

March 27, 2014

Dr. Caine:

We appreciate the opportunity to identify \$300,000 in recurring expenditures at SHS to help the District during its financial crisis. We were given this task in order to continue the successful 4x4 Block Schedule at SHS. Stillwater High School is taking on 16% of the proposed budget cuts to make up for the entire School District's deficit. If we were to cut salaries exclusively, that would represent 12% of our teaching staff, excluding Special Education. Therefore, this task was taken seriously as we gathered as much data and information as we could in the time allotted realizing that people's livelihoods were at stake and the expected level of student achievement was in jeopardy. Although the District has not released the proposed budget for FY 2015 nor have they released any specifics on their proposed cuts, we made the best decisions based on the limited information available at this time.

**Belief Statements:**

1. SHS faculty and staff support the 4x4 Block Schedule with a 0 Hour option (allowing for more flexibility and credit recovery at no cost to the District) because it is what is best for students and any alternatives will be lowering the standards the Stillwater community expects from the High School. SHS currently requires 26 credits to graduate, which is higher than most districts in the state. Moving off of the 4x4 Block Schedule would require SHS to lower the graduation requirements to 23 credits, the State minimum.
2. The 4x4 Block Schedule does not cost SPS an additional \$300,000 in expenditures per year. A more accurate estimation would be approximately \$100,000 per year.

**\$300,000 Reduction in Recurring Expenditures Proposal:**

1. Reduction in staff (4 positions)	\$200,000
2. Textbook savings by not going off the 4x4 Block Schedule*	100,000
3. Transfer of Vice Principal to SJHS	70,000
4. Athletics and Activities Reductions	30,000
<b>Total Reduction</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

- \* We believe if funds from the Bond can be used to buy additional textbooks as you suggested, they could also be used to retain the 4x4 Block Schedule. Textbooks costs will continue to be 50% higher each year should we go off the 4x4 Block Schedule.

**SHS Reductions the District is assuming responsibility for:**

9 SHS National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) @ \$355.32 = \$3,197.88  
SHS Library Budget = \$15,293.76

Respectfully submitted,

[Redacted Signature]

Representing the Administration, Faculty, and Staff of Stillwater High School