

## **Town Hall Meeting at: Newton Cultural Center**

**Date: 02/07/10**

**# of Attendees: 68**

**# of Groups: 8**

### **Keep:**

- 7
  - Quality of schools – buildings, process, teachers
  - STEM(Science, technology, engineering, math) Programs, AP programs, honors programs, well-balanced education, one on one help for students
  - Class sizes – no increases
- 5
  - Public Safety – police and fire, war on terror, preserving the city’s reputation for safety
- 5
  - Infrastructures – Roads, buildings, bridges, maintenance, parks
  - Community Services – Responsive government, vital city services(street/sidewalk plowing, trash, recycling, tree care, street lights)
- 4
  - Cultural values and resources
- 2
  - Property values
  - Best Practices – identify, strengthen, and take bids
  - Village Life/revitalization
  - Basic necessities – clean air and water, etc.
  - Library
  - Open Space
  - Parks and rec- youth programs, sports, swimming
  - Costs of health care for the elderly at the current level
  - Social services
  - Services pertaining to needs of residents due to the economy
  - Drug education and enforcement for youth
  - Sex education

### **Reduce Costs/Increase Revenue:**

- 7
  - Re-negotiate health benefits
- 3
  - By Joining the GIC
  - Add incentives for school and city employees that promote wellness and reduce costs
  - By negotiating with unions to be able to get rid of under-performers

- By re-evaluating pension and retirement benefits
- 5 – By regionalizing and consolidating city-wide purchases and services
- 4 – By implementing Pay as you Throw
- By changing the trash program
- 3 – By looking at the city car program
- 3 – By taking more PILOTs and SILOTs
- By getting contributions of PILOTs from all private institutions other than colleges
- By business participation in providing services and donating to the city
- By collaborating with non-profits
- By making public-private partnerships
- By getting more grants from non-profits and all levels of government
- 3 – By increasing energy efficiency
- By focusing on green energy
- By making sure street lights are out during the day
- By turning down the heat and lights
- By reducing water consumption
- By extending recycling
- 2 – By increasing commercial development
- 2 – By focusing on cost and waste reductions in the school budget
- By implementing performance management
- Overlap of services – collaborations between committees and commissions( e.g. Human services, Youth, and Child Care Commissions)
- By using citizens for some types of oversight duties(road work, traffic)
- By having volunteers supervise the parks
- By requiring residents to shovel own sidewalks
- By asking citizens to shovel school routes
- By charging other communities to use our services
- By community fundraising
- By raising rental fees on public buildings
- By assessing the use of city buildings
- By getting more city programs to be self sustaining
- By enlisting more volunteer/college student work
- Paperwork – offer online options
- By outsourcing police details
- By handling special education/needs more efficiently
- Bureaucracy
- Neighborhood associations
- By reviewing cost yield with a “fresh eye” – e.g. services provided at no cost for extra trash pickups of sofas, etc
- By posting agendas for meetings ahead of time so people can attend and give input
- By deferring and prioritizing different items for the new HS
- By adding someone to enforce/pursue tax delinquents