

12/12/2018 Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Compliments, Comments, and Concerns

Special Education - Mrs. Bridget Schiraldo

No CCCs.

Kindergarten - Mrs. Sarah Heller

No CCCs.

1st Grade - Mrs. Nikki Richter

- Morning side door being open for chorus and band without any supervision/safety.

I spoke with the music teachers about this issue. I am going to lock the door and students can enter from the front.

- RHS threat last week:
 - CHS never notified parents despite us sharing a campus with RHS as well as we are part of the emergency evacuation plan.
 - Gym moving to Ridge - extremely poor timing given the heightened sensitivity with the threat last week. Why would we move the CHS kids to RHS when this occurred? CHS kids play outside for recess which is colder than the gym would be, why can't the kids bring warmer cloths into gym for the time being?
 - Upcoming drill - again, poor timing and also a huge safety concern given 1,500+ additional LARGE bodies will be entering into CHS. Are the CHS students on lockdown? How do we keep the CHS students safe with 1500+ more people in the school, and in an emergency situation, safe from being shoved/trampled?

I received a letter from Mr. Markarian on Friday morning which was sent to all administrators. The letter itself was sent to all Ridge High School parents. The letter stated that the rumored threat was not accurate. I'll inform Cedar Hill when I think it is pertinent.

There is no threat at the high school. The P. E. teachers have a curriculum they can't do outside in the cold for fifty minutes. Mr. Shello, the athletic director, was able to make the middle gym available to Cedar Hill. I feel this is the best decision for the students and teachers given the circumstances.

The drill is on hold for the time being. We are practicing as a whole district, not just a whole school in the event of a true emergency where students need to evacuate the high school. We have a detailed plan which we are not sharing publicly. If we end up doing this drill, we will keep CH and RH students safe. No one will get shoved or trampled.

- Heard about an allergy reaction in the older grade due to a child bringing in nutella into the classroom. My child has a nut allergy and kids bring nutella into classroom all the time. How is this allowed, especially after a reaction occurred?

Cedar Hill is a nut aware environment. Our general practice is to ask students to refrain from bringing in nut products. Students are directed to not touch each other's food. We restrict when we have a severe case. The parent should contact Mrs. Uhler, Mrs. Lynn, and me if there is a specific issue.

2nd Grade - Mrs. Catherine Gilbert

- My daughter has been coming home often over the past few weeks saying she doesn't have enough time to eat her lunch. I know it could be my child talking and not eating but it just seems like a lot and I'm just curious if this is happening with other students.

Please, tell this parent to contact us so that we can make sure her child has enough time to eat. All students have 25 minutes to eat. We tend to have a harder time with the younger students because they talk instead of eating. Please, encourage your child to focus on eating. Also, consider having your child bring her lunch rather than buy.

3rd Grade - Mrs. Barbara Geary

- I would be interested to know if there is a chance to ever get a holiday program in the school? Maybe younger grades, at the very least? If not a holiday show, can be as simple as The kids can sing some songs and parents are invited to the school. Teacher or volunteer could get a small stipend for their time.

We have done a sing-a-long the last two years. It is usually the last half day before the break. Each grade level sings a holiday song to the rest of the school. The teachers sing for the students as well. I do not have the room to invite parents, but will try to record it to display in the front lobby.

- Also, in the future would you consider a 5th grade graduation? Could possibly include a slide show, a couple songs, and ending with each student name being announced and walking up to receive a certificate or diploma. PTO parent could help organize and put it on.

I'm not in favor of a 5th grade graduation because we do several activities already to celebrate the 5th graders: the yearbook, the 5th grade musical, Powerhouse Studios, the ice cream party, T shirts with students' names on it and the clap out.

- I am concerned about the drill for Ridge HS to evacuate to CHS. Will it be the entire HS school & staff be evacuated to CHS? Where will they go? Will the police & fire departments be presented for the drill?

The drill is on hold for now. We have a plan which we are not sharing publicly. We will keep students safe. The central office, Director of Security, and the police are always aware of any drills.

4th Grade - Mrs. Nicole Henderson

No CCCs.

5th Grade - Mrs. Danielle Kahm

- Kids are adjusting nicely to the new schedule and the positive thoughts and words are keeping everyone encouraged.
- New admin is very nice and has called a few times when her daughter was unsure of a pick up plan.
- Family dining is a great idea. Enjoying it from the parent and student side

Thank you for all the compliments. We will make sure everyone involved in these areas know.

- The Ridge Drill for Safety-Ridge kids coming to CHS. Will the Ridge students be entering the school? If so, Will our kids be in a lock down? or are the Ridge kids just going to be on the property? remaining outside.

The drill is on hold for the time being. We are practicing as a whole district, not just a whole school in the event of a true emergency where students need to evacuate the high school. We have a detailed plan which we are not sharing publicly. If we end up doing this drill, we will keep CH and RH students safe.

- Also monitoring and safety for early morning practices.

I spoke with the music teachers about this issue. I am going to lock the door and students can enter from the front.

- The comments for the report cards state - As discussed in conference your child is adjusting nicely to 5th Grade. Since there will be no Conferences for the rest of the year will the comment section grow?

Yes, the teachers will have more comprehensive comments in subsequent marking periods. The 5th grade teachers asked me to reduce their comments because they are working with larger numbers of students. If a parent has a concern about their child, they may certainly contact any of the teachers. The teachers are trying to be very communicative with parents on a regular basis and felt they could communicate better via conferences.

- Aspen is very difficult to work with.

The district is looking to change to another Student Information System (SIS). Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks and months. If anyone needs help with Aspen, I am happy to help them. Just contact me.

Follow Up Discussion

- **4th grade math** - Partial Credit - Part of the issue is that the tests tend to be multiple choice, so in the end there is a single answer

Mr. Ciempola will speak with teachers at grade level meeting.

- **Grade 3** - three tests in one day: math test, multiplication quiz, spelling test

Mr. Ciempola will follow up with 3rd grade teachers.