

1/23/2019 Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Compliments, Comments, and Concerns

Special Education - Representative: Mrs. Bridget Schiraldo

No compliments, comments, or concerns.

Kindergarten - Representative: Mrs. Sarah Heller

An issue regarding a specific teacher and student was raised. I am directing the parents to speak with the teacher directly.

1st Grade - Representative: Mrs. Nikki Richter.

No compliments, comments, or concerns.

2nd Grade - Representative: Mrs. Catherine Gilbert

Ms. Wilcox's lunch bunch meetings, etc. seem really well-received and helpful to the kids :)

Thank you for the compliment. We will make sure Ms. Wilcox gets the feedback.

3rd Grade - Representative: Mrs. Barbara Geary

I would like the administration to address the plan for the current 3rd grade group in regard to staffing for next school year. My daughter is in a class of 26. I wrote to administration, including the Superintendent, after the first day of school when my daughter came home telling me she was "#___".

What is the plan moving forward for the addition of another grade level teacher?

What is the expectation for leveled reading AND writing instruction in the classroom on a weekly basis?

What resources/supports are in place to help teachers currently to enrich the learning for some and remediate the learning for others (a side note that there is an accelerated (not enriched) program for math, but there is nothing for ELA)

We are not adding another third grade teacher this year. We have asked for five teachers on both fourth and fifth grades next year. We have spoken with the third grade teachers about what would support them during language arts instruction. They have asked for periodic assistance by some of our reliable substitute teachers during writing instruction. When they plan they are letting us know when they would like assistance in

the classroom. This will provide the teachers additional time to conference with writers. The teachers will let us know when they want extra assistance which we can extend to other subject areas as well.

The expectation is that students are reading leveled books to meet their specific needs during guided reading and book clubs. Teachers meet with students to conference on their writing pieces. Students also meet with peers throughout the writing process as they apply mini-lessons. The teachers meet with the students regularly during the language art block.

The third grade has been working with our reading specialists to discuss and look for strategies for dealing with larger numbers of students.

For the strings/chorus concert the students are required to wear white shirts, black pants. I know my son will probably not wear them again, other than for the spring concert. I don't know if this has been suggested before, but perhaps we can have a box/bin organized to collect these very gently used outfits for parents who'd like to pass along for future students to use/borrow?

This is a good suggestion. We will make sure the music teachers get the suggestion.

I appreciate seeing the police presence outside at drop off and pick-up, but it doesn't seem consistent. Recently at dismissal a police car flashed his lights to pass us to get to the front of the car line and then parked near the cross walk, (leading me to think something was wrong), while some other days there is a police car at the far end of the parking lot. I realize there are lots of safety and security measures in place and I'm sure the details are not open for discussion but it's a bit unsettling as to why they're sometimes there, but not at other times.

The police are trying to be at arrival and dismissal as often as possible. They are not letting us know when they are coming nor where they are posting themselves. We would always inform parents if there were a specific emergency situation they should know about. Otherwise, please assume the police are there for regular patrol at any time of the school day.

Lastly, I wanted to again say THANK YOU to Mr. Ciempola, Mrs. Uhler and all of the other staff members who are outside in all kinds of weather, from the freezing cold to the rainy days, keeping our kids safe at drop-off and dismissal. It doesn't go unnoticed and is much appreciated!

Thank you!

I wanted to compliment the addition of family dining to CH. It was a very positive and fun experience enjoyed by my husband and I with our son. Our son said, he can't wait to do it again next year!

Thank you for the compliment. Thanks again to the PTO committee organizing family dining. We are very happy parents and students are enjoying some time together.

I also wanted to share that the mural is going to be a beautiful addition to our school. This was a wonderful idea!

Thank you! Again, a huge thanks to the PTO for all their help with this project, as well as support from the superintendents and BOE.

Thank you for changing the pick-up procedure on Monday. I know it was not easy for the teachers who had to stand in the frigid cold & get the students from the vestibule. I am sure all appreciated it.

Thank you!

I want to follow-up on our prior discussions regarding the class sizes in 3rd grade. It was stated that you will work with the 3rd grade to enhance the learning experience & to get the teachers additional support. Has this occurred or is there a plan in place for the remainder of the year? It is clear that the class size is affecting many aspects of the classroom. On multiple occasions, my daughter will tell me they did not have a spelling or multiplication quiz that was planned for the day, She will either say she doesn't know why they didn't have it or the teacher stated they didn't have the time. This can be frustrating to the student that prepared for the quiz only to have to postponed or unsure when it will occur.

My child's teacher has 25 students to give guided reading to & I don't believe she can get to all those students properly in a weekly manner. Is there a guideline that is provided by the BOE for this?

I am truly hoping we can do more for the general ed students.

Mrs. Uhler and I met with the third grade teachers. They are giving us dates where floater substitutes are working with them to assist the general education population particularly during writing, but it is open to any subject. I am taking the lead from what the teachers ask for. Any extra substitutes or substitutes with gaps in their schedules are going to grade 3 to assist the teachers. I have offered them any material resource they need that I am able to obtain. There is no specific BOE guideline on guided reading.

On another subject, we recently went to see the 4th & 5th grade play at LCS & it was fantastic. It was a "real" elementary school production. Students had roles/lines/costumes/scenery/stage crew etc. Would it be possible to make the 5th grade play more of a true production & make it for 4th & 5th graders to participate? (obviously for next year) This would be a wonderful opportunity for the our students. I was told that Oak Street School does it too.

I'm glad the parent enjoyed the LC play. I don't believe each school has to produce its annual play exactly the same way. I do like that this is a special opportunity for the fifth grade. I will discuss it with the current play directors and my Faculty Advisory Council.

The chorus & strings concert in December was wonderful. Ms. Kurilew and Ms. Carrier did a great job. Their love and dedication to the students was evident.

Thank you! We are very proud of the great job the students did and are very grateful for the talent and professionalism of our music faculty. We will make sure they receive this compliment.

There was a concern about a specific teacher. Please, direct the parent to bring her concerns directly to the teacher. If the parent is not satisfied, the parent needs to approach Mrs. Uhler and me at that point.

The 3rd grade Chorus did a great job with December's performance. Ms Kurilew is wonderful. She communicates well regarding the choir's needs & expectations.

Thank you for the compliment about the third-grade chorus concert and Ms. Kurilew. We will make sure Ms. Kurilew gets the compliment.

There was a request for a republishing of the teacher website links. Please, see below.

[Cedar Hill Teacher Website Links](#)

4th Grade - Representative: Mrs. Nicole Henderson

My concern is about 4th and 5th grade concert, so many parents couldn't see their kids on stage. Can you please address about this?

Parent are encouraged to get to the events early to sit as close to the stage as possible.

A related concern about giving pick-up directions for parents after the concert are needed.

We can communicate the pick-up procedures more effectively.

5th Grade - Representative: Mrs. Danielle Kahm

My son reports that he LOVES platooning. It's been a positive experience for him to incorporate movement into his day. He also really enjoys having the first "period" of the day with having choice. This gives him a nice, calm way to start the school day. The 5th grade teaching team, including the instructional support teacher Mrs. Sedorak, have been amazing.

Thank you for the compliment. I will make sure the fifth grade teachers and Mrs. Sedorak receive the feedback.