fluff positions at central office, and not enough focus on the schools. CSD can no longer taut that our students are the top priority and is no longer competitive with teachers. We used to have to turn good people away that wanted to work here, now we have high turnover, and not enough teachers and paras and school counselors to truly give our students what they need and make them the priority. Counting the overindulgence at Central Office as a cost per student expenditure is an insult.
Additional AP and honors level courses offered to freshmen and sophomore students	CoD residents pay ridiculously high taxes. Why is there not enough money? How are other small systems (Marietta City) able to compensate teachers at a high rate?
Additional AP in secondary levels	Compensation for new ParaPro positions is ridiculous...you get what you pay for.
Additional athletic teams at middle school level	Competitive pay to make quality hires. Kids are falling behind due to hiring inexperienced or low rated teachers.
Additional foreign language education	Consider putting schools back to K-5, FAVE is not a good experience for the majority of students. Relationships are key, which you can develop at the lower elementary schools and almost nowhere else. Special education and equity are huge issues. Please pay attention.
additional funding for art/theater	CSD already has far too much administration and additional resources only distract from teachers doing their jobs. Curriculum changes (like new reading programs every few years in lower elementary) are already too frequent. While important, culturally responsive pedagogy is only a recent hot topic and one incident a year (in a system our size) doesn't make it a systemic issue at CSD.
Additional funding for arts programming at CSD	CSD could use a crisis response playbook and communications best practices - stop turning problems that are serious but circumscribed into fire storms that require remedies like reassignment. Not sure that requires much funding, but some approach that ceases hamstringing an otherwise excellent school system with persistent management-facilitated social crises. Good luck.

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<p>Address sub shortage by 1. Increase sub pay to be competitive with APS. 2. Create and fund floater sub positions relative to the number of classes operating at the same time, and prioritize these based on actual need instead of "being fair to all the schools" by giving everyone one in house sub (i.e. Beacon Hill needs significantly more sub positions filled than any of the elementary schools).</p> <p>Full transparency for any and all expenditures on third party services related to legal and PR connected with public incidents (recent racial slur, Dude departure, Niamhas lawsuit)</p> <p>Compensate sponsors/coaches of extracurricular activities on a tiered system based on how much beyond contract time each event requires. Debate, for example, has a yearlong season with practices multiple times a week and full weekend commitments throughout most of the school year, and impacts more students with less expense and fewer staff than many varsity sports, which are paid 2-3x more than debate coaches for much shorter seasons. It would require a few hours of research to determine the approximate time commitment in hours each coaching position requires, and create more equitable compensation bands based on that.</p> <p>There should be a total hiring freeze, and in fact, downsizing, of staff at the Wilson Center. Positions have been created that have little to no value or impact on what happens in the classroom with students. The organizational chart of the central office is cluttered with completely unnecessary positions that are a waste of taxpayers' funds. The fact that the recent racial slur incident has been met with the suggestion to hire even more central office staff is absurd. We should be using those funds to have enough teachers, subs, and paras to meet the diverse needs of students in the classroom before considering hiring anyone else at central office.</p> <p>The building and grounds at Beacon hill need serious attention and only spending the appropriate amount to address it will make it better. This has been well documented in a recent conversation with Mr. Thomas.</p> <p>The behavior at Beacon Hill needs support to be addressed. We need more administrators in the building and more adult presence in general, as teachers cannot monitor all the hallways and teach their classes at the same time. We also need to address the lack of SRO at Beacon Hill.</p>	<p>CSD does not need any more staff at central office without more specific justification. There is very little evidence provided to support the additional requests. For example, it might be helpful to know what the utilization/service rates for current counselors/therapists employed by the school system. It also might be helpful to understand what exactly is underfunded in the IB and AP programs (and how this affects implementation of these programs) instead of just a statement that they are underfunded. The communication of these budget requests is difficult to interpret and like a lot of CSD communications requires a lot of digging on the community's part to get to relevant information (and raises more questions than provides answers).</p>
<p>After school program resources</p>	<p>CSD expenditures increased from \$61.5 million (5,250 students) in the 2016/2017 school year to a budget of \$86.1 million (5,656 students) for the current 2022/2023 school year. That's a \$24.6 million or 40% increase in just 6 years! Expenditures per student have increased from \$11,714 to \$15,222 (30% increase) in the same time period. This is completely unsustainable! It's feels as if Dr. Dude and Dr. Fehrman have tried to replicate the large central office bureaucracies that exist in much larger districts with much larger budgets. Our little tiny school system just cannot afford to hire expensive consultants and new admins with six-figure salaries plus benefits every time an issue arises. CSD needs a central office and administrative hiring freeze while it evaluates the necessity of each and every central office and administrative position. We need to restructure for efficiency. We need to quit raising taxes (yes, it was still a 6.25% increase last year even though the millage rate was not increased) and learn to live within our means, particularly is the Board is going to continue to approve the senior tax exemption. Whatever resources we do have, the priority needs to be the teachers and Counselors that actually work with the students.</p>

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An increased budget for school health. They are getting low on supplies and having to wait for things like Epi pens and AED supplies as well as bandaids, gauze and gloves. Adding dollars to that would be a minimal cost instead of school health being an after thought	CSD has already spent an enormous amount of time and money on DEI based trainings. After all of that training, that we've found ourselves in a predicament that requires a third party investigation should be telling of the worthiness of more trainings. Rather, leadership should hold staff members (on all levels) accountable for implementing the practices learned in the trainings. Ask the staff who should be learning from system directors if they're getting valuable information and tools before you hire more people to do that. The answer cannot constantly be that we need to hire more people to manage. Further, if we want what is best for ALL students (which is what the new vision/mission statements are heavily claiming), we *must* look at evidence-based research conclusions that class sizes matter. Countless studies on this have been done, and you'll be hard-pressed to find a classroom educator who disagrees. If this is believed to be true, then we obviously need to hire more teachers and paras. No more administrators, no more trainings, no more programs - just hire enough quality teachers and paras to ensure class sizes that benefit ALL students. This includes special education teachers. It is not best practice to literally squish all of the students who require services into one classroom simply because we won't hire another teacher to serve students in another class. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this topic.
Anti-racism/implicit bias training	CSD has lost sight that it is a SCHOOL system, we are not an ACTIVISM group! WE must making education, athletics, and the arts our priority while keeping children safe. Otherwise home values will go down and more families will leave. Please steady this ship around education, please support the teachers and what they want for grading, please bolster the IB diploma and make it accessible to ALL our CSD students by offering co-teachers!
Any training required of staff that is outside of workday hours.	CSD needs to focus more on the arts and academics and less on athletics
Arts and performance items as well as specials classes (art, music, PE, etc)	CSD needs to get everything straightened out -- our test scores are dropping, kids are falling behind academically, socially and emotionally. We have the means and we pay astronomical taxes here in Decatur, but the organization and communication in this district has left many people leaving for other school districts or private schools.
Arts funding for theater productions as well as orchestra and band performances	CSD needs to learn to live within its means and stop increasing the millage rate. Our taxes are increasingly too high and need to flatten.
Arts funding--especially transportation	CSD needs to stay in budget. CSD should not burden the taxpayers for additional programs and staff; all funds should be allocated to CSD providing a safe learning environment for all children with a curriculum based on what is required by the State of Georgia.
Arts program	CSD needs to stop wasting money on administrative positions, especially equity specialists. They are worthless!!! In fact, your survey should be asking who should CSD fire. The first people on that list should be equity specialists, and then Human Resources staff. You all are ruining our academic achievement and reputation by focusing on everything other than educating our kids. Also, please fire the current superintendent. She is clearly incompetent. The way she handled the recent issue with the teacher who used an inappropriate word in class was embarrassing. She is not a leader. She clearly cannot manage. Finally, stop having teachers and staff be able to send their kids to CSD schools for free. This is unfair to taxpaying residents as resources are being spent on kids that are not city residents. Thank you for doing this survey. If the parents don't stop the madness that is happening with our schools then no one will.
Arts--visual, performing, etc.	CSD's one-size-fits-all approach is causing us to hemorrhage students as parents pull out both gifted and special needs students to get their educational needs met. A single classroom teacher can't be expected to address many levels of student educational need, which has been especially exaggerated during and after the pandemic. When I volunteer in the classroom, I see the kids who can't read being ignored in favor of the kids who can, and the kids who are ahead of their peers being ignored in favor of the kids who are on grade level. It's demoralizing for these children.
Arts, music, performing arts, maintenance of PAC auditorium. Fund bus drivers so we have drivers to take all students to events not just athletics.	Current CSD after school programs can only accept about one-third of students who have registered. The priority should be teacher/staff hire and retention.
Athletic Fields	Cut the fat & get back to the basics. More teachers, fewer administrators. Knowing how to read & having access to mental health support/post-high school planning (counselors) is key to equity....NOT more pricey equity admin staff. Also, can you stop with the politically charged/divisive buzz words in your communications?

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Athletic programs	Decatur district office is top heavy for such a small district. Please focus on supporting schools and district infrastructure rather than adding new administrator positions
Athletic programs	Defund all DEI and social justice initiatives and classes - every penny; that's not why I send my kids to CSD schools (and why we have chosen to leave the system next year for our 2 older children). Instead focus on actual academic success. There is too much emphasis on incorporating things into school and PTA programs that are better to left to the parents and families. Too much about the school system here feels like a leftist indoctrination camp.
Athletic programs, programs to prevent bullying , money for netsk detectors like Atlanta public schools, financial aide for students to access athletic gear, social activities, etc to main equality	DHS is woefully understaffed in terms of guidance counselors and social workers. Additionally, CSD desperately needs to address its policies around 504 plans. As currently implemented across the district, CSD policies do not comply with federal law and regulations and are subject to a federal class action lawsuit. This will have more of a positive impact on equity than hiring additional administrative staff into vague roles that are removed from the delivery of actual instruction to students. Please, for years and years, families have been sounding the alarm on the gross failure to deliver accommodations to students with disabilities in the system.
Autism and dyslexia specialist	Do not raise the millage rate for taxpayers. Our rate is already higher than most school districts in the nation. And each year the CSD tax revenues go up substantially without a millage increase due to increased house value assessments and increased value of homes ie tear down and re-build \$million home. This is more than enough money to run the school district. Remove excess administration costs to get to a balanced budget.
Band and orchestra. Please fund them more!	Do not spend money that is not already in the budget for all the recommendations from the study concerning the teacher who used the N-word. That does nothing to help the teachers and students actual education, it simply adds administrative overhead costs in a time when the district is saying it does not have enough funds to pay for things that directly help the students, things the district has historically paid for, i.e. PSAT costs, etc.
Basic Academics	Do the schools have clothing closets as well as food and toiletries pantries for students whose families are under resourced and would not otherwise have access to these necessities that impact their school success? If not, I suggest funding to establish these in each school.
Basic missing equipment used in sports, as identified by coaches.	don't leave important money on the table through a homestead tax exemption that still provides tax relief to higher income seniors with high value properties. until we have met every academic and equity goal for every child and teacher, we should be leveraging ever penny of local, state and federal funding. you cannot justify budget cuts when you don't secure all local dollars needed. that's not fair to the children in this district today. higher income seniors do not need a local tax break.
Better athletic facilities, Compensation for teachers for more student clubs/activities before/after school.	Don't raise the millage rate. Cut CSD administration salaries.
Better school lunches - the current ones are not nutritionally appropriate for growing children. They also cost more than the average public school lunch.	Employees Appreciation luncheon/brunch once a month as a thank you for teachers.
Budget priority should be focused on teachers	Enough hiring personnel at the central office level. It is creating a culture of distrust, and the staff feels it is us (in the trenches, day to day teaching) vs. then (in their ivory tower).
Cameras in the classrooms	Enough with the Human Resources and staffing the central office!!! Please get back to the basics of teachers/safety/and education!
Capital improvements so classrooms have good air quality	Equity focus needs to be revamped. No other personnel at the district needs to be hired. Each school should set their own equity goals.
Changing the CSD reading curriculum entirely to Orton-Gillingham based and training teachers in same. Do away with ARC.	expecting the next few years to be economically troubled; good to have more reserves than less going into it so that there are no extreme measures that need to happen in future
Changing to science based reading curriculum and reading interventions for all ages	Focus less on equity and more On teaching and teacher retention. Please do not spend almost \$600k on equity positions. If the reaction to the incident at DHS triggers \$600k in additional spend then it is a very bad precedent To set.
City of Decatur should seriously consider offering a First Tech Challenge/Robotics elective class as part of its curriculum. Seems like a great opportunity to combine competition, creativity, fabrication, and coding into one class. Could be offered at either (or both) the middle school and high school level.	Focus on educating students

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Class at Oakhurst have 26 kids - that is too many.	Focus on quality teachers & parent communication!
Classroom resources	Funding of Decatur Virtual Academy could be applied towards teachers, paras and counselors in schools. There are a multitude of online options that could be alternatives.
Classroom Resources so teachers do not have to buy them with their own money. We all know this happens. Let's address it.	Funds should not go toward a number of the positions listed above, and also, existing positions should be assessed for effectiveness. Our teachers and staff need pay increases and retention bonuses to match surrounding districts so we don't continue to lose quality, qualified teachers. We need a full time communications director (hopefully the option in budget above is intended for this purpose.)
College counseling	Hearing about the work the equity team has accomplished or is working on might garner more support. The equity team was created several years ago and I would love to hear about what they do.
<p>College Height ECLC is the only school in the district that does not have an assistant principal. The school has almost 300 students, 80 staff members and 3 different programs - 0-3 a tuition based program, Pre-k a state funded program and after school a tuition-based program. This is more programs than the elementary schools have, more staff and students and CH is the only school that has to manage their own after school program. This leaves one person to do the job that all schools have at least a principal and an assistant principal. 2 people for. This put an unfair burden on the principal of CH.</p> <p>During Covid Head Start decided to go in a different direction with limited fund and pulled their program from CH. Head start provided preschool slots for low-income students. CSD had not stepped in to fill the gap. So now our youngest and most vulnerable of our community do not have access to CSD early education. CSD talks about equity and being equitable but continues to look the other way when the topic of funding these slots comes up. Instead of funding all the HR requests, they should be providing education for our most vulnerable community members. If we invest in these students during their most formative years, we will save money later on in their education with CSD.</p>	Hiring 2 additional equity staff would represent financial mismanagement. This is because CSD already has a full time equity team, while teachers and essential school staff are overworked and underpaid. It would further deepen the budget deficit and take away scarce resources, in fact deepening inequities in the school community.
Communications Director full-time (assuming that's different than the "audit/planning" option above)	Hiring specialized teachers in both gifted and special ed has to be prioritized to better serve special need students.
Community building events	<p>How is the reserve fund going to be maintained? More taxes, reducing the budget? We can't sustain any more taxes. When taxes cross the line of rivaling private school tuition, then taxes should not be increased to fund our schools, because students will leave.</p> <p>What does it mean to have reserve funds? 8.9% of what? The question does not include enough information to provide an informed answer. TRY AGAIN AND REPHRASE OR GIVE MORE INFO.</p>
Compensation for teacher filling in as substitutes	I am most concerned with personnel. I think it is vital to recruit and retain teachers as well as add additional support services. These are critical needs for our schools.
Compensation for teachers providing sub coverage during their planning periods.	I appreciate the desire to better understand the communities preferences, but would prefer this survey be designed by someone that has expertise in the area rather than interested parents. It's unclear to me why the list includes the 13 items shown and not others like performing arts, grounds improvements, language programs, etc.
Continued support for MAP assessment	I appreciate you reaching out for input on the budget, but I have a request. Could you use a different survey format? The one provided makes it very difficult to use with having to scroll back and forth, up and down. Instead, of radio buttons, just request that each person enter in the value for each item from 1 - 13. Sorry, I am not trying to be high maintenance.
Could there be a line item around funds for performance arts programs, band, chorus, just as there is one for transportation for athletics? Many extra-curricular activities are important to students and a vibrant and inclusive school experience.	I believe in our equity goals and that CSD staff should be doing more to address racism, but I do not believe hiring more central office staff will make any level of difference in our buildings. We have plenty of Wilson staff who get countless hours of training and PL a year, at the district's expense, and never come into our schools to see staff or student, nor offer any training to teaching staff. Teaching staff have the biggest impact on students, therefore, they should be the staff who get time and training to improve our building. More salaried Wilson staff positions will not have an impact on CSD students.

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<p>CSD Full-time Communications Professional</p>	<p>I believe that our number one priority should be allotting more teachers at the special ed level. Our special ed teachers are stretched across multiple grade-levels/curriculum, which leads to lack of time for collaboration with teachers, lack of consistency with students, and difficulty in providing best practices. And it is certainly not for lack of trying! Our special ed teachers work so hard!</p> <p>We also need training and appropriate compensation for the paras that work with all of our students. If we take the time to actually train our para staff then there is the definite need to address what we pay our paras...we need to be able to retain qualified staff!</p> <p>And please STOP spending money at the Central Office level. We are a small school system and the fact that our superintendent has 10 people that directly report to her is an absurd waste. For instance, CO has created a principal lead position to lead 10 principals? Our superintendent cannot handle 10 highly qualified principals?</p> <p>I cannot name most of the employees at CO, and those that I can name are not listening to our teachers! The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing, so the demands from each department becomes too high. We have moved far away from the CSD that once cared about its school communities.</p> <p>Finally, I believe that compensating for testing fees should be made available to those students not able to afford the high costs. I know that I it really helped my family this year to have those costs covered.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to speak out.</p>
<p>Currently there is very little in the budget for the arts programs at DHS. Band, marching band, chorus, theatre, etc are given limited funds. instead of funding bus drivers for athletics, please consider the arts.</p> <p>In addition, the shortage of guidance counselors at the high school is negligent. In fact, our child's guidance counselor is no longer employed at COD and we were never notified of that, nor of a reassigned counselor.</p> <p>And this survey does not address the thoughts about no longer paying for the PSAT that have been lurking about.</p>	<p>I believe that putting fine-grained budget decisions to popular vote is silly. I have no idea whether or not CSD needs another HR staff person, because I don't know the challenges faced by the current staff members or what is lost if we don't hire that person.</p> <p>If we are focusing on priorities, I believe that CSD has too often let down students and families who learn differently and have other challenges. Many families moved to Decatur for the schools, only for their children to be denied support required by federal law. Every parent seeking a help is met with a wall of bureaucracy which serves to stall the process and delay assistance, sometimes for months or an entire school year. This happens with reading help, it happens with gifted support, it happens with speech therapy. It happens at every school level. It is endemic to the school system, and it predates the current superintendent.</p>
<p>Curricular materials that are chosen from scratch by a teacher team rather than admin. Stipends for teacher leaders rather than more admin and central office.</p>	<p>I believe the academic mission of the schools and taking care of the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students should be primary in making budgeting decisions. In the budget documents that were provided, it is difficult to determine if items like maintenance of facilities and support of key programs are getting appropriate money allocated to them.</p>
<p>Decatur Arts—theatre; orchestra; band; chorus</p>	<p>I can't believe CSD is considering growing more administrative positions in the equity department. The admin office overall has already exploded over the past 5-10 years. If CSD REALLY wants to make a difference in our children's lives they need to devote more resources for our front line teachers instead of the administrative office.</p> <p>1 out of 5 kids are dyslexic and CSD doesn't have the resources to help these children. But CSD has the money for restorative practices and growing the equity department. It's unbelievable. When I tell people our school district doesn't have the resources to too help dyslexic children, people don't believe me.</p> <p>In the past 12 months, there have been 2 shootings across the street from the high school. Protect our children!</p>
<p>Decatur Performs is providing first class performing arts education for students at DHS and is woefully underfunded. I'd like to see this area invested in more.</p>	<p>I did not notice on the lists where the money that will be needed and spent on renovating two houses to provide housing to only 4 families. It also does not include the maintenance for the house and how will they decide which 4 out of hundreds staff members will live there. One of the housed is located next to CH. It would behoove the city to sell the house and fund 20 preschool slots for at risk/low income students.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to ask for CSD opinion.</p>

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Decatur Performs!	<p>I didn't understand the budget question unfortunately. I need someone to explain the budget reserve and what this means. There were 2 percentages presented and it didn't make sense to me why one with more asks was lower.</p> <p>I didn't like the prioritization question as there wasn't any reference to a gap. They are all important. Rather, I think this should be more around if we are going to fund the following projects, what would you fund first. Or what will go away if we don't fund. We gave to have teachers, special ed, security/safety, teacher retention, counselors. That is all table stakes. So, that was a struggle. I will say quality education and safety have to be the top two.</p>
Decatur School Music and Arts Programs	<p>I do not feel the incident of the incidental racial slur at the high schools warrants hiring multiple full-time positions to teach people about racism. The district has already spent a ton - so that we could realize racial slurs are bad? It's a joke. No one denies the importance of justice and equity, but we don't need an army of diversity specialists to tell us that. Enough is enough w the more liberal than thou popularity contest. Implicit bias, diversity, yadda yadda yadda, we get it. I am much more interested in funding programs and teachers who can serve ALL Decatur young people. The schools should be teaching kids and giving them skills to succeed in a rough job market and w a future that is very unknown. We don't need to spend money to learn that racists are still around Georgia, that using racial slurs makes people uncomfortable and is unfair. Of course! Let's not support a cottage industry of diversity training gurus. Let's support our kids!</p>
DHS Musical Theater, Acting, Chorus and Tech Theater programs.	<p>I do NOT want to see CSD budget go to more admin staff!</p>
DHS performing arts programs are among the best in the state...with very little support from the budget. The quality is so high because we have outstanding teachers and because we have pipelines of kids who are receiving private instruction at parents' expense. We need to increase funding to recruit and retain top teachers (like another orchestra teacher). And we need to increase funding for the sake of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the performing arts--so that excellence doesn't depend on money for private lessons and camps, money to buy an instrument, money to pay one's own way at all-state events...We need to fund the arts more like we fund sports--in ways that let every kid participate fully.	<p>I feel it is important to listen to the needs and concerns of the students and teachers who live the experience first hand every day. Additionally, I would like to see more money dedicated to athletics at CSD, whether that is transportation needs, coaching needs, money for sports etc as we are a very active community with kids striving toward college sports, winning state competitions, but not enough funds available to sports in my opinion. Supporting athletics supports academics as team work is a foundation for life success, learning to set goals, learning about competition both success and failures, and the impact that coaching leadership has on young kids is lifelong.</p>
Dr. Elise Eskew Sparks needs to have full time status.	<p>I fully support additional compensation for teachers and increases in stipends for teachers who lead extracurricular activities including debate and theatre</p>
Dual language program	<p>I have been a CSD parent for 11 years and the majority of the problems in our school are the result of poor student behavior. Hold students accountable for disrupting the ability for teachers to effectively teach and for disrupting their fellow students from learning. Often teachers can't discipline effectively for fear of heavy admonishment from parents and from fear of being labeled racists. Cameras can easily solve this problem. Play the tape and you will find clear evidence in each situation of who needs to be disciplined and "restored" via counseling.</p> <p>Prior to hiring more people for Equity I would like to know what the current Equity staff actually does. I have been told there are 3 full time people in that department. A breakdown of that 120 weekly hours of work would be something that should be reviewed thoroughly. I am not seeing anything productive coming from this department. A lot can be accomplished in 120 hours per week. More staff is not the answer. Effective, hard working staff is the path for success.</p>
Dyslexia screening; it's why we had to leave the district	<p>I just want to put a strong plug in for funding the cost of all student taking IB exams. This is an IB public school. Not covering this cost is an equity issue</p>

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
dyslexia training	I know I speak for many parents with students with disabilities that we'd like to see more equitable focus on appropriate funding and training for special education teachers and paraprofessionals as well as training for Gen Ed teachers who participate in inclusion classrooms. There are never enough boots on the ground to adequately address all of the INDIVIDUAL needs of this population with diverse needs and the pay that is budgeted for special education teachers, particularly paraprofessionals who have a very challenging and exhausting job and are not being compensated sufficiently. If CSD does not budget more for these positions, they will not be able to attract appropriate candidates and retain them for these positions. There is inadequate training overall on understanding the various disabilities that are seen in our schools, insufficient training on assistive technology devices, buddy programs for mentoring beginning as early as kindergarten, supplies for therapist, daily living skills/social skills programs, counseling/play therapy for non verbal students, etc. The population of students with disabilities have been underserved for decades in CSD. Time to address and properly budget to provide these students with an appropriate education in one of the most revered school systems in the state which is failing these kids.
Environmental officer- find ways to reduce waste, pollution, environmental impact, sustainable building, noise, improve learning environments, decrease traffic, decreased carbon footprint,. The position would pay for itself just in terms of making the buildings and practices more conducive to learning and less wasteful both in terms of education and environment. Right now there's a big disconnect between what is going on in terms of the discourse around green and sustainability in Decatur and what is going on in CSD schools. An environmental officer would go along way to connecting better learning environments with creating schools and practices that are better for the environment.	I like that you're soliciting opinions. Rank ordering preferences is a good idea, but the way this form is set up is very awkward for trying to sort options. Next time, please use a better survey device to allow people to drag and drop items in their preferred order.
Environmental officer- position that facilitates pathways to reducing waste, pollution, environmental impact, sustainable building, noise, improve learning environments, decreased traffic/carbon footprint. Could straddle administrative, faculty and students, as students are often forgotten in terms of finding/implementing innovative solutions The position would pay for itself just in terms of making the buildings/practices more conducive to learning and less wasteful both in terms of education and environment. Right now there's a big disconnect between the discourse around green and sustainability in Decatur and CSD and what is going on in/around CSD schools. An environmental officer would go along way to connecting better learning environments with creating schools and practices that are better for our health, budget and the environment.	I recommend limiting the amount of money spent on the CSD central office. It's gotten out of hand with us adding (making up) new positions for people that don't move the needle in any meaningful way like smaller class sizes would. Also, I appreciate this survey but the set up for the ranking is very difficult to navigate and would probably be a barrier for getting valuable feedback. On a computer, it requires you to scroll weirdly and then remember what # you assigned each item. Sort of a pain to do. Thanks!
Equipment and assets for middle school and high school education.	I see there is a half million of additional dollars in the budget proposed for "equity." I do not want the school system to teach my child that a person of any race should ever be treated differently than another (including white) . Thank you.
Expand the high school and middle school as needed given the projected growth and needs in Decatur.	I think bringing back teacher assistants in k-3 classrooms is imperative. Best if they are hired for grades 4 and 5.
Expanded assistance for the Covid Cohort that entered K in 2020.	I think CSD is top heavy with administration. They seem to hamper the actual teaching and the quality of the school experience.
Extra Curricular Sports and Arts funding	I think CSD needs to get back to being focused on academics, a good learning environment and teaching. We spend so much time and money on other issues, that kids are falling behind and not getting the education they deserve. Let's focus our attention on teaching the kids. I also think supporting clubs and athletics is important to offer the kids a richer experience. Let's fund these types of activities vs all the money being spent on investigations and more admin.
First robotics teams	I think it is crucial that the Board operates with in the state's recommended reserve balance of 4% to 15%. Our economy is too volatile to have less than the recommended amount.
For communications you really need someone on staff- not a contractor. You need someone consistent who knows the system. Furthermore you need to support that person by allowing them to provide transparent information.	I think the additional hiring of special education staff and providing teacher retention compensation is crucial.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Foreign language curriculum	<p>I think there should be better policies put in place that alleviate the need for the continuation of funding an Equity Department which has not accomplished much if anything at all. This would certainly help to alleviate the District's extremely HEAVY focus on equity that many of us do not see or feel is being achieved. Quite frankly, the topic in general has worn the community OUT!--Black (and I'm Black), White, and Other. Again, better policies regarding equity (or the lack thereof) would better serve the District overall alleviating the need to focus so heavily on the issue as opposed to what is most important right now--that being ensuring that ALL of our children/students can read (to comprehend), write (to proficiently articulate), and perform math ON GRADE LEVEL.</p> <p>Like every surrounding District, CSD's student demographic has DRASTICALLY changed. Most classrooms are comprised of students across the learning spectrum YET we are holding on for dear life to a curriculum or lack thereof that does NOT consider ALL (Fun Fact: This is the root cause of INequity across the District). I say all of this to say that the District needs to hire more teachers, paras, Special Education Lead Teachers, and Intervention Specialist so that the District can at least begin to provide a curriculum option--IB for families and students who elect to choose that pathway and a literacy focused option for families and students (K-12) who desperately need something else.</p> <p>Which brings me to my last request, that being reserving funds to invest in purchasing, training, and implementing a second curriculum that better serves the other half of the District's student population suffering under the IB curriculum.</p>
Full training for all K-5 ELA teachers, administration members and special education teachers in evidence-based reading and writing instructional practices + curriculum and classroom tools that align with evidence-based practices.	<p>I trust the right thing will be done. When I pay the city taxes, that are more than my mortgage, I pay them in the hopes that the money is going directly to our teachers and students first. THEY make our school what it is. The schools are the primary reason we live here. The teachers should know they are appreciated and we show that by compensating them. I was shocked when I found out what our teachers make a year. This is unacceptable.</p>
Fulltime college advisors	<p>I understand that the equity consultant recommended hiring additional HR staff, communications staff and administrators - but we have SO MANY administrators in this district already. I'm hard pressed to understand why equity shouldn't be an underlying focus of everything the present administration is doing. If it is important that it be a singular focus, then current personal should be reassigned.</p> <p>Additionally if the district would keep the same curriculum for more than 2 years, teachers wouldn't need to spend so much time (and continuing education dollars) learning yet another way to teach a kid to read.</p> <p>Next, transportation for sporting events. No student should be disqualified from a sports team because they can't afford to be on it, but many DHS student-athletes pay for private instruction, summer camps and non-school traveling teams. The district as a whole should not have to bear the costs for teams most of our kids will never be invited to play on.</p> <p>Similarly, money should not be an obstacle for student's wishing to take AP/IB or SAT tests. I understand there have been complaints about our districts dismal performance on these tests. Having to pay the test fee may help weed out the students who were never taking it seriously in the first place. However, the path to getting those fees waved should be easy enough that a student could navigate the process on their own - without their parent needing to fill out a FAFSA level inquisition.</p>
Fully funding IEP is what Federal Law requires, but this is often a struggle in CSD and DESERVES more attention than emails!	<p>I view the proposed equity administrators as excessive. Taxes are too high already, highest in Georgia. We need some spending discipline.</p>
Fund basic needs for school so they don't have to ask parents every week to volunteer (donate chalk for school wide art project, volunteer to prepare weekly folders, volunteer to shelve library books, etc)	<p>I vote the same way that y'all do, but this woke political nonsense is getting us nowhere. We are PC'ing ourselves to death. Let's talk about the real problems and find actual solutions. Racial equity is incredibly important and there are systemic issues that have been ignored for far too long. I understand that. And I aim to help change that. So I'm not trying to diminish that when I say this, but the EQUITY conversation should center around the wealth gap in our community, starting with the teachers/staff, police/fire pay. The AVERAGE salary for people living in City of Decatur is \$170,591, while teachers make around \$50k.</p>

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Fund the arts!!!	I would generally prefer more teachers and aids in the classroom and fewer administrative staff, fewer specialty positions at HR, fewer instances of hiring outside consultants.
Funding (grants, beyond DEF) for individual and small teams of teachers to pilot new instructional materials, software and technology in their classrooms.	I would highly recommend looking into teacher retention bonuses. After the racial incident this year and CSD paying almost the same exact amount as Henry County Schools, where I live, there is no incentive for me to stay here being an African American teacher without children. I'll make more money in Cobb, Gwinnett, and Clayton County Schools.
Funding and transportation for non athletic DHS activities such as Robotics.	I would like a more transparent and clear accounting of how money is being spent as it is being spent. For example, the recent racial incident in the high school has caused a lot of reckoning. My question is about being transparent about the cost of this undertaking. How much did the consultant cost how much has removing the principal cost how much time and effort has been put into addressing this? Let me be clear I believe it is an important issue, but does not get a pass in terms of clearly communicating how much this is costing. Not being clear about that is problematic and sends the wrong message. If you're going to put her money where your mouth is as I believe, we should be willing to be honest about how much money we are putting there. Same goes with how much money we spent addressing Dr. Dude's removal, and the lawsuits brought in relation to that another incidents. I believe there is a reticence on the part of the administration to share this. So if we're talking about budget and spending than my main request, is that as money is being spent, we are made aware of exactly what things are costing.
Funding for all athletic AND clubs that apply for additional funding, Decatur Performs	I would like our superintendent and board to focus on education and make decisions like the responsible, educated, qualified jobs they hold without asking the community for input all the time. The loudest voices is all you hear and it doesn't speak to what most people want. The leadership of CSD should act like leaders and make the hard decisions.
Funding for DHS baseball field improvements	I would like to see additional teachers and counselors hired to focus on students, including additional support for underperforming students.
Funding for Dual Enrollment for students who exceed state-limited hours. Funding for academic and competitive robotics.	I would like to see an evidence-based reading curriculum - the one currently in the budget does not appear to be evidence-based.
Funding for music	I would like to see better leverage of our existing leadership and equity teams by hiring a communications professional who can help share pertinent information both internally and externally in a clear and effective manner, help shape messaging by superintendent and help advise about communication with and by principals. Thanks for the opportunity to speak out!
Funding for non-athletic extracurriculars (theater, debate, band, orchestra)	I would like to see CSD focus on teaching core curriculum and foundational principals. I am not supportive of funding additional central office or administrative headcount. Nor do I want to see additional investment in equity initiatives that have not led to any improved performance for any student group they aim to support. It is not working, so stop increasing funding to failing programs.
Funding for school supplies, clubs, athletics.	I would like to see fewer administrators and fewer positions in the central office. More better paid teachers, less of everything else.
Funding for the arts (Marching Bands, Decatur Performs)	I would like to see quality retention of existing and new teachers at CSD because that ultimately determines the future of CSD school success. As a stakeholder, we cannot do anything but to trust the current hiring criteria/process which is the crucial component of quality teacher/staff retention with many more to be hired with the expansion of students. Every decision should be made and prioritized based on students (children not adults) with different focus for K-3, 9-12, and so forth.
funding for the arts and extra curricular EDUCATIONAL activities- athletics gets enough money already. support of the average student, less focus on gifted student	I would like to stop over funding the small elementary schools and underfunding the middle and high school. Perhaps a restructuring of k-2 discussion needs to be had before any more funds are allocated to elementary funding. When you ask about funding teachers it depends on funding them where-the priority should be middle school and high school this year
Funding for the arts, the amazing theater productions in particular, are paltry and should be increased dramatically.	I would love to see more diversity in hiring
Funding for the DHS performing arts. Particularly for transportation costs and other fees that are covered for sports teams, but not for performing arts students.	I would really like CSD to focus on adding more DIVERSE teaching staff versus adding administrative positions that provide MINIMAL value to our children.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
High school debate needs serious funding	I would want to see more funds flow to the teachers and less funding for oversight and admin functions. Specifically, I don't think any more budget dollars should be allocated to equity positions or the equity department(s). A focus on equality (treating all students equally) over equity initiatives will better prepare our children to compete in the world and contribute to society.
high school orchestra program	I'd like to see all equity funding cut and put toward classroom focus (teachers). Equity department proved its uselessness during the recent high school debacle. They don't seem to do anything, so last thing we need is to increase their funding.
Higher pay for teachers	I'm interested in understanding the costs to our district of the virtual academy and how many families/students continue to be enrolled post-pandemic. Is this a good use of taxpayer funds when other virtual schooling options exist?
Hire communication person for district; Hire behavior specialists for schools;	I'm not sure what the CSD communications audit and planning means... maybe that is the communications person i'm advocating for hiring but thats unclear to me... Other than communications, admin should be reduced.
Hiring additional teachers and paras to ensure a <10/1 student teacher ratio in ALL grade levels at ALL K-2 schools. Class sizes are NOT equitable from school to school. This is impacting student success and teacher burnout at ALARMING rates.	I'd like to see our teacher's paid more competitively to retain and recruit talent.
Honest question: What's up with a whole line dedicated to sports when the arts did not make the cut? Why in the world are the performing arts never considered in these budgets but athletics are? My daughter is in the high school musical theater program (TEN Shuler nominations this year!) and last year they had to BEG for a school bus to take the group to the prestigious Shuler awards. (The Tony awards of high school!) The tech theater program (who racked in 3 of the 10 nominations this year) lost their classroom to yet another weight room (the 5th one in the school), forcing them to share a classroom with the chorus. (Dr. ES is glad to share but honestly this is shameful). Did you know the theater continues to struggle with the sound system that has a TAPE DECK? How much better it could be with a REAL sound system? (benefitting more than just the theater program as everyone uses the PAC) CSD allots enough money to barely cover the rights to ONE musical. Did you know it takes around 25K to put on a musical? Decatur Performs works so hard to raise awareness, advocate and raise funds for this program, but we cannot do it alone. The students see and feel the affects of the money going to fund sports while they are left to fend for themselves. This must change if we want to continue to see these amazing programs continue to rank top in the state. (I'm speaking for middle and high school chorus, band, orchestra and theater programs) Something has to be done. For a city that says it prioritizes the arts in culture, let's put the money behind it.	I'm surprised that there is a fee for playing on a middle school sports team.
I don't see any funding for the performing arts program. I would wager that performing arts at DHS actually attracts more community members who have no association with the school or even school system (as opposed to sporting events, which likely only attracts other students and parents/family members), and I feel it's important to keep that program robust and thriving.	If CSD is going to consider funding these additional items (on the spreadsheet) it should raise taxes. It does the community a disservice to hide the cost of providing services by paying for them with the reserve balance. The purpose of the reserve balance is to fund things during emergencies or down economic times, not to absorb the cost of ongoing expenses. If CSD uses the reserve balance to fund these things this year, what is it going to use to fund them in the future? It would be better to raise taxes a little bit to cover at least part of the cost of the additional items. If people are demanding these additional items and if the schools need them, people need to be willing to pay for them.
I think that the school board needs to rejuvenate with focus on education quality and economic soundness and less on instagram politics. The positions for administrative positions like assistant principal and assistant superintendent looks like they are increasing.	If the funds are being used to make pay match that of APS for teachers and paras then I think using whatever funds we can to do so should be used. The pay gap between these districts is unacceptable and needs to be changed to allow CSD to continue getting qualified educators.

<p>Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?</p>	<p>Additional comments:</p>
<p>I would like for the school to care about my student, who has missed 20+ days due to illness this year, with zero help from the school beyond what her poor teachers are trying to do to keep her afloat. Something is seriously wrong with the administration in CSD, when there is no extra help for students who have missed as much school as my kid has.</p>	<p>In terms of budget and spending, we need a more transparent and clear accounting of how money is being spent AS IT IS BEING SPENT. For example, the recent racial incident in the high school has had serious financial implications and I think being very transparent about the financial cost of the whole incident is critically important to all stakeholders. The same could be said of Dr. Dude's exit along with lawsuits brought by former employees for wrongful dismissal, ect. My point is not that money should not be spent in these areas (it has to be) but being transparent about how much things (things I might add everyone knows are happening and are costing us money) actually cost in real dollars and cents. We have the right to know, and withholding this information leads to all sorts of rumors, foments mistrust and sends the wrong message to everyone. Again, more transparency not only in making the budget but perhaps on how the budget gets spent as it is being spent- especially on items that could not be foreseen or part of the budget.</p>
<p>I would like more balance in the budget for the needs of our performing arts programs over more bloat at Central office. I should not have to consistently pay for transportation costs to events that are part of an actual course, and an important part of the assessment for the course therefore mandatory when non-mandatory sports transportation is included in the budget or more staff at Central office because management is so poor that the current staff are not supported to improve rather we just hire more and more people. Do better please!</p>	<p>In the future, having a simple 1-10 scale may be a better barometer of someone's feelings about funding. The 1-13 ranking is tedious to do in this form. Keeps telling me I've done it wrong.</p>
<p>I would like to see additional funding for performing arts programs as well as funding for transportation for other programs like performing arts and extracurricular academic teams added to the budget.</p>	<p>It is imperative that teacher staffing is addressed. Even though the budget presentation showed a low student to teacher ratio, this is not completely accurate because ALL certified staff (special ed, intervention, specials, gifted, etc) were included in the calculations. That is not a true representation of the actual number of students assigned to a homeroom teacher-ex. Oakhurst 2nd grade classes are a ratio of 25:1. This ratio is not in line with state regulations. It was repeatedly said that an additional teacher was not in the budget, but we continued to watch as new people/positions were added at Wilson Center.</p> <p>Thank you for taking to time to conduct this survey.</p>
<p>I would like to see all K-5 playgrounds have ADA inclusive equipment</p>	<p>It is infuriating to read about a \$120K increase in athletics transportation when nearly no money is provided to support the arts in the classroom let alone transportation needs for students going to compete or perform in the arts representing DHS. I mean 3 (or 4?) full classes of tech theater receive a budget of \$700 total!</p>
<p>I would like to see athletic funding support all sports regardless of their status with GHSA. Any team competing and representing DHS should be eligible for funding. I would also like to see funding for performing arts.</p>	<p>It takes money to put on performances and productions and the whole community gets to enjoy them</p>
<p>I would like to see many of these positions not funded</p>	<p>It would be helpful to know a little more detail behind each line item, such as the reason it's needed and expected outcome. Example: I don't have students in high school, so I have no awareness about the current athletic transportation situation. Similarly, I have no idea why an additional HR Admin position, nor why a culturally responsive pedagogy expert would be needed or what their job would entail. More teachers, retention pay, continuing ed - these I get.</p>
<p>I would like to see more funding in athletics (including fields, gyms, etc.) Athletics lift up students, districts and entire communities. We pay too much in taxes to have to scramble for funding and space all the time. *Also allocate more funding to the arts/theatre. they put on AMAZING performances. they too should not have to scramble for funding.</p>	<p>It's all hard to justify given the tax hikes over the past 10: years. I have lost faith in CSD schools and further tax hikes will drive us out of Decatur</p>
<p>I would like to see more programming going towards prevention. We have high need for mental health resources and excessive absences. A lot of that is the culture which has been established. I would like to see more meetings with families BEFORE these things continue to put a strain on the system. Educate parents about 504 and that it should not be used for access to extended time on ACT/SAT. Discuss the impact of attendance on academic success. Have REAL conversations about IB coursework and associated stressors. Many have misconceptions about whether an IB Diploma is needed to get into UGA. It is not.</p>	<p>It's hard to rank the priorities above, as I can only imagine CSD is trying its best to serve every student effectively and with the most compassion possible - as well as keeping everyone safe in a world that increasingly feels less so. I send out a big thank you to all those in the community who took the time to put together this survey and gather feedback. The question of what to do with the dollars the district has is not an easy one - and there are sooo many opinions. I appreciate being a part of this process and am grateful you all are trying to consider all students', teachers', and administrators' needs in the most equitable way possible. Thank you a thousand times over!</p>
<p>I would like to see push for science based reading instruction in CSD and remedial reading instruction for middle and high schoolers.</p>	<p>It's imperative that the system continue to support student and teacher mental health.</p>

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
<p>I would like to see Talley's music program receive funding--it is the only school without choral risers at present, and there is no band program. The lack of a band program is an equity issue; FAVE has a band program, and band programs typically engage a different demographic than orchestras.</p> <p>I would like to see the budget stay the same or shrink with our shrinking enrollment.</p>	<p>It's quite telling that about 80% of budget requests are coming from Wilson Center departments. What actual value will these positions add? We're already grossly top heavy with administration. Why do we need a district math coach for K-5 when each K-5 building already has 1-2 instructional coaches?</p> <p>It's unclear to me whether the requests for funding are for one-time expenditures that would have a lasting value or the requests are for what are basically operating costs (short term benefits). Outside of an emergency, I think the reserve fund should only be depleted for expenditures that will have a large and lasting benefit to the school system, with plans to replenish the fund over the next few years.</p>
<p>I would like to stop over funding the small elementary schools and underfunding the middle and high school.</p>	<p>Lower class sizes. Period.</p>
<p>I'd like a little more attention to what seems a rampant vaping and drug problem at DHS.</p>	<p>Many districts are facing financial challenges due to state increases, so keep in mind CSD is not the only district facing these difficulties</p>
<p>I'd like to see funds go towards CURRICULUM at the middle school. Currently BHMS does NOT have a curriculum for math, social studies, ELA, or science. It is ALL teacher created based off of standards. Unlike the elementary schools. Most of BHMS teacher's job is spent creating curriculum/lessons/activities/assessments/etc. from scratch or spending their own money buying online resources. If there was a curriculum, teacher's will be able to provide more differentiation, individual attention, collaborating, multi-disciplinary, time to take a breath, etc.....</p>	<p>Many other public schools in Georgia have engineering pathways and competitive robotics programs. CSD needs to invest in robotics programs to keep up. The robotics sports team at DHS operates under the Decatur Career Academy and is almost entirely funded by parents and donors. It carries an annual budget of \$30k - \$40k (\$3,000 is covered by DHS). Transportation and hotel accommodations for competitions are provided by parents (carpooling because we can't afford a bus). So, why is the budget for athletics more than twice the budget for the Career Academy? Why are there additional requests for funding for athletics when athletics is already receiving transportation and coach stipends? Are coaches and mentors of other competitive teams offered this level of funding and support? The robotics team is squeezed in the corner of a windowless basement classroom while athletics, band, and performing arts have dedicated spaces on campus. CSD needs to start investing in tomorrow's leaders and problem solvers which is what the sport of robotics is all about.</p>
<p>I'd like to see less reliance on computers for learning. As a resource, I think they are fine, but I've seen a decline in the quality of writing (ability to express, as well as penmanship). Many studies have shown better retention from books.</p>	<p>Many thanks for conducting this survey!</p>
<p>Implementation of improved parent communication ASAP - an audit and planning are fine, but I don't think a 3rd party is necessary to identify and implement best practices</p>	<p>McKoy park is the worst HS baseball facility in the state. There is a massive need for indoor hitting and throwing facility. They need storage space for the enormous amount of equipment that the players use. The dugouts are too small for the team to use, they can't even fit the whole team in the dugout! It is quite literally the worst field and facility of any school I've ever seen. But football basketball soccer lacrosse etc. get to use the PAC which is excellent. The imbalance is ridiculous.</p>
<p>Improve after school options / opportunities.</p>	<p>More focus on academics, teaching, core school needs. Less on district office staff and technology. Our schools are currently well focused on equity and inclusion, administrative priorities and strategic plans. We need to focus more on teacher retention, teacher satisfaction, special education needs and core academic instruction. Better crisis communications resources and plans would also be a smart move.</p>
<p>Improved training or retraining of special education staff around student eligibility</p>	<p>More funding for STEM and ROBOTICS</p>
<p>improvements to the middle school facilities - basketball court for lunch time</p>	<p>More help for students with LD's at a young age especially!</p>
<p>Improving school facilities, More funds for teachers to purchase classroom supplies</p>	<p>More succinct CSD communication. Quash litigious culture. Better cooperation and collaboration with other COD departments. Adopt more radical candor and less condescension. Provide citizens with more opportunities to not just input, but decide.</p>
<p>In-house legal counsel with special education law and/or employment law expertise</p>	<p>More Teachers as class ratio is still too high.</p>
<p>Increase teacher pay</p>	<p>Musical theatre is an award-winning program thanks, in part, to Decatur Performs. The school system should provide adequate funding for all productions as well as transportation to events such as One Act Play competition.</p>
<p>Increase teacher, coaches, para, bus driver, etc compensation to be on level with Dekalb and APS</p>	<p>My biggest concern is keeping our teachers happy. They are not only burned out from Covid years, but are also exhausted with all of the over the top requests and complaining from a number of CSD families. Some people are just never happy and it truly brings down the morale of the entire school system. Our main focus should be student to teacher ratio and a teacher salary that can compete with other school systems. We spend way too much money on things that are not as important. Teachers first!</p>
	<p>Thank you for putting together this survey!</p>

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
increase the nursing salary, nursing retention compensation.	n/a
Increased funding for arts.	N/a
Increased health and nutrition initiatives	Need to focus on core education goals and stop further spending on admin, consultants, and DEI positions.
Increased salaries for SLPs. Speech Pathologists should be paid on a separate pay scale than teachers based on our specialized skill set, licensing requirements, and job responsibilities. There are 9 of us in CSD and our position is unique. We evaluate and treat a variety of impairments and are not considered teachers nor special education teachers. In Cobb County School System, the pay difference is about \$11,000 more annually and the district also pays into Social Security. City of Marietta Schools would be \$7,000 more annually and pays into Social Security, as well as an optional pre-tax retirement plan (CCSDRR). A higher pay for SLPs would aid in recruitment and retainment of highly qualified and skilled SLPs.	New superintendent please
Increased/appropriate funding for CSD, DHS, and Beacon Hill music, theater, and performing arts programs, including orchestra, is critical to many families and to the overall Decatur and CSD community. Music, theater, and performing arts are often some of the areas and classes that students are most engaged in, motivated by, and in love with during the school day. In my view, it is critical that CSD theater, performing arts, and music programs have the funding that they need for robust, sustaining, and successful programs.	no
Instead of more administrative bloat at central office, there needs to be more instructional support. Central office has bloated from three total staff to however many there are there now. The Wilson center wants to behave like a larger district.but does not have the instructional support in place to do so effectively.	No
Is CSD contributing to the construction of a track at Legacy Park? We really need a track in the City of Decatur for the track and field teams to use so that we do not need to rent space from other schools.	No more administrative positions!!! Need to cut ones already there, CSD is a bloated admin dept
Is there a need for increased funds for free school lunch /breakfast; after school tutoring? My child has been attending WP after school tutoring and has benefited from it immensely!	No more administrators and overhead, period. I am willing to have my taxes go up every year if it means teachers make a salary commensurate with their education and experience, but I am not supportive of another dime for central office resources. While I agree our district has an equity issue, I do not think hiring more administrators is going to solve it. Hiring more and better teachers might. Over my children's time in CSD, there have been a handful of good to great teachers and, frankly, many more mediocre ones. My children benefit from relatively highly educated and financially well of parents, but I don't believe the level of instruction they receive would be remotely adequate without those advantages. In other words, my view of CSD is that it's easy to look good without actually providing quality instruction when your median student is 70th percentile on a national scale.
Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	No more central office admin
Less Administrative staff at the central office, and more on the ground support for teachers in the classroom and at local schools. Our teachers are being asked to do to much by teaching and being full time psychologists in the classrooms.	No more central office staff until we resolve issues at the schools...overcrowded classrooms, high school guidance counselors with hundreds of students assigned to them so they can't provide even basic support, complete lack of gifted services, etc.
Less funding at the administration level such as equity. It is unclear what they are doing per the recent outside audit.	No more new staff at the Wilson Center. Use our money for teachers and staff on the "front lines".
Marching band	None
Maybe one day the school will actually have a track for the Track + Field athletes :(- maybe even help fund practice time on a track until one is built. It's incredibly difficult to train when you are running trails and roads near Legacy Park. To date this year, the track team I believe had one or two days of practice on an actual track which impacts their race times. By not providing proper training facilities, are we taking away potential scholarship oppty's for these athletes? Is this a larger equity issue?	none
More athletic teams, especially girls' sports. Too few chances, especially at the middle school level, mean kids not selected in 6th or 7th grade miss out on school sports for their academic career.	none
More community opportunities for hands on learning/field trips for special needs students	None
More financial support for the highly-awarded performing arts program. Equal support for the arts and athletics!	none

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
More funding and support for robotics and other STEM programs	Nursing is an under rated group as long as things are going fine. But the minute things hit the fan the nurses are there to take up the slack and restore confidence that everything will be ok. This is also a group that often gets ask to do more with less and that even happens in the clinical setting also.
More funding for athletics in middle school. Too few students get to participate.	One thing that would not cost money: reduce expectations of teachers and school-based staff outside of contracted hours. Extra nights at schools - why? Everyone must support a club at the high school, in addition to offering tutoring times - why? We already ask teachers and school-based staff to do far too much work in too few hours for too little pay, and they are leaving in droves. Qualified teachers no longer see CSD as an appealing place to work because everyone has heard of the mess of leadership, the racial conflicts, the low pay in comparison to every surrounding district, and the additional workload expected. We need to retain the amazing and qualified staff that we have, who CSD has invested a lot of time and money into over the years in professional learning, by not only paying them more and treating them with respect, but also by cutting expectations. Open house nights at schools are work days where teachers and school-based staff are expected to work until 7 or 8 pm without any additional compensation. That is insulting to them. As parents who work outside of education, when our work expects us to work longer hours one day, we are compensated another day in time or in money; teachers receive some flowers and foods in annual teacher thank-you weeks. That is insulting. Instead, cut the nights. Make the workload more reasonable. Tell teachers and staff explicitly that they do not have to fulfill former additional demands. If CSD explicitly started talking about reducing the teacher and school-based staff workload to retain great staff, that would be a pull factor once again for CSD positions.
More funding for Robotics and other STEM extracurriculars - these kids are preparing for careers of the future and they deserve just as much support at athletics.	Our family is largely non-athletic and has little interest in athletics past Marching Band. It's astonishing to see how well-funded the athletic programs are while the arts programs are constantly strapped. I wish there were some equity between arts and athletics - especially given their respective value to the whole of one's adult life.
More funding for STEM and Robotics	Our focus needs to be on academics. All our children deserve the best EDUCATION possible.
more funding to the performing arts (musical theater, chorus, acting, orchestra, tech theater)	our school system does not have a track and field facility, which can offer opportunities for kids of all backgrounds to be healthy and excel athletically. it also could help students find a path to college
More money should go toward the performing arts programs at the middle and high schools. I see plenty of money going to sports program but nothing for the performing arts.	Our schools should become Fruitful communities following the model of the library system in Dekalb to reduce fossil fuel use in landscaping and address food I security while providing native habitat. These landscapes can also be integrated into science and social studies curricula.
More resources for gifted kids. Their needs are not being met. There's minimal growth. Resources for teaching kids HOW to write.	Please consider funding for more performing arts. We have some really talented children here not to mention an amazing orchestra teacher. She is who is keeping my middle schooler sane right now
More school athletic fields	Please consider hiring bus drivers or additional means of transportation for athletics. It is not sustainable to rely solely on parents to transport students to and from events. Thank you!
More school based SEL position	Please consider using some of the budget towards the great theatre program.
More service for children with dyslexia and other reading disorders	Please do NOT add any more staff members to the Wilson Center!!!! Schools need teachers - and support staff. Schools do NOT need more bosses that come up with new initiatives. We need to support our teachers and staff. 'Problems' will decrease if there is more support for the students in CSD.
More staff to float and help classroom teachers who have kids with behavior issue.	Please find a way to reward our teachers who do all of this extra work outside of the classroom for our students by doing clubs, extra curricular activities, etc.
More structured literacy training for all lower elementary teachers so that ALL of our students are reading at the proficient reading level.	Please focus on strengthening the foundation of a good school. The teachers and core subjects like Math, Science and ELA. The budget should emphasize hiring the best teachers, giving those teachers the tools and support they need and the right training to be effective. If you focus on raising the quality of teachers in our system, everything else will become easier. I'd also like to hear more about how CSD is raising the bar on the core subjects of Math, Science and ELA.
More support for stem programs, such as robotics etc. Stems clubs such as these are vital towards preparing students for the future and the frequent underfunding of such programs is a major mistake.	Please make extra efforts to pursue responses to this questionnaire from teachers, school staff. I am happy to provide feedback but don't think I am best placed to answer what is the best way to allocate funds for the district as a whole.
more teachers for more more planning, more excursions, more tech support for students who need, less penny pinching for graduation activity...	Please manage the Wilson Center budget and do NOT approve any new Wilson Center staff. Wilson Center should drastically reduce its current employee allotment.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
More teachers for Oakhurst elementary to reduce the class size. 25 second graders in a classroom is not why we choose to live here and pay extraordinarily high taxes.	Please no additional spending on Equity administrators or other administrative positions. Use the money for our teachers.
More teachers for smaller class sizes.	Please put students and teachers needs above more administration/central office positions
More teachers with parapro help to create smaller class sizes	Please raise our teacher's salaries.
More to go into school sports ie: BHMS and then DHS	Please spend our money on our students, not administrative bloat!
Multiple resource classes; kids with behavioral issues have different needs than those with learning disabilities	Please stop prioritizing funding actions that can be labeled as cultural wars. Teaching moral values is families' responsibilities, no CSD's, no matter how strong we feel about them. Focus on prioritizing proper funding for educational goals for our kids.
Music	Please to not just react to recent events and throw money at solutions when there are plenty of programs that have demonstrated need out there that are not being funded.
Music - Chorus, Theatre	Prioritize local school staffing over district office personnel; district personnel increase salary expenditures, and perception of local school staff is that coordinators and directors have very little impact on school operations and serve primarily as figure-heads. Already existing district staff can increase their efficiency and effectiveness with well-defined responsibilities they are held accountable to.
Music programs - so much funding for athletics versus music. In particular orchestra	Property tax is too high due to the enormous school budget. Nothing but teacher pay increases should be funded until we get spending under control. The full line item spend (complete detail GL) should be publicly available in electronic (Excel) format without FOIA red tape to allow further analysis of cost increases and the ability to provide creative alternatives.
Music theatre, performing arts	Put teachers first...that will always benefit the students directly.
Musical theatre and chorus	Raising the millage rate is a BAD IDEA.
My top priority is quality education for my children. Hire good teachers, help them get the resources they need, measure outcomes and share with us.	read above. I'm happy to meet to discuss any of this. I do not serve on the Decatur Performs board but I'm happy to sit with them on this important discussion.
My top two choices are equal - more special educators and more counselors. No more people in central office or school administration until the ones in CSD Central now can actually demonstrate how they add value. Quit letting the S""T run down hill and take responsibility for shifting the focus from educating to the side show central office has become over the past few years. Save money by staying out of law suits and settlements.	Reserve funding for people and activities that support daily student learning and growth only.
N/A	Rising pay for teachers, administrators, paras, and support staff that are directly in school building must be a priority.
n/a	Robotics and stem programs need higher priority.
NA	Robotics is a competitive team and not a club. Other schools receive significant funding for this robotics programs that provide hands-on experience for students in programming, mechanical/building, project management, communications, and more. These skills prepare students for careers, both those that require college and those that do not. I agree with the recent assessment that equity is vital but we already have more than 1/2 million dollars dedicated to equity - let's invest in student programs that can expand their reach, implement equitable practices, and help to achieve equitable outcomes for students. Finally, CSD would ideally pay for all students to take IB/AP/SAT tests, but given resource limitations, CSD should pay only for those those who require financial assistance.
Native Spanish teachers for all grades, particularly at Clairmont, where Sra. Strauss resigned and no proper substitute teacher has been provided.	School safety should be a top priority. My hope is that this security company will be as vigilant as an actual police officer who would monitor the hallways, especially at the middle and high school and ensure that students are not opening doors for others throughout the day.
No	Security in our schools should 100% be our absolute highest priority. It makes me so sad to write that. But as a parent, this is something I think about every single day. Everything else our kiddos can overcome, but their security is our responsibility and one we need to take very, very seriously.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
no	Special education staff have an extremely high turnover rate. Paraprofessionals are not making a livable wage. They have to deal with extreme behaviors with little to no support from admin and barely take home enough money to cover housing and food expenses. Special education teachers, specifically adapted classrooms, have to plan and differentiate instruction in ALL content areas whilst dealing with behaviors and field constant parent emails and all of the paperwork associated with special ed. They should be financially compensated for the additional amount of work, and maybe then we wouldn't constantly have adapted special education teacher and paraprofessional vacancies.
No	Specifically would like more quality counselors (not necessarily quantity, though that might also help with case loads) at High School level. Our child has been reassigned counselors 3 times and only one seems truly knowledgeable about colleges, etc. beyond what we already find readily available.
No	Sports gets more funding and preference (Use of the field during Rock & Roll Review). Csd needs to support out very vibrant arts community.
No	Stop hitting central office staff. DEI positions do not help disadvantaged students, teachers do.
no	Stop the waste of money on "investigations" of racial issues. Focus on preparing students academically (including teaching them physics)!
No	STOP wasting \$\$ on outside consultants to tell you what you are already doing. When leadership overreacts - say Mia Culpa - what we meant to say was "Faculty X should not have used the N word and is being sent to training. Any further infractions will be grounds for termination." Save the money to fund the programs we greatly need. Also, please clarify if "Transportation to athletic events and practice" will be equally used for male and female sports as well as not just Football focused.
No	Stop wasting money, particularly on equity and admin. Focus on basic academic skills and support for special needs.
no	Strongly oppose SROs in school, especially if they will be armed, and oppose funding for a communications audit. We do not need to pay more consultants. Let's adequately pay our teachers, prioritize equity initiatives, and support music programs.
No	Submit budget and payment changes to the CSD-parents much earlier and much clearer than the change of payment for AP/IB in 2023!!!
no	Survey should be wider so you can easily see 1-13
No	Taxes in this city are outrageous and we would like to see more care given to tightening the budget so that there is less burden on tax payers.
No	Teacher pay lags almost all other comparable metro areas. Many teachers are leaving, or considering leaving the district. This is hands down the largest threat facing our school system.
no	Teacher salaries, reducing class sizes, and school safety are list important. Everything else comes after that.
NO	Teachers are not feeling appreciated and are overworked. Priority needs to be given to retaining quality teachers and thinking in a modern and flexible way to address the fact that teachers are leaving the profession and/or moving elsewhere to teach.
no	Teachers should not have to ask parents for things like PBIS rewards, paper towels, markers, etc. This should all be paid for by the CSD.
no	Tennis team has no transportation to and from games. Please hire more teachers, not more administrators.
None	Thank you for all your hard work on this.
Nursing as the number 2 on the list	Thank you for creating the survey.
Nursing retention - the new policy leaves hiring open to less qualified applicants, denying the community of Registered Nurses with college degrees, as well as addressing the significantly lower pay compared to other metro school systems.	Thank you for pulling this survey together.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Nutrition	Thank you for putting this survey out. The last thing we need are more positions at central office. Instead of hiring people to do additional equity work, use the people in the dept. that are already full time. If you want good teachers/paras to remain in the district, then give raises that make a difference. Stop the madness of reacting to problems by hiring additional staff that doesn't impact children in our classrooms.
Offering higher pay for subs to increase pool size of subs in our district.	Thank you for soliciting this input. Additional administrative & equity staff should be a low priority.
Orchestra and performing arts	Thank you for taking community feedback
Our incredible, yet woefully underfunded arts program, Including bhms & DHS chorus, orchestra, theater, etc.	Thank you for this survey. I hope the district realizes that the loudest parents on social media do not necessarily represent the opinions of the majority.
Our performing arts programs are vastly underfunded, and rely on Decatur Performs for much of their funding, which comes from parent and community donations. We need a full time Orchestra Director at the high school. Facilities - turf, athletic facilities such as a track, etc.	Thank you for your hard work, good communications, and openness to feedback. I support your efforts toward social justice in City of Decatur Schools.
Paid paternity leave	Thank you to the parents for leading this committee and presenting to CSD board & leadership!
Passenger vans to transport DHS teams/clubs (coaches could drive..don't need a special license)	Thanks for sending out this survey!
Pay increases for staff to be commensurate with surrounding metro districts	Thanks for your consideration.
Pay raise for adapted special education staff (teachers AND paraprofessionals)	Thanks!
Pay teachers and staff more	The central administration is too big and too expensive. This is the place to make cuts. I know it's easy to blame administrators and overlook all the work they do. But I don't offer these comments lightly. In a tight budget climate, the central administration needs to get smaller, less expensive, and more nimble.
Pension for operation staff. Operational staff can work for 30 years and receive less than \$300 with the 403(b) plan.	The central office is top heavy. Prioritize teachers and counselors and folks who actually work with students.
Performance & Arts. Also, more funding should be allocated to children with learning disabilities.	The children are falling apart socially and emotionally, especially at the high school. They need reduced pressure and stress from the top down. CSD should put less focus on IB, AP, test scores, and grades. CSD should put more focus on educating with the intent of nurturing healthy humans. The students are having a natural reaction to unhealthy circumstances.
Performing Arts	The chorus teacher is only part-time; that seems ludicrous
Performing arts	The City needs to work with the school about space for additional athletics fields for DHS and stop filling up every square acre with more apartments.
performing arts	The district's central administration has continued to grow over the past 5 years while teachers and paras have been continually expected to do more with less. This is unsustainable, unethical, and counter to the fundamental mission of CSD: to provide all students with a top-quality education from (sufficiently numerous) teachers and in-school staff whose expertise and dedication are substantively recognized, respected, and compensated.
Performing Arts	The fact that City of Decatur doesn't prioritize funding performing arts is absurd. Our performing arts programs are award winning. No budget for chorus or orchestra transportation? Tech Theatre gets \$1500? Pitiful.
Performing Arts	The first allocation of money should directly impact students. We've hired a slew of very competent individuals to fill positions at the Wilson Center yet when there was an incident at the high school, we hired an outside firm to investigate the racial and equitable practices that took place. If we already have our own equity department, why are we continuing to spend additional funds to address these issues? If you want to directly impact students AND address the concern regarding racial bias and equity, put money towards students in items including paying for the IB/AP tests or transportation for extracurricular. When CSD moved to having students/families incur the costs of IB/AP, the greatest impact, of course, was on people of color and low socioeconomic status. Next steps should include smaller class sizes and teacher retention.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Performing Arts	The format of this survey is not user friendly. Consider another method or layout in the future to help boost participation. Stakeholders are busy and don't have time to scroll around pages to enter answers. A potential method would be to just fill in a number beside each selection so you can see all selections and final answers on the screen at one time.
Performing Arts	The graph above is tricky to use. It might skew results. Good luck.
Performing Arts - including orchestra	The lack of athletic fields and upkeep for CSD is embarrassing. Why can we not build a turf field with a track and some Tennis/Pickleball courts at Legacy park to support our kids athletics.
Performing arts - they get almost no funding and we have a stellar program that is mainly funded by parent donations which is absurd. At the very least cover transportation to events and provide support for the development of the programs.	The last thing CSD needs are more "equity" resources. Stop injecting your openly partisan political initiatives into our schools. By every measure, not only are they ineffective, they are actually resulting in lower performance amongst the audience they are intended for. Stop the social engineering and teach students the skills necessary to be able to critically analyze an ever changing and more competitive environment.
Performing arts - transportation for chorus and theater performances and competitions.	The performing arts are woefully underfunded.
Performing Arts (theater, chorus, orchestra)	The Performing Arts Program has been one of the reasons why we stay at DHS, but we also contribute to Decatur Performs to ensure the productions are supported beyond ticket sales. We've invited nearly 75+ outside people to the performances over the last two years. The program overall could use more funding that doesn't come out of the parents' pockets. PAC upgrades are needed, especially sound among other things, transportation to field trips needed. Musical Theater does two-award winning performances a year and the existing budget barely covers the rights to one of them. The hundreds of hours the teachers, parents and students put into showing off the performing arts program at DHS is immeasurable. Don't forget, just like athletics, this can be a recruitment tool to attract more students to DHS. Artistic expression can save lives...the one creative outlet to academics that allows students to artistically express themselves. Please consider giving more funding to the Performing Arts at DHS and increasing the budget in this area by 2-3 fold.
Performing arts and musical theater.	The positions recommended from the DEI study should be incorporated into existing roles.
Performing arts ie. chorus, musical theater, tech theater	The rating table above was difficult to use.... all of the possible scores as well as the categories could not be seen together on the screen. I would not trust its validity.
Performing Arts including orchestra & theater	The school district is continuing to grow (a good thing) but is there a plan in place to alleviate the overcrowded hallways and classrooms? Thanks.
Performing arts programs at both the middle and high school levels	The school system should live within its means. Continuously spending reserves for current operating expenses is a just putting off a painful reckoning. Focus should be in the classroom not in administration.
Performing arts, life skills class - international perspectives, other home ec classes	The spending on the arts has to improve to maintain a rounded student body.
Performing Arts! Specifically transportation for orchestra and chorus. Athletics! Field improvements	The system seems to be top-heavy and not investing in the teachers and support. As a parent, I would like to see more boots on the ground than high-leveled administrators. I have experience with other districts that encourage more leadership at the school level and less overhead at central offices.
Performing arts! This is becoming a huge draw to our school and should be supported as such.	The theater, music theater, theater tech & chorus departments are underfunded in a way that does not reflect Decatur's value of providing good arts education for our children.
Please fund activities such as debate - or at least provide transportation. The arts are also currently way underfunded.	There are too many kids that have a hard time at school. They need support more than any of the above-listed "priorities." High school and middle school kids are spending time in bathrooms dealing with emotional issues. They have to have special permission to be able to seek support from the student center. DHS Seniors are spending inordinate amounts of time disrupting class time to "get points" for doing things so asinine and immature that they could get expelled, arrested, in school suspension or even die. My kid is not participating and feels like an outcast for wanting to spend time in class learning. This school system has its priorities all screwed up. I loved CSD when our kids started at the early learning center, but by the time they made it to middle school, the love for CSD started to fade. Now it is something distasteful with exception of some great teachers and DHS's Dr Jackson. I hate saying that here, but where else am I going to tell the truth? At the high school, senior kids have given themselves challenges of wetting themselves on purpose for points, eating a stick of butter, sex in the parking lot, drinking or vaping with a parent, streaking in public...this is ridiculous. Good luck to the next generation of parents.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Please hire more teachers. Teacher student ratio is too high.	<p>There is a discrepancy in funding in the school system which favors the sports programs over the Music and Arts programs. Is it equitable to spend much less on the DHS Music and Arts Programs in which 750 students participate than on the sports and athletic programs?</p> <p>Secondly, several of the elementary schools need more paraprofessionals in the classrooms. K -3</p> <p>The Spanish program in DHS appears to be lacking in it's ethos . It fails to prepare students to be proficient at speaking the language. This is pretty ridiculous when students have been studying the language in our school system since kindergarten.</p>
Please make sure you are adequately funding the DHS Musical Theatre, Orchestra and Chorus. This is an area of strength and should be an area of pride for CSD. However, the funding is incredibly low.	<p>There is absolutely NO need to increase any budget to include more bloat at the district/admin level. Utilize dollars for those who have direct interaction with students. Also, our building need upgrades that are essential not just visual. The addition of more central office staff is ridiculous.</p> <p>Of note, the above ranking is not complete as I couldn't access past 8, so the blank ones are not priorities at all in my opinion</p>
Please pay our teachers well!	There is nowhere in the budget dedicated to keeping the students safe. There is nothing for the nurses to use to get supplies to maintain a healthy school and/or to provide training for personnel. There's no room for growth for the school health department.
<p>Raises for Paraprofessionals.Tired of seeing them come in and out the building. I have children who need diapers and I see other kids with Major behavioral issues.Those paras do so much work and when I looked up their salaries they barely make enough to support a home and families. Honestly with the way prices are increases for housing and when I did the math a starting para is only barely making 850 a paycheck. There is no telling how much money is taken out in Taxes and other benefits. Treat these paras correctly and pay them a reasonable rate so that the turnover rate wouldn't be so high. They care deeply and work so hard for our friends with disabilities and our kids get attached to them only to see them leave because this school district doesn't want to pay them a liveable wage.</p>	There needs to be additional education for teachers and staff about neurodiversity.
Raises for teachers	These decisions and large recurring staffing expenditures should not be made before a new superintendent is selected. The board should take community sentiment about the current super into account in making these decisions.
Reading support	This form doesn't work. We can't submit anything.
Really really need to look at ways to reduce the number of people with undefined roles at Central Office. It seems like whenever someone under performs they get reassigned to a meaningless job that pays a lot. What is Manuel Maloof doing for instance.	This is a poorly designed survey. Ranking 13 items on a list that cannot be fully seen all at once is aggravating. I redid the list 3 times. Please, if you're going to ask people to rank a huge number of things, at least make the tool help them fill it without creating unnecessary chaos in the process.
Recess and lunch supervision to give teachers a break without relying on parent volunteers.	This is a second entry from the same computer. After the survey a link appear to take the survey again.
Replace current reading curriculum (balanced literacy) and implement evidence based strucrtred literacy and training for teachers!	This survey is not user friendly. The ranking of is not ideal (1-5 would have worked); normally a 1-5 scale is strongly disagree to agree (lowest on the left) and so your survey might have confused people; it required figuring out how to scroll across the survey, and requires choices on each item in order, so you may not get great results that you can use from this survey.
Replacing busses with electric. Bus exhaust has proven to decrease IQ	This survey is really confusing and hard to maneuver. I don't understand a lot of nuance - my kids are too young for HS athletics so transportation is not a value but I am sure it is important for safety of older kids, for example. I think Decatur's central office is far too top heavy and Dr. Fehrman's presentation at last meeting was not clear. The ratios of studnts to teachers make no sense and again have no nuance. I know the classroom ratios are not that low! We need to be able to account for instruction. How many in special ed classrooms for example? The transparency means nothing if you cna't see the whole sata set.
Retention or raise for cafeteria staff, more maintenance budget or training for them, because it seems like there are a lot of things that are not being taken care of at the schools that will cost more to fix the longer they are put off, and that could potentially become safety hazards.	This survey is tricky
Retention pay for custodians, bus drivers, and other staff at the low end of the district's pay scale.	this survey validity is not going to be great with how difficult it is to fill out this 13 x13 grid.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Robotics	This survey was very confusing and difficult to answer. The ranking exercise is set up like a rating exercise. In order to compare items and consider thoughtfully I needed to copy/paste the items into excel and rank them there, then come back to the survey and scroll up and down and over to select one response per column. If you have a high quit rate, it's likely caused by respondents becoming frustrated. 13 items is usually too many to rank. I'm not trying to be pedantic, but if surveys are difficult for respondents, they can lead to untrustworthy results. A potentially better way to do this in Forms would be to have people select and rank their top 5. Then, select and rank the next 5, then select and rank the remaining 3 items.
Robotics	This survey was very difficult to complete given the formatting and ranking. A more simple approach would surely yield more participation.
Robotics / STEM / Engineering	We are fortunate to have the student to teacher ratio that we have. The class sizes are just right. BHMS currently has an invested and take charge principal - YAY! Let's make sure that we provide retention incentives for Mr. Thomas. CSD needs to do better at hiring competent and strong teachers/admin/staff therefore having a STRONG HR Dept. matters and be able to provide incentives for retention. We need to invest in our staff. Happy Teachers(Staff) = Happy Students. We need LESS Wilson Center staffing. Thank you for creating this survey and letting our voices be heard. As a Decatur community member, CSD parent, and CSD teacher, I hope that we can see City Schools of Decatur get out of the slump that we are in and start shining soon.
Robotics. This program is key to preparing students for tomorrow's STEM careers. Currently due to limited school support the program relies heavily on parent volunteers and donations. Student demand at Renfroe far outstrips the number of positions available (more teams needed) and at the high school level more funding is needed to support the higher level robotics teams.	We do not need more administrators. We don't need to pay for tests for the wealthiest students. I don't think there's any evidence that hiring people to tell teachers how to teach improves outcomes. I support Hans Utz's suggestion of looking for waste within the budget.
Salad bar in lunchrooms!! Bring it back	We do NOT need to waste money hiring additional HR or Equity positions because of one isolated incident at the high school. I moved to this district from another metro Atlanta district two years ago and am shocked and appalled at how this district wastes money. If an expense does not directly benefit the students and teachers, we don't need it!
School Health supplies, nursing budget	We don't need to dump more resources into gifted support when our reading fundamentals and special education are so deficient, when schools don't have dedicated 504 coordinators, and so on. Also re: communications, what we need is a real communications staffer and not another audit and consultant providing jargon laced word salad reports with little to no public oversight.
School lunch	We don't support the hiring of additional equity or human resources staff.
school lunches	We don't need more administrators. I support anything that supports our teachers.
School nutrition (more farm to table & organic)	We need better support and resources/funding for our homeless students.
Security during sporting practices and events.	We need grades!
SEL program should be funded at the elementary and middle school levels. The arts should be better funded. Fund additional Spanish teachers at the K-2 and 3-5 schools.	We need more staff in the schools, not central office.
sex education and health	We need more teachers and less people up above getting overpaid and creating more work! My youngest has had the worst year of his life due to a crowded classroom and zero teacher support. The class is out of control and these kids are simply not learning how to learn, let alone actually learning.
Similar to staffing; additional personnel to reduce class sizes and student to teacher ratio to have equitable numbers across all schools	We need to fund the boots on the ground - ie teachers that actually work with students -- before we fund more positions at the central office who never come in contact with students. There used to be a very lean central office staff but it has literally exploded in the last few years. Fewer staff members overseeing teachers and more teachers
Single subject acceleration in ELA, Science and Social Studies in Middle School	We need to support what is already in place. If the foundation is not supported (teachers and educational objectives) you cannot address social concerns. Maslows hierarchy of needs. Keep the focus on clear educational objectives.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Sound system for the auditorium	We need to utilize our staff more effective and efficiently, we have less students but more admin staff than ever before - why do the smallest schools need vice principals? Why do we have so many central office staff while teachers at Talley are overrun with classes they can't handle because of behavior issues. My child's teacher can't even teach half the time! How can kids learn in that environment!
Special training for dyslexia students.	What is the budget amount allocated for/requested for the IT department? For students' Chromebooks? Thanks.
specific training and for special education teachers on inclusion of students with significant disabilities in general education classes, the additional equity person hired should be a disability advocate	When I offered to help my the co-workers in my department with "culturally responsive pedagogy" after the central office mishandled a racist incident at DHS, I was shut down and then reprimanded for my tone by the central office. I don't trust that expanding any of the staff at the central office is the solution to our district's issues. Teachers should be paid more, and If there's going to be a position opened up to teach "culturally responsive pedagogy", those of us who already do that on top of our regular jobs should be considered first.
Speech Pathologist should be paid on a separate pay scale based on specialized skill set, licensing requirements, and job responsibilities. There are 9 of us in CSD and our position is unique. We evaluate and treat a variety of impairments and are we not considered teachers nor special education teachers. In Cobb County School System, I would be making \$11,000 more annually and the district also pays into Social Security. City of Marietta Schools would be \$7000 more annually and pays into Social Security, as well as an optional pre-tax retirement plan (CCSDRR).	When my oldest started school at College Heights 15 years ago, the tax rate for Decatur was lower and the number of \$700K was few and far between. Now we pay higher taxes and the number of \$700K + houses has skyrocketed. Why then did we have smaller class sizes, more Spanish curriculum/time, more paras (supporting each grade level at the K-3 schools), IB was paid for, etc...Where is the money going? It seems as though Central Office staff has continued to grow in numbers while staffing at the schools has continued to shrink. I was alarmed at the number of students per class there are in some of the K-2 schools. 24 per class?! That's not what people have gotten to know and love about Decatur. People are not spending 1million dollars on homes so that we can have BOTH an Assistant and Associate Superintendent. They have moved here because of their local schools and the quality of teachers within them. The money needs to go towards items that directly impact students first.
Sports and athletic facilities-- a track, a pool, etc.	Where does funding for performing arts show up in the budget? Why are there additional requests for funding for athletics but not performing arts, like chorus? Why is transportation for athletics being considered as a CSD expense but chorus had to cover their own transportation without CSD funds? What type of funding has been set aside for much needed updates/maintenance of the PAC? Storage, repairs, upgrades to equipment?
Sports facilities so that the students can get more exercise. Particularly a running track.	Where does funding for performing arts show up in the budget? Why are there additional requests for funding for athletics but not performing arts, like orchestra, theatre, and chorus?
STEM and robotics, other non-athletic clubs and activities, support for atypical learners	Where does funding for performing arts show up in the budget? Why are there additional requests for funding for athletics but not performing arts, like orchestra, theatre, and chorus? Why is transportation for athletics being considered as a CSD expense but chorus and theatre had to cover their own transportation without CSD funds? What type of funding has been set aside for much needed updates/maintenance of the performing arts center? Storage, repairs, upgrades to equipment?
STEM/ Robotics- needs more funding	Where does funding for performing arts show up in the budget? Why are there additional requests for funding for athletics but not performing arts, like orchestra, theatre, and chorus? Why is transportation for athletics being considered as a CSD expense but chorus and theatre had to cover their own transportation without CSD funds? Note: Decatur Performs paid over \$13K in transportation costs this past year! What type of funding has been set aside for much needed updates/maintenance of the PAC? Storage, repairs, upgrades to equipment?

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
<p>Substitute teacher budget and plan</p> <p>Transparency around budget past, present, and future including money spent on consultants, lawsuits, settlements, and pay outs</p> <p>Transparency around stipends for teachers who coach, mentor, substitute on demand, and serve beyond contracted hours including time for learning new methods around grading - is the per hour extracurricular work equitable and just?</p> <p>Substitute teacher pay.</p>	<p>Why is there not an option in the 13 choices for performing arts? I would like there to be more funds to support band and chorus.</p>
<p>substitute teachers</p>	<p>Why keep hiring more administrators? When my oldest child, who's now in high school, started in CSD, every elementary school teacher had a para and the class sizes were at 18 kids per teacher (9 per adult). Now teachers often miss their lunch break or planning time because they have to fill in for a missing para. Why are para numbers shrinking, and admin numbers ballooning? Also, why are our teachers' salaries so low compared to the metro average? We lose good teachers every year because of low compensation.</p>
<p>Support for 504 implementation and other learning difficulties to allow kids to get attention they need when classrooms are large and kids need more tailored learning. Would be great to have tutors for kids who need them, whereas we pay out of pocket now for additional academic support</p>	<p>Without context, this becomes simply a mirror to each parent's particular priorities. Further, why doesn't the district partner with a community organization offering free resources regarding bias and bullying? I recommend ADL's free No Place for Hate Program, as well as their fee-for-service A World of Difference program. Full disclosure, I work for ADL and am very proud of our work... and happy to discuss.</p>
<p>Support for musical education at Talley Street, including band and chorus</p>	<p>Work harder getting and keeping excellent/highly qualified teachers. Also, this form was very difficult to manage. Can you get anything right?</p>
<p>support the performing arts in the same way as athletics!</p>	<p>You are spending way too much money on administrative and specialist teachers. Please spend time instead improving the quality of the existing teachers and improving communication. We are happy with our child's education at Westchester, but our child who just graduated from DHS received terrible instruction at FAVE, BHMS, and the first two years of DHS. Your bloated budget does not address the read educational issues in the district.</p>
<p>Support your Nurses, they have been the tip of the spear for the last 3 years. Hire RN's with Nursing experience and pay them at their market value to keep and / or attract qualified candidates.</p>	<p>You can easily argue the priority for all of the items above, however, I wonder if there are ways to accomplish some of them without just a blanket "hire more" mentality. I noticed in the Budget Request Summary, there were some roles that were adjusted (up or down) to align the responsibility with the title (i.e. pay). Could that be an opportunity to do that proactively across the departments so instead of hiring an entire additional person, we could increase title/pay so it has a smaller \$ amount impact on our budget?</p>
<p>Tax Reductions</p>	<p>Your musical theater, chorus and acting programs are outstanding! Why do they not receive as much or more support as athletics? This is a creative, artistic community.</p>
<p>Teacher bonuses and sub retention</p>	<p>Your voting for highest to lowest priority was a bit confusing. I voted based on my 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priority.</p>
<p>Teacher raises equivalent to inflation, not "retention compensation".</p>	
<p>Teacher raises. Cost of living increases have far surpassed teacher/faculty/staff pay increases, which is putting more burden on our educators, such that that are making huge personal sacrifices to educate our youth. A CSD teacher salary will afford around \$275k home, and that's with said teacher spending ALL of 1 of their 2 monthly paychecks on their mortgage. How then are they expected to buy supplies for their classrooms, pay for childcare, eat healthy meals, send their own kids to college? Much less save money, pay off debt (student loans,) get ahead. We have all known for a long time that teachers don't get paid enough, but the recent cost-of-living increases are making it impossible for our precious teachers. If Covid taught us nothing else, it should teach us that we need teachers most of all. We can do better. Until this is addressed, this is the only "equity conversation" I want to see.</p>	
<p>Teacher salaries to recruit and retain the best teachers. Textbooks. Microscopes. Novels for students to take home and read. Resources for continuing education, dyslexia training, special education teachers to support students with disabilities. Core academic resources and supplies.</p>	

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?

Additional comments:

The performing arts

The performing arts programs. The money budgeted for orchestra, acting, musical theatre and chorus is a tiny fraction of what it takes to run these programs.

Theater and arts

Theater, band, and chorus support at DHS, including budgeting for the PAC needed upgrades / maintenance.

Theater/music theater/theater tech, chorus

Theatre - where a lot of your alternative kids participate, transportation for decatur performs

Theatre, drama and chorus

there are very few activites available at the middle school and no after school program at all (City of Decatur no longer has an after school program there -- most of the other programs stop at 5th grade). As a result we have students just roaming around after school. If teachers had a budget and a small stipend they would offer more activities for students but teachers are burned out and unwilling to do more than they already are doing. If you don't make the sports team (and even swim team had cuts this year) there's nothing for you to do. I would imagine this is similar at the high school for the non-sports kiddos. We'd have more clubs if teachers didn't have to collect dues and were given some kind of token stipend.

Transportation and more equipment upgrades for band and chorus

Transportation and support for orchestra and other Decatur Performs programs + a dedicated DHS orchestra teacher

Transportation and support for students other than athletes. There are many high level, national school "clubs" that don't get anything b/c they are not considered a team.

Transportation for all chorus events. Improvements to the DHS PAC. In the spirit of equity, heftier budget for all arts to cover all curricular costs. Are the parents of students in culinary classes asked to pay for food for class? Does the science department have to raise money to put on experiments? Why do band, theatre, and chorus parents have to donate money for things like risers, and stipends, and other materials. Also, in the spirit of equity, the same percentage of cost covered for the extracurricular arts as is covered for athletics. So if 90% of sports costs are covered, then 90% of marching band or extra curricular theater should be covered, but none at the expense of curricular items like chorus or curricular drama, band, etc.

Transportation for DHS non-athletic activities

Transportation for more than just athletics- but to include transportation for the performing arts as well.

Transportation for musical arts programs (band, chorus), more funding for DHS theater and chorus

Transportation for performing arts events. Larger budget for musical theater and acting performances- is there even one? It takes so much parent involvement and money to put in these award-winning performances.

Transportation for the arts. They spent over \$13,000. Why do athletes get transport paid for and not the arts?

Travel cost coverage for Decatur Performs and fun allocation to musical productions.

tutoring. I'm trying to get my daughter tutoring in math and was referred to a paid website.

Two things- (1) small buses or vans to transport student athletes (e.g. tennis, golf, volleyball, etc...) to and from games. (2) Tennis courts. It is a shame that the tennis team does not have their own home courts. It is annoying to have to try to work around The Glenlake Tennis Center schedule.

In addition, there is no pool, home track and field, baseball or softball fields.

Thank you.

Is there an item you would like to see funded that is not listed above?	Additional comments:
Underfunded sports programs, prevention of and reaction to school fights, monitoring of school bathrooms for vaping/drugs/alcohol/sex	
Upgrading ventilation systems to assure that there is always fresh air in all rooms to limit the spread of airborne germs, especially in rooms where kids congregate and often remove masks (cafeteria, auditoriums). This should include regular monitoring of airflow by engineers. Maybe also take this opportunity to monitor for noise from ventilation/AC systems (I vaguely recall a complaint about classroom noise a few years back)	
Vetting special education teachers/ para support teachers to ensure they have tools and credentials for helping children with SLD's.	
We need better support and resources/funding for our homeless students.	
We need to increase payment to substitute teachers to be competitive with nearby districts	
Wellness nutrition specialist for employees at each CSD onsite 1 hr a day once a week letting allotted people for each session.	
Where does funding for performing arts show up in the budget?	
Why are there additional requests for funding for athletics but not performing arts, like orchestra, theatre, and chorus?	
Why is transportation for athletics being considered as a CSD expense but chorus and theatre had to cover their own transportation without CSD funds?	
What type of funding has been set aside for much needed updates/maintenance of the PAC? Storage, repairs, upgrades to equipment?	
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Yes, an investment in the purchasing, training, and implementing a second curriculum that better serves the other half of the District's student population suffering under the IB curriculum.	
Yes, performing arts! Why is transportation for athletics being considered as a CSD expense but chorus and theatre had to cover their own transportation without CSD funds?	
Yes, the performing arts program!	
Yes. My daughter participates in both theater and chorus at DHS, as well as on the lacrosse team. I would like to see funding for the arts in line with funding for athletics. DHS has a very strong arts department, and many kids thrive in this program. It is just as important for college, etc., as athletics. Yet the arts programs do not receive a lot of funding, and parents need to fund a lot of the programs and trips for the arts programs (either out of pocket or via donations to Decatur Performs). For instance, there is a budget line item for buses for athletic events. There should be a budget amount for arts trips also.	

