

## Clio Board of Education:

I feel as a community that we all have a stake in the people who work around our children and I for one feel at ease knowing the custodians and the bus drivers that my children see every school day are familiar and caring people from our own community. I have been thinking a lot since the meeting Tuesday evening 5/15 and I would like to share a few ideas with you.

Many had suggested fund raisers to put money back into the budget. And I say why not? Our band holds fundraisers the students hold fundraisers for various activities. Why can't we as a community hold a fundraiser to raise money to keep our citizens employed? This is more than about our schools it's about Clio as a community. And I see that there are ways to keep our community functioning and to keep these jobs here. And we all know that Michigan is suffering as a State and as a community we can save our own little part of Michigan by holding fundraisers to keep the school employees employed so they can continue to give back to our community.

1. We have a lot of local talent in Clio not only with our students but many adults in the Clio area are also involved in bands and other forms of entertainment. I suggest we make use of the Clio Amp Theater and hold a charitable concert in order to raise money to add to our school budget to save our schools.

2. We can switch from Styrofoam serving plates for lunches and go back to the old sectioned off trays like they use in hospitals. This could save thousands. I know our kitchens are still equipped with sinks and dishwashing machines extend an hour to the kitchen staff and you would save a lot.

3. As many of the health programs we could hold a fun run to raise money to save our schools. Our community is trying to get fit and be healthier so why not employ an annual 5k marathon or fun run in our community to raise money. This would bring in people from other communities and add money to our bottom line all the way around.

4. Our school is doing the penny jars for charity. DO IT TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOLS!!! Maybe each bus driver could have a collection jug on the bus and hold a contest for the driver who raises the most money. The winning bus could do a lunch with their kids or they could simply all win a large candy bar!

5. You always see collection jars at local business's willing to help out community members who need help why not ask the business's to allow us to put out collection jugs to save jobs!

These may raise enough money to get us through one year I agree. And yes we could possibly face this same dilemma year after year but if we don't fight for our community what is that saying about us? I have only been a Clio resident for 2 years now and I have to say I love it here. My husband grew up in Clio and my 2 oldest children also grew up here and graduated from Clio. My 2 youngest children are now following the Clio tradition and I need them to learn that you fight for your community and that it does take a village to raise a child and we need to have pride in our community and our homes where we come from.

I have seen for myself how motivated Clio citizens are and I do believe you won't find a lack of participation or volunteers if you choose to take the challenge and save what we have here in Clio. If we as a community take charge of our situation we would also be an example to other communities who face this same dilemma.

Please take this into consideration and look into some of these things while you make your decision. I know some others are going to give you more fundraising and money saving ideas please put all these idea's together and lets all work together to do what we can to save our community. I agree it may be a band aid to get us through one year but I guarantee as a community it will last a lifetime.

Sincerely  
Jennifer Lynn Ratza  
12546 Tuscola Road  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-547-7238