The composition of Group 3 was 17 participants which included six males of which two were minority and 11 white females. The group was very engaged in discussion and sharing perspectives, thoughts and ideas. Many had strong opinions and were very vocal when expressing their points of view. There were two high school students in the group. One did not verbally contribute to the conversation but he did vote. Due to the size of the group, there were ongoing sidebar conversations but everyone was able to pull together to have dialogue on the service area that was on the table. There were two observers in the room, one principal and one Penn student.

**Low Hanging Fruit**

#30 Recreation (13 votes)

* Reduce administrative and support staff by 40%
  + Township should pay for recreational activities, should not come from the school district budget; what do other townships do?
  + Generate funding from other sources such as increasing and/or charging fees
  + Doesn’t go with mission of school but recreation is important

#19 Instruction and Curriculum (15 votes)

* Reduce staff and shift responsibilities to other administrators and staff by 10%
  + If you’re cutting teachers, then cut administrators
  + Just do it
  + Those with administrative titles should work more, they’re paid the most

#35 Property Taxes (13 votes)

* Increase property taxes up to index plus partial exceptions of 6%
  + Average of under $20/month
  + Since living in the district my taxes went from $1,800 to over $7,000
  + Don’t have any children but $20/month is nothing
  + What are we getting for our tax dollars
  + Don’t mind paying if you get what you pay for
  + School district charters and those leaving the district will lower property values so it’s better to raise taxes. Don’t want bad press for our schools
  + If they’re raising taxes then don’t cut anything. Just raise taxes and leave it alone
  + Dollars per child; what are we getting from the state
  + Taxes already exceeding inflation
  + Revenue stream for the township; what are the township reps doing to raise revenue to support the schools. We don’t have a Lowes or Giant to generate revenue. Turned down Trader Joe’s.

#17 Eliminate Coordinator and Secretary of Instruction Media (16 votes)

* Shift responsibilities to #29 Informational services

#28 Transportation (13 votes)

* Reduction of 5% and increase efficiency
  + Need to be more tightly managed
  + Eliminate late bussing of secondary students and increase efficiency of bus runs but don’t eliminate transportation for field trips (field trips linked to instruction)

The service areas rejected during our discussion:

#12 computer labs assistants in elementary schools were discussed as either reducing or eliminating. The question was raised why teachers aren’t teaching on computers. Since it’s a math computer lab integrate the computers into math instruction in the classrooms. Teachers are already in the lab and the support person helps with the technical issues e.g., signing on. It’s part-time since they’re not teaching. What additional support do they offer? Computer assistant also supporting library in one school since there’s no librarian.

#16 Social Workers should not be eliminated but need to find a different funding source. It’s important because of the needs within the district.

**No Way, No Hows**

#9 High School Specials Teachers (15 votes)

* Reduction of elective teaching staff
  + Education of all students; some students come to school for arts and sports
  + Other activities are important, it’s not just math and reading; better rounded
* Colleges not providing this training for teachers

#1 Elementary Classroom Teachers (16 votes)

* Reduction of teaching staff and increasing class
  + Classroom numbers are misrepresented/misleading
  + The average could mean class size of 42 in one school and 11 in another
  + There number of children needed support due to special needs and behavioral challenges so trained teaching staff is needed
  + Mix of student abilities and learning needs
* Elimination of kindergarten
  + Kindergarten students should go back to their home school
    - Be on the same bus with siblings
    - Increase parent engagement
  + Redistricting
    - Won’t be happy with what you see with the change in the population, e.g., “railroad tracks people”
    - Lower end of town children enrolled at Aronimink
      * Not an issue because this was in the six year plan and everyone knew this was going to happen
    - Some kids are already being sent to another district
    - Eliminate bussing kids/parents to school and meeting because they’ll in their home school
    - See some parents with kids on the Septa bus
    - District needs to do a cost analysis

#8 High School Lead Teachers (13 votes)

* No lead teacher in Jr and Sr years
  + Population of the high school is already crowded
  + There are issues with security
  + Challenge with volume of discipline issues
  + Intervention v expulsion; it costs more to expel a student then to provide intervention and this is role where the lead teacher assists.
  + Lead teachers are educators who are trained to work with students, not an ex-cop/detective who talk them down
  + Parents need to look at how they raise their child
  + Principal could just do the job

#24 Nursing (13 votes)

* Reduce school nurses to part time
  + Concerns that student needs are currently not being met
  + Nurse are not in the school for the first three blocks
  + Should have one full-time nurse per building
    - Falls on the principal
    - Ratio may not be adequate based on the number of students in the school
  + Taking things for granted until one thing negative happens
  + Minimal safety is not enough

#10 Noontime Support (14 votes)

* Release students to go home for lunch
  + Kids won’t come back
  + Transportation issue with children who are bussed to school; increase time and costs
  + Doesn’t make sense
  + Not safe

#31 Crossing Guards (13 votes)

* Cut by 15%
  + Creates a safety issue
    - Child was struck by a car earlier this year
    - Watching for predators

The service areas rejected during our discussion:

Rather than cut jobs, the other options might be furloughs. Some teachers might accept.

**Shared Pain**

#5 Middle School Lead Teachers (9 votes)

* Eliminate lead teachers
  + Don’t know what the job entails
    - After brief discussion, group felt that their knowledge of the role was based on individual knowledge
    - Supportive of principal – 4 high school and 1 middle school – quasi administrator and handles discipline
  + They deal with issues at the school
    - Eliminates calling the police which decreases property values
    - Don’t send students to the office unless you have to, call security
    - Assists principals with IEPs/Special Ed
  + Services are needed beyond what we have
  + Discipline is a community issue
  + If role is eliminated then they’ll bump out teachers
  + Not every building has a lead
    - Who determines whether a lead is needed
  + Administrators can do more work

#26 Maintenance (11 votes)

* Reduction by 2%
  + Already seen dramatic reductions
  + Services need to be more efficient and better monitored
  + Need to renegotiate contract
  + Revisit outsourcing
  + Look at the overall needs and the deployment of services
  + Maintenance in buildings is an issue, e.g., bathrooms are disgusting and some are locked

The service areas rejected during our discussion:

#2 Elementary School Lead Teachers handles everything then it would take away from another job. Only two voted for eliminating elementary lead teachers. #34 Band, Choral, Theatre cuts of 20% was briefly discussed. Teachers would pick up for extra pay. Some teachers are already doing it and not for the pay; they are willing to step up.

**Gut Wrenchers**

No services made this list

**GRAND TOTAL – 66.7 POINTS**