

Chagrin Falls Alternative Finance Committee Results - December 2008

What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Your survey mentions the inability to raise taxes along with the increase of property values. It fails to mention why our taxes are not decreased when property values fall. Personally, my wife and I, cannot continue to support school funding that guarantees cost of living improvements for teachers and administrators while our life style remains stagnant of declines. Enough is enough. We will fight any plans to raise taxes when the economy is in such dire condition.

Your Budget: re: use of Buses with 4 or less students "delivered" on 1 Bus - You should explore your "Country Club" attitude and get Back to Reality.

You have a very difficult job with the economy going south today.

With reference to Question #7, I would not consider supporting "a different funding option" without knowing the details. The question is poorly worded - either that, or I do not understand its intent.

Why is funding always the issue? The cost side of the equation probably provides significant savings as opposed to the need for more funding.

Why do you run busses when everyone drives kids to school?

Where does that extra RITA tax go that we pay on top of our local income tax? I think a graduated school tax on earned income, clearly broken out, is the best idea.

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Wheelchair availability to gym used for voting

We have voted for levies before but we are trying to live in our home without being put out because of more taxes. Could the seniors vote for the levy but not have their taxes increased? Otherwise we will vote all school levies down. We want to give you the money we know you need, but can't afford a tax increase.

We are angered at the "those who earn more or have higher value house, should pay more". Living in CF school district implies a belief in education as top priority. We believe all should pay equally for overall school budget, with opt out for retired (w/ low income) or poverty. So budget divided by all CF households equals what each household pays...we recognize Ohio law constrains this. Not an answer to budget funding, but for fundraising, set up huge CF Foundation (non-profit, private, donations tax deductible), cease all other fundraising efforts at school level, channeling those energies to Foundation. Sole mission of Foundation is to raise huge private money to donate to school.

We all have to pull in our belts and manage our money tighter. C.F. School System is wonderful, but students don't have to have everything. You need to concentrate on the most important thing-reading, writing & arithmetic.

unknown

Two pages of comments attached to survey

Tuition on a per pupil basis.

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Tuition funding of students an/or privatization of public schooling, similar to colleges. All teacher & administrative salaries & increases based upon results. A solid program to reduce costs of operations & energy consumption.

Tuition for families that attend , discounted by family income.

Try using the money you already have more wisely.

Trust fund, endowment funds, alumni funds, hava a show in the Performing Arts Center with famous alumni.

This is probably alreday being done, but should be publicized. Grants written/given for innovative and creative teaching. Marketing and sales of innovative methods.

The only reason I can live in Chagrin is because my kids don't go to the school!

The Ohio Lottery was supposed to fund schools. A portion of my Target credit card purchases goes to CF schools.

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Teachers health care

Tax on all income including capital gains, interest and dividends

Supplemental charge for requested classes: I would like to see an engineering class or computer software class and I would not mind paying a course fee for it. We should use experienced vendors to teach these classes.

Study other Ohio & other state's funding programs for ideas. There may be consultants in this field who can advise. I don't recommend much dependence on income taxes as they fluctuate much more than property taxes. Also, West G turned down an income tax proposal decisively.

stop wasting the money you already collect.

Stop wasting as much \$\$ Stop all all this useless spending! its ridiculous & too expensive!

State or Federal funds equally distributed to all schools on a per capita basis

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Sports programs should be partially financed through fees payed by the parents of participants. I would not vote for any tax increase unless this is included in the funding strategy.

Some form of a state-wide pool of funds, distributed equally per student, as a base level of funding for each school.

Solar panels - green energy

- Sin tax on alcohol sales - foundation for donations/contributions -alternative energy/investments

Should be based on income first, property taxes second or not at all.

Schools need to be supported at a basic level by the state and then supplemented by local property tax. The local income tax is a silly levy and should either grant 100% credit for taxes paid in another municipality or be abolished. Permanent improvement levy can be a reasonable idea but needs oversight. Localities should rely on local property tax primarily. State should have income tax & share it around the state.

"School Saver" buying group purchasing program as discussed with Annette Morad before.

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Sales taxes. Please look into how other cities in other states fund schools. Where does the \$ really go from the lottery? Tenn. & ga offer the Hope scholarship(higher ed) and lower taxes...

Sales tax on a statewide basis.

Sales tax levy on all goods and food and services purchased in school district.

sales tax increase, if available-gas tax-any other consumer based taxes if available.

Sales tax appropriated for school funding. Where exactly is the Ohio Lottery money promised to schools? Show that amount on your annual reports.

Sales Tax

Sales Tax

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SALES TAX!!

sales tax

Requests for endowments

Repeal HB 920 but cap automatic school related property tax increases to CPI w/o food and energy.

regional cooperation for programs, curricula, health care, busing, food services, purchasing of materials, other insurances

Reduce/cut the pay of Superintendent & administration officials & give to the teachers. They (teachers) are the ones who deserve it. Just because people live in the Chagrin area doesn't mean they're all exclusively "rich". My husband & I never had children (like others in the county) & we're supporting the school system. There needs to be another way for school systems to get their money. I believe if you have children, you need to pay for their education. You need to get back to the basics & forget the computers. Teenagers now adays don't even know how to add in their head or even use common sense.

Reduce property tax and tax earned income of 65+ at a lower rate.

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Reduce # of teachers Reduce athletic funding Botom line - Property taxes are out of control - only way out is to cut costs - since schools take major funding - must address asap before taxpayers vote in home reduction for tax's - home price's down 20-30% but taxes are still same - why

Reduce costs appropriately. No more tax increases.

qqq

Push state to fix school funding.

Pursue obtaining more money from state & fed. govnt. On a smaller scale, continue to drive students into fundraising efforts that relate to their immediate & relative activities such as athletic, band & even after-prom. (I know after-prom is mostly donations & parent fundraisers . . . require more participation from students!)

Public and private grants, more focused public/private fundraising efforts - ie capital campaigns.

Program/Cost Reductions

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Privitization of all public schools, or tuition charges while kids are in school, reduction of ludicrous 6 figure salaries of superintendant & principles, etc.

Private sponsors to supplement school teams, with those monies that would be spent on the teams funneled back to academics or try a "pay-to-play" option for the students.

Private fundraising. Several people offered to raise the money to cover the cost of the buses for the kindergarten problem that arose before the last Levy.

Private fundraising for specific capital improvements rather than tax payers.

Private funding for large capital improvements/additions.

Private donations

Pressure State Legislature to add funding to schools

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Possibility of corporate sponsorships and grant supported activities.

Petition the state to change financing so that the state provides funding and spend time and effort to make Ohio obey the constitution like other states do.

Pay to play for sports; potential language; and extracurricular activities. Understanding what options exist to create or vote for more businesses coming into the Village to create a better tax basis for the community at large so all of the school costs don't fall solely on homeowners. (ie Village making it easier for new restaurants, etc. to come into town...)

Pay to play for sports & extracurricular activities. Sponsorships can be made available for financially challenged families. "Make do" wherever possible - go paperless. I just had my first payraise in 3 yrs, my husband may be laid off this year, my retired neighbor just took out a reverse mortgage after the last levy to pay her property taxes. We have a wonderful school system, but teh "well is getting to the bottom." I would delay asking for more funding as long as possible!

Pay to play = for many sports & activities. Eliminate student lounge. They are in school to learn in class. Increase discipline.

Open-Ended Response

Only ask for money when you need it - not in advance. The entire system of financing schools in Ohio needs to be reformed. In the meantime, use some combination of the traditional levy supplemented by a very low (eg 1/4%) earned income tax on residents and persons working in Chagrin.

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not sure what the options are

not sure at this time...

not sure

Not qualified to answer

None of tax choices address the inequality of school funding across counties, states and country

None - Earned income coupled with property tax rollback best idea!

None

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

None

NO SALES TAX

Need money for improvement to the CVRC facility and pool. This must happen through the school.

More expense control.

Mandatory collection of funds from the state. Cap or credit for senior citizens

Make cuts in admin salaries. Freeze their salaries as well. Freeze teacher's salaries. Make cuts to sports.

Look at alternative ways to raise money. For example, Kenston's efforts to raise funds for their football field.

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local sales tax

Local Chagrin Falls sales tax, perhaps coupled with a local sales tax for online purchases.

Live within your means.

Levy for pinpointed expenditures. They contribute to clarity & accountability.

Learn to live within your means. WE DID NOT need an 800 person performance hall, an all weather track, etc. This is an educational forum, not an entertainment forum.

Kids in school paying separately for extracurriculars, field trips, etc. Teachers pay more for health care. Cut bussing.

Kenston is looking at a windmill. What are we looking at to lower energy costs? I would favor a one time levy to put in Geothermal heating for instance. What about looking into 4 day school weeks? (done in Minnesota)

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It would be a nice approach if the Chagrin Schools would operate on true need rather than "wants" in regard to programming and facilities.

It seems like these are the only funding options. However, my son will be attending kindergarten at Gurney next year, and I support the fee for an extended day. I would like to see that program expanded, to see the entire community's need for it met.

Is private funding through a community based foundation/endowment a legal alternative to augment funding? Consolidation of existing support/booster groups could be an initial step?

Interesting article in USA Today (12/5) regarding how school districts that obtain funding via property taxes are maintaining revenue streams in recessionary economy. Problem with exclusive sales tax is that revenues definitely DROP in recession, which could have a severe impact on local school funding. District should employ a marketing person or director of development to exclusively work on obtaining private funding for district. I think both public and private sector funding need to occur.

Inform the ENTIRE community - not just families with children in schools, of two other ways to support the schools - (1) Boxtops for Education (2) register their Heinen's card and designate funds for Chagrin Schools

Increased fund raising efforts lead by the parents.

Income taxes raised on individuals who make in excess of 200k and/or couples who make 250k or more.

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Income tax in conjunction with a Property Tax Rollback.

Income Tax in conjunction with a Property Tax Roll Back

Income TAX! Get rid of the property TAX; it is highly unfair, especially in a school district that is equally split between two counties that use two very different methods for determining property values.

If it is legal, a sin tax on purchases of cigarettes, beer, wine.

I'm not sure but the continued request for additional tax money is becoming a burden that is not able to be carried by the homeowners.

I would think that most retired people in the community would be pro income tax, and I would bet they will respond to your survey as they received it in the mail. Unless you really get the message out about this survey being online to the school families, then I don't think you are going to get a good/representative response from them. School families may be disinclined to vote for the income tax, because the burden of that tax falls on the working members of the community, but they may not respond to your survey. You better get an email out to everyone asking them to please fill out the survey and mail to those school families that don't do the email thing.

I would support any kind of funding for the schools. I am still waiting for the military to hold a bake sale and a spaghetti dinner to raise funds and for the schools to get all the money they need to keep our children (=our future) safe and educated.

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I would support almost any funding option if and only if the District showed a consistent ability to generate productivity gains.

I would suggest trying to stretch & do without using your current budget given the current national economy which has hit Chagrin too.

I would like to see a list of cuts that have been made since the last levy passed. What was reinstated and what was cut. Since most of the funding is spent on people, what cuts were made that are still in place today.

I would like to see a greater effort made to track alumni and create an "annual fund" through donations from current parents and alumni. I would also like to see an effort to cut costs. It always amazes me when I am at the elementary schools that the teachers do not handle recess, lunch and other duties at the school which could easily be divided up between the teachers and administrators. Hiring aids to watch the kids at lunch and walk the kids from one special class to another seems extremely wasteful. I think in tough economic times members of the community may expect teachers and administrators to give up some of their multiple free periods to cut some of the overhead.

I would like the AFC to explore the establishment of an endowment for the CFSD funding in part with taxes and contributions. The endowment should be used to free up monies used for maintaining the facilities.

I wish I knew but I realize that something must be done to change school funding. Is there any hope of getting the State to fix or at least make some progress on this issue? Is the finance committee involved in the political aspect of this at all?

I think the constant proposal of tax increases and school levies are hard on the average person. I would think fund raising events like the private schools do would be better received. (ie. silent auction nights, raffles, etc.)

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I think that we need to cut expenses specifically by reducing administrative costs by having fewer principals, fewer janitors, & fewer cafe workers. I would like the school system to have budget costs just like most businesses must do right now.

I suggest an adjustment for homeowners struggling to pay rising taxes, especially when my income is Social Security with a part time job at the age of 90 paying 250.00 per month. I live on a reverse mortgage (soon to expire) and any added taxes are a very big burden to me. I have lived in the same house for 54 years and hope I can stay until the "end".

I have lived in Chagrin for 8 years. In that time, there have been 2 increases. Both times we were promised there wouldn't be another in the foreseeable future. With the recent levy, it was promised that nothing would change (teachers, etc). That doesn't appear to be true since the kids don't have specials (art, gym, etc.) every quarter. These specials are essential to maintain the schools at the level we have grown accustomed to. We will not support another levy in the near future.

I favor local control of school budgets.

I don't think the problem in Chagrin is the Property Tax - residents understand the need to fund the schools. The problem is that people don't understand the need for additional levies. And resentment builds when what is later viewed as a frivolous bond issue is followed by a crucial tax levy & then cuts. People were caught off guard by this. It was an irresponsible way to present funding needs.

I do not understand why anyone ever supported HB 920. Other states, such as Michigan, the state my family moved here from seven years ago, uses the REAL "traditional" definition of property taxes to support schools--property taxes go up with inflation and home values, and schools get a larger amount (but a consistent millage) every year. Why is no one suggesting changing Ohio law to get rid of HB 920 and return to this kind of formula, which makes the most sense to me? All the other alternatives I'm seeing here seem like sort of patched-together plans that don't really solve the problem.

I didn't have a problem with the "Pay to Play" assessment fee idea, just as long as EVERYONE pays (sports, music, clubs, etc)

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I believe that the (still) large number of people with modest income in this area coupled with the large number of people above 65 makes all Chagrin School funding a big problem. We can not afford the level of fancy programs currently underwritten by our taxes. It must STOP, NOW!

I apologize for knowing very little on this subject.

How about a statewide sales tax? All of these options equate to higher taxes eventually-Non of these options are a good choice. The school should cut back on expenses just as I have done. We don't need Chinese language classes or a English as a second language teacher. The school is over flowing with excess. I am already paying too much in taxes. And on top of that I have to pay \$400 a month to a tutor because my 3rd grader can't do subtraction or addition. How did she get that far? So now I have to pay someone to do the job that I'm paying the schools to do! In addition, everyone knows that the school is top heavy with administrators. De we really need an assistant superintendent? How about coutting some of those salaries.

Have heard this story too often-but the promises prove unreliable.

H.B. 920 does not seem to make any sense and puts a heavy burden on property owners to fund schools. School districts should be fighting to change H.B. 920 instead of taxing their residents. Residents with children in the Chagrin Falls school system should bear more of the expense of the schools by paying for activities for which their children participate. For instance, parents should pay for their kids to ride the bus. This will likely lead to more efficiency. Parents should also shoulder the burden for their children participating in sports programs and other types of programs. If there is a financial burden on a family, aid can be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Grants both goverment and other for specialized programs in the schools. Co-op programs with area colleges. Would support change for Ohio laws regarding levies. AP classes should be revised due to change in college requirements, more and more colleges are not excepting these for credit. Monies can bring back coarses that were gotten rid off, more technical coarses like computer sciences, graphic arts, digital arts, that are more relevent to what the computer world we live in. If you have to work with Tri C business school to co-op you can charge a fee for the class to cover costs. You are duplicating your efforts with new "senior" to "freshmen" program in the state with AP classes. They can attend an area college.

Grant requests to corporations

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Good luck!

Get the State legislature to properly fund schools in Ohio. No more increases in property taxes.

Get more support from the State of Ohio. Why don't we get a better return for our dollars sent to Columbus?

Get a clue and cut expenditures to be in line w/budgets. Home/property values are down and I will fight to get reductions in taxes. All you people do is find ways to spend more and more. This is an incredibly wealthy school district - get a grip! My property taxes are now \$12,000 a year. 3/4 of that goes to the schools - Enough is enough. Taxes have gone up astronomically over the six years I've been in my house

General Income Tax for all residents and elimination of property taxes as a means of funding schools.

fundrAISERS, GOOD AND UNUSUAL ONES NOT TYPICAL DINNER DANCES. BE CREATIVE AND FN!

Funding will be and should be limited. Look for spending cuts, starting with health insurance and pension contributions.

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Funding is a difficult issue, but the funds a school seeks must reflect the economy.

Fund raising for project improvements over & above everyday needs. Fund raisers are used by private schools with great success. Better use of dollars already collected such as excessive heat in winter after school hours.

Fund raising events such as silent auctions, asking parents to subsidize a portion of the costs associated with extra curricular activities.

fund raising at the community level

Fund in from larger usage of in classroom technology which would reduce the need for the number of teachers currently employeed. This generation of students are being taught with 1950's techbiques while they are being rasied in 21st century technologies in every other area of thier lives. Classroom sizes could increase (cirty word I know) through technology learning processes and the "teacher" could be accessed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We are doing these students a dis-service as they prepare for both college and the "real world". Techonlogy is everywhere...le'ts give the students a leg up on their competition and be the "premiere" district in the country for future business.

Freeze salaries. Increase class size. Freeze/reduce health care costs.

Foundation used to grow funding. Spending CUTS!

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

For example--what the CF Education Foundation does--I don't know what other options are available.

Follow Ohio Supreme Court Mandate on school funding. School officials need to go to Columbus and make a stand.

Flat Tax on Adjusted Gross Income Tie School Funding to Education Outcomes Use a zero-coupon bond-based approach [You may contact me if you wish at 440-247-2407]

Federal & state taxes. Cut unnecessary programs, eg Chinese for elementary ages. Return to basics & pay to play, all round schooling

family trusts that could designate a certain area of need in the school

Families/Students would "pay to play" for school athletics and bus transportation. What about creating a Chagrin Falls School Endowment, if one does not already exist and if Ohio law permits? Chagrin has produced a substantial amount of successful professionals, business people, academia and ordinary citizens that may feel some loyalty toward their secondary school education and give back generously. Here is an excerpt from an article about the growing riches of endowments with independent schools. "Taking the cue from the ever-wealthier independent schools, some public schools are turning to their own fund-raising. Today some public schools are starting campaigns to raise endowment funds," Ms. Fuhrman of Teachers College said, "because they want their children to have the extras that such funding permits." <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/26/business/26prep.html?pagewanted=print> Another web link discussing some of the basics surrounding endowments is as follows: <http://www.pgdc.com/pgdc/article/2001/08/issues-and-opportunities-endowment-fundraising>

Families with students in the school system pay a greater proportion of the cost

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Explore the possibility of establishing an endowment - contact successful alumni and other wealthy community members

Explore means of reducing expenses instead of raising taxes. Money isn't the solution to problems.

Explore a long-term major foundation / endowment that could someday provide a real fiscal impact on the district. Also exploration of any cutting edge opportunities for grants for "pilot type education programs" or facility improvements.

Establish a School Funding Endowment with donated funds from estates, residents, and alumni. This would require an aggressive marketing campaign, fund raisers, and personal pleas.

Enforce State Law. Ohio School Funding law is unconstitutional. Donation campaign from successful alumnus to establish an endowment.

Endowment opportunities- Investment vehicles exclusively for school expenses

Endowment fund

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Earned income tax with a property tax rollback and the permanent and the permanent improvement levy

earned income plus permanent improvement levy

Due to 3 yr. now instead of 6 yrs. reappraisals and to pile on levies for not only operating but now levies for building and maint. as a seperate entity, this has become an undesirable method. The taxes for higher priced properties are disproportionately high.

Donations, some form of community fundraising

Donations

Do NOT Roll Back HB 920 -

Do more with less!!

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What other school funding options would you suggest the Alternative Finance Committee explore?

Develop plan to control spending + balance with revenue. Do not "spend", what you do not have. NO income tax! This will DRIVE OUT high income earners! Only spend what the 'revenue' + 'tax' bring in. Balance the Budget!!! Do NOT overspend. Do NOT add wish lists & Add taxes to pay for them. Run schools as a business! & Home Values & Schools are plus.

Cut expenditures + payroll to minimum. Just as all other businesses have. Downsize on new hires - do more w/less. Concentrate on 3R's. More \$ does not equal better education. See homeschooler's results.

CUT BACK OPERATE WITHIN YOUR BUDGETT, LAYOFF LIKE WE ALL HAVE TO DO! TIRED OF FUNDING ON OUR HOMES, STOP IT NOW! [Currently live in Cuyahoga County, but moving ASAP because of high real estate taxes & lack of your fiscal responsibility!]

cut back on costs

County Sales Tax . . .

Corporate sponsorships of sports and fine arts.

Control their costs like the private sector.

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Control the Teachers' Union instead of allowing it to control you, School Board.

Contributions to a nonprofit org set up to support CF schools.

Contact local industry to donate funds for additional repairs/ improvements. Such as new tuft for the stadium/or a performing art center. Stop spending tax dollars for programs such as math and phonics that we only use for a few years then we throw them out and start a new program. What a waste of money. I feel if our school were ran more like a business. (cut back on spending when money is tight) Stop the double dipping.(you ask for a levy, our taxes go up then you stop pay to play for one year then you bring it back. We pay for the taxes, then the pay to play. Every month we have a new fund raiser. Come on, when does this stop? Tax payers only have so much money. And I'm tired of hearing about how much other school spend per student. We are a top one hundred school Solon, Orange, and Kenston are not. We must be doing something right.

Combine earned income tax, property tax roll-back with property improvement designation.

Charge parents of children in school for participation in sports, extra course study and field trips . . . "Pay to Play"

Charge more for students to be involved in extra-curriculum activities. Have the students pay for non-schoolastic activities.

CEOs and professionals countrywide are being asked to contribute parts of their benefit packages back into the operating system. A major Cleveland Hospital accomplished having employees contribute vacation days as a way of funding expansion and building. It involved a commitment of "X" days over a several year period. Would district teachers and employees be willing to forfeit some of their days for such?

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business taxes

bonds

Better government funding of mandates.

Be fiscally responsible in the first place. Try going back and teaching the students and maybe more importantly their parents about the true meaning of wants and needs.

Based on income.

Base it on sales tax only. No school funding should be based on income nor property taxes!!

As property values decrease Chagrin will need to put a "roll back" on the ballot. Spend less like everyone else has too.

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Any funding option would need to be local-for-local, not part of a bigger pool since the state of Ohio already takes state income tax monies and distributes them disproportionately to needier districts.

Annual Fund drives, Foundation support. Beef up Chagrin Falls Educational Foundation ---- private funding sources --- these are becoming increasing important. "Rich" Districts need to stop relying on only public money sources and think about the private sector.

All state funding options

All new houses built in the district would be assessed a tax at the time of sale to supplement the levy

Advocacy to lift the HB920 property tax cap. A regional initiative with Solon or the like to support special education. A one time capital improvement & capital endowment campaign coupled with a matching tax initiative.

Additional funding for schools based on head count for children that have learning/behavioral disorders. It is disproportionate through the state and schools like CF get hit hard hurting ALL children from reaching full learning potential.

% added to state sales tax to help fund schools.

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A "special projects" consortium designed to enable contributions from individuals to a fund for "extras" - be it musical, sports, debate, track, etc. Might it be a subset of the Boosters Club?

A flat tax with all people in the school district paying their share. Consider tuition -this country is based upon paying for what you use.

a combination of sources.

100% funding from State based on # of students per school

1. Take over Blossom and turn it into a school funding effort. 2. Hold fund raising events like Casino nights like private schools do. 3. Support ways for Chagrin Falls to expand its tax base.

1) Parent Volunturism as we used to do in the past 2) Grants? 3) Estate options possible 4) Most Conservative Tax Levy NO INCREASE FOR EXTRA! Something needs to be done for those who are on fixed income for older adults who have paid school taxes for 40-50 years!!