

October Parent Advisory Council Notes
Thursday, October 22nd, 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

On the Parent Advisory Council meeting on October 22, there were 25 participants in attendance.

- Dr. Huff introduced the presenters for the day:
 - Mr. Millard House
 - Ms. Jeanine Johnson
 - Dr. Kimmie Sucharski

Mr. House shared some important district updates with the group.

- Ground has broken on Middle School number 8, and is on track to open in 2022
- There are a few additions underway, and progress is being made on those:
 - The Rossvie Elementary addition is in its last quarter
 - Oakland Elementary addition – August 2021
 - West Creek Elementary addition – August 2021
- Every year, the district sets legislative priorities to guide its engagement with state legislators who influence education policy. This year, the district will have a Legislative Liaison – Elizabeth Vincent – who will work with legislators to ensure that the CMCSS voice is heard in the legislative process
- There are several key updates specifically regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Rossvie Middle School was remote this week
 - A couple of teams had to cancel their athletic events due to COVID-19 cases – Kenwood High School and Montgomery Central High School
 - There are currently 149 employees on FFCRA
 - Roughly 729 employees have come back from FFCRA
 - There was an opportunity presented for rapid testing to be available for schools. The state has pushed pause on making this opportunity available due to lack of interest
 - City Transit is going to add a route to Civitan Park to help more families have access to rapid testing
 - There is new CDC guidance on what is considered a close contact:
 - Defines close contact as within six feet for a TOTAL of 15 minutes within a 24-hour period, rather than AT LEAST 15 minutes.
 - Remember – CMCSS has created its own [data dashboard](#) to report on COVID-19 cases in the district, and another dashboard is available from the [Montgomery County Health Department](#)
 - We will continue to focus on our strategic work as a district, and we're glad that we've been able to shift our focus more to student learning as we continue to navigate the pandemic

Mr. House's slides from the meeting can be accessed [here](#)

Jeanine Johnson delivered a presentation about employee retention:

- Certified employee retention has been increasing in recent years (88 percent), but we are seeing the effects of COVID-19 on our retention trends so far
 - Double the number of resignations than in a typical year

- Classified employee retention has been declining in recent years, which is certainly an important area of focus for the district
- The number one reason that certified employees cite as a reason for leaving the district is because they are moving to another location. The number one reason that classified employees cite they are leaving the district is due to “other,” followed by better pay
 - Special Education Educational Assistants is the group that leaves most

The full presentation from Jeanine Johnson can be accessed [here](#).

Kimmie Sucharski delivered a presentation about the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) and some of the accountability requirements that the district must meet due to that law:

- There are several components to the ESSA District Accountability Framework, including academic achievement, growth, chronic absenteeism, and graduation rate, among others
- Districts are required to meet key targets in these areas not only overall, but also with specific groups of students, called sub-groups
- TNReady Testing is still scheduled to occur this year in the spring. Governor Lee has signaled he hopes to administer the test while working with the Legislature to ensure that students, teachers, schools, and districts are held harmless from any negative consequences based on the test results
- ACT Testing occurred in October, but there are three more opportunities for students to take the ACT:
 - December 16 (using a voucher for a national testing site)
 - March 2
 - March 16
- The district’s graduation rate is at 94 percent
- AP testing still moved forward in the spring for 1,212 students. 48 percent of students were proficient, which is relatively stable with prior years’ performance

The full presentation from Kimmie Sucharski can be found [here](#).

There were no questions from this meeting.

The next Parent Advisory Committee meeting will be Thursday, November 19, at 11:30 A.M. via Zoom.