

Parent Advisory Meeting Notes  
November 1, 2018

The Parent Advisory meeting was held on November 1, 2018, with 21 parent representatives in attendance.

Dr. Angela Huff, Chief of Staff, welcomed the group to the Parent Advisory meeting.

Mr. House went over the purpose of the meetings and thanked everyone for their participation. Mentioned open enrollment will begin in January. Also discussed the importance of making the portfolio of options known to parents and students in plenty of time for applications to be completed.

**James Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer**

Mr. Sumrell presented student enrollment growth and building capacity information. Clarksville-Montgomery County is the youngest and fastest growing county in the state. In most cases, growth slows down after the first couple of months of a school year. That has not been the case for CMCSS. Companies such as LG, Google, and Hankook have brought a lot of growth to the county and CMCSS. Explained how the school system tracks and reports student body counts every twenty days. There has never been a year when CMCSS has started with fewer students than what we ended with the prior year. CMCSS has grown an average of six hundred and fifty students every year since 1985.

Building capacity is based on the number of classrooms in a building. Thirteen schools are currently at one hundred percent capacity: eight elementary schools, four middle schools, and one high school. Several other schools are reaching capacity. The decision of whether to build an addition or a new school is made based on the core of the building. There are also state regulations and laws which must be followed such as the number of hours a cafeteria can be open.

[Student Growth / Capacity PowerPoint](#)

**Emily Vaughn, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation**

Ms. Vaughn presented information regarding PreK through second grade standards based grading. She also explained that although third through twelfth grade students receive letter grades, the grades are still reflective of the standards. See the standards based powerpoint for more information.

[Standards Based Grading PowerPoint](#)

The meeting notes from each meeting are posted on the CMCSS website under the “Students and Parents” tab.

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## What priorities should be considered during budget planning?

### **Parent Advisory Council Feedback, November 1, 2018**

- ✓ Basic needs would be most critical – for heating, air conditioning, etc. Next would be other things that affect the learning environment or learning experience. Although not a basic need, students in elementary school need a good environment to have free play and exercise. Some at the elementary schools in this county have outdated playgrounds. I feel improving those would help students to have a better “reset” at recess. This is critical for learning. We also need funding for PASS in lower grades. One other thought is to pursue technology options that communicate more with parents. Some teachers use Xtra Math – which is great for math fluency that communicates progress to the parents. PBS.org has been looking into more games that educate and can report back to parents. \* I need to mention, I have heard this-we haven’t tried it. Thank you so much for considering these ideas and having this council.
- ✓ Digital textbooks, 25+ growth expectation in regards to facility needs, Reno needs within existing building, additional active shooter training, technology updates for student computers.
- ✓ Update serving capacity for cafeterias w/slow lines.
- ✓ After seeing the numbers and the growth, I definitely think the safety of our children should be the first priority. The overpopulation is a red flag for more schools. I think you guys are doing a great job. Keep it up!
- ✓ The needs of children with a 504/IEP. Making sure they have access to things as needed. That could be small group time or noise cancelling headphones, just as an example. I know a lot of things are already “available,” but it is definitely limited.
- ✓ Ways for children to relieve stress. “Progress and growth” academically is not the only important thing. With changes bringing stress, you will have to give relief.
- ✓ Teacher Salary & Support
- ✓ Funding for specials or electives. Continuity with updating the technology accessible to students. Building more schools and enlarging existing schools to accommodate the areas of growth.
- ✓ # of students in each school, cafeteria efficiency time in line compare with time to eat. Shape of buildings (standards), poverty level of area where building school additions, etc.
- ✓ Making sure every school isn’t overcrowded. Hire more teachers, that way we don’t have over 22+ children per class.
- ✓ Curriculum, incentives to retain teachers, safety
- ✓ Transportation (more drivers), Service line at CHS, crossing guards retraining (just to refresh their skills)
- ✓ Safety of schools like weather, crime, and overcrowding, learning materials
- ✓ Giving the teachers the supplies they need. Speaking directly to the groups for which the budgets are being planned, they know what the needs are.
- ✓ Technology and overcrowding