

Name	Relation to Shoreline Public Schools (check all that apply)	Comment to the School Board
Anne Dame	Staff Member	<p>Dear Superintendent Reyes and members of the school board - Thank you for the difficult work that you do and all that you do to support students, staff, and families.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the attempt to return the district's fund balance to 4% in one year. We did not get there in one year and I believe that trying to repair it in one year will cause more harm to our students and staff than it will do good. It will not be possible to maintain "a robust and equitable learning environment" nor "safe and healthy schools" with those sorts of drastic cuts.</p> <p>Let me give you a concrete of example of what will be lost. One day last month I was teaching classes in the Einstein library. My library tech was out. Her sub has her teacher certification and was pulled because we had several unfilled positions in the building (that's a story for another day.). Our IT techs were also out of the building (also a story for another day). As I was teaching classes, teachers were sending students down to find and check out books - we are a library, after all. I was unable to help them because I was teaching. I had to library tech and the sub had been pulled. In addition, other students were coming in for help with their 1:1 chromebooks. I could not help them. I was teaching. I had no library tech, her sub had been pulled, and the IT techs were out of the building. I had building staff looking for help with their projection systems. I could not help them. See reasons previously listed. I had guest teachers (aka subs) who needed help accessing lesson plans and other tech help. I could not help them either because of reasons already listed. This day was an exception. Yet I fear it will become the rule because of the drastic number of cuts that will need to be made in order to reach an 18-19 million dollar goal. It was going to be difficult enough to reach 13-14 million dollars. This was already going to have significant impact. Now it will be devastating.</p> <p>This decision will have a very negative consequence on students and families. It will most strongly affect those who are farthest from educational justice. it is going to remove supports they desperately need. It will not be robust or equitable. It will not be safe or healthy. It will remove staffing and systems they require in order to succeed on a daily basis.</p> <p>Our staff are already struggling with heavy loads. People are already leaving the field in great numbers. We can only bear so much. Shoreline is a great school district but if you take out all the supports, it will collapse. For the sake of what is best for our students, families, and staff I am asking that you reconsider this decision to bring the fund balance back to 4% in one year.</p> <p>Sincerely, Anne Dame Einstein Librarian</p>
Shannon McMaster	Parent/Guardian, Staff Member	<p>As a school employee and parent in the district I am deeply saddened to hear that the board has charged the BAT team with finding ways to recoup the 14 million deficit PLUS find an extra 4 million for cushion in just one year. The reason we are in such a deficit did not happen in one year, and it won't be solved in one year without extremely deep cuts that will have long lasting affects throughout the district for many years to come. Our schools are thriving, vibrant places with strong school communities and relationships. Cutting staff and services so drastically will severely impact our classrooms, staff and students. I implore the board to reconsider their charge to the BAT team with a more gradual approach to cutting funding and losing staff. I know some cuts are unavoidable and we need to create a sustainable budget, but there is no reason to do it all at once.</p>

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Rhonda Okazaki	Community Member, Staff Member	<p>Please reconsider your directive to the Budget Advisory Team to make the full cuts to the Shoreline School District budget in one year. Cutting 12% of the budget, 18 million dollars, in only one year will be devastating to our students and schools. At a time when we are still in recovery mode from Covid - both mentally and academically, it is imperative that we continue to provide lower class sizes, para-educator support, counselor support and all we can for our students to help them recover. Cutting programs and staff that will raise class sizes above 30 students at the elementary level with little support, is unconscionable.</p> <p>You, as School Board members, have not been in the schools to see the daily effects of the past few years. Take a look at my students math/reading scores from the Fall i-Ready and you'll see the lowest academic group of students I've had in my career of 22 years. Collapsing the support services and lower class sizes will further decimate this cohort of students and continue their lower SEL and academic levels for years to come.</p> <p>Our students, staff and community deserve thoughtful decisions on the part of our elected School Board members. Your decision to make the full cuts in one year is irresponsible to the Shoreline School District that you serve. Your mission is to keep students and equity at the center of your decision making - obviously these values are not being met by your directive to the Budget Advisory Committee and needs to be rescinded to the recommendation by the Deputy Superintendent for a multi-year plan.</p>
Karen Helseth	Staff Member	<p>I am concerned by what I am hearing about the district's aggressive plan to build the reserve by implementing significant cuts to programs and staffing. While I understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, I would ask the district to consider the needs of our current student population, and what they have been through. The traumas and setbacks experienced by many during the height of the pandemic continue to affect our students, and it would not be fair to deprive them of additional opportunities or support. We need to do the best we can for the students that are here now, and take a more gradual approach to saving for the future.</p>

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Nicole Steward	Community Member, Staff Member	<p>This comment is in response to the current budgeting plan and how it will impact the experiences of teachers and students, especially teachers and students of color.</p> <p>The Board's decision to return to their recommended 4% reserve in one year will require cuts that will severely and unnecessarily impact ALL students in Shoreline, but will especially impact our teachers and students of color. As one of the few teachers of color in our district, my workload is already immense. I am often asked to serve our community through leading other staff in equity work, mentoring other teachers, advising clubs and groups that are oriented toward culture and equity, and being a safe person for students of color to turn. All of this is the work that is continually asked of your teachers of color, often without extra pay or acknowledgement of boundaries, and often of first or second year teachers. This is work that will not be completely solved through budgeting but WILL be compounded through the severity of the planned cuts. Our staff still does not reflect our student body and retention of teachers of color should be a top priority of this district.</p> <p>I am at full capacity of 36 students in my classes and have only seen my student loads grow since starting in Shoreline, despite hearing that we are losing students. I have stated multiple times to administration this year that my load is unsustainable and continue to have equity work added to my plate - because there is NO ONE ELSE to take it on. The load shared amongst the few teachers of color is heavy and the loss of even one person per school increases the load even more. If the school board will place achieving a reserve quickly at a higher priority than alleviating the overloaded staff that directly serve our youth, this district will not retain teachers of color because it is unsustainable to teach full-time and take on the extra labor that comes with simply being who we are in this district. I accepted my position in Shoreline specifically because of the supports this district had for me: an instructional coach, a mentor teacher, knowledgeable administrators, equity programs, and so many opportunities to grow and lead students. Seeing these things leached away due to the mistakes of people who do not even see students each day is a step too far for me, despite the pride and care I have for our school.</p> <p>I do not think the board has fully thought about the impact this will have on our day-to-day experience as teachers and students in the coming years. Schools are still not "normal" and removing the supports we had pre-pandemic would be difficult even in the best of times. Prioritizing reserve money over all else, especially when there are wiser plans to fix the mistakes that have been made, sends the message that the teachers in this district are disposable and replaceable. This choice directly defies the commitment to equity that this district claims.</p> <p>Please consider the experiences of our students who will only see staff that are overloaded and unsupported when making this decision. Thank you.</p>
Sadrina Dorn	Staff Member	I would like to urge the Shoreline School Board to please follow the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations Jennifer Farmer's recommendations to create a multi-year plan to bring the budget to the 4% reserve mark. If the Board proceeds with a one-year plan to rebuild their reserve, SEA positions will be severely impacted, and the essential support provided to Shoreline's students and schools will be decimated.
Lyla Taddei	Community Member, Parent/Guardian, Staff Member	I have deep concerns about how our drastic budgetary cuts will affect our District's commitment to equity. We are systematically cutting out all of the people who do the work of equity in our schools. I would encourage the board to consider a less dramatic path towards balancing the budget.