

## Parent Advisory Committee

### **Dr. Luna-Vedder delivered a Director's Update.**

- Open enrollment is opening on Jan 16, 2023 .
  - Any schools with capacity, along with schools and programs of choice
- Third grade retention - we're abiding by what we have in the law, but we're also watching the legislative session carefully to see what could change.
- Kirkwood is coming along nicely, and you will hear an update on that today.

### **Jessica Harris, Director of Elementary Schools, delivered an update for parents on the third-grade retention law.**

- This is not a CMCSS decision - it is a state decision that we are working to support our schools with.
- The intent is that we get our students on grade level.
- If you know anyone who has a third-grade student, make sure you let them know to contact the school for resources and information.
- The law requires us to retain students based on their performance on the TCAP assessment.
- We have been providing parents with benchmark reports throughout the year. 1-2 is considered at-risk, 3-4 is considered proficient. Reports are provided with resources and information about what's being done.
- One report has been sent, and the second letter will go home this Friday (January 13th).
- The words that we really want to focus on are "below" and "approaching."
- It may be that the student starts off at a three, but drops down to a two in the middle of the year. That's not uncommon.
- Retention Criteria
  - Approaching - The student must participate in High-Dosage Tutoring or the summer camp
  - Below - Summer school is required along with High-Dosage Tutoring. For the entire 4th grade year, the student would need two days of reading intervention in addition to RTI
- Exemptions: a student who is an ELL student and has received less than two years of ELA instruction; student who was previously retained in any grade K-3; student with a disability or a suspected disability that impacts reading.
  - Suspected could include a dyslexia screener, someone who is in the process of being evaluated
- If a parent opts out, we are to assume that the child is non-proficient
- The appeal process is much clearer. The State Board of Education is finalizing that process. If you are a student at a level 1, you are not eligible for appeal; if you are level 2 in the 40th percentile on a universal screener, you can complete an appeal. You can also appeal if a catastrophic event has happened (a house fire, a death in the family, etc.). The deadline for appeals will be June 30th.

**Questions:**

**Q: Is there anything the schools are doing right now to keep them from getting to the summer school point?**

- Yes, the letters come with a list of interventions that are being applied right now.

**Q: What about kids with a 504 plan?**

- If I know the provision of the plan is based on a thinking concern, and I know there's an accommodation for reading, I would say yes, but I don't really know to be truthful. We have that question as well.

**Q: What does the feedback look like if a student does HDT to know that the progress has been made?**

- Our understanding is that there will be a way to determine what the kid's progress has looked like (could be TCAP, could be a screener, etc.)
- Possibility that the child could be retained at the 4th grade level if the child does not show "adequate progress."

**Q: What does the normal process look like?**

- We identify kids we are worried about, and we meet with the parents to let them know what we are doing, what needs to happen in the next few weeks; and then in May, we evaluate where we are and determine the best decision for that student depending on the likelihood of success.
- That process won't change for other grade levels.

**Q: How similar are the resources across the schools? I received a notice from my son's teacher that he would not qualify for any additional help.**

- I'm going to follow up with you to figure out specifically what's going on, but we are using the same letter across the district because every school should have the same resources.

**Q: What is our percentage?**

- About 50% based on our second benchmark; based on last year's TCAP, about 60%

**Q: Is the benchmark close to what we're actually going to see?**

- What we saw last year was that 24 out of our 26 schools were aligned with TCAP.

**Q: When will we get the scores?**

- They're saying that we will get scores before the end of the school year. They may not always be parent-ready, but we do have something.

**Q: Are these reports and the information being provided things that we are doing? They are not state requirements?**

- Yes, this is a District provision.

**Q: Will we be able to offer HDT with the staffing shortages we are experiencing?**

- We are comfortable about that, now more so than we were before.

**Q: For exempt students...will they have an opportunity for the HDT opportunity? Will they be required?**

- There are already services being provided for those students...we're not going to penalize them because they have a disability

**Q: Are the supports listed available for K-2 as well?**

- We do provide a lot of those supports, it may look different at different schools based on staffing.

**Q: Are we implementing any guidance programs for students who may be experiencing anxiety about this?**

- We are not necessarily implementing something specifically to that, however, we've just implemented an SEL curriculum that can help with some of those skills more generally.

**Q: What's the plan for the extra third graders?**

- I don't think we'll be anywhere near 60 percent, but even if it's 20 percent. Right now, the conversation will involve moving around staff. If someone is there for 4th graders that aren't there, that's a teacher who could be moved. The staff are there, but they may be moved to a grade level.

Jessica Harris can be reached at [jessica.harris@cmcss.net](mailto:jessica.harris@cmcss.net) for parents and families that have more questions about retention. Her full presentation can be found [here](#). An FAQ about the third grade retention law can be found [here](#).

**Norm Brumblay, Chief Operations Officer, delivered an update on addressing school capacities and construction.**

- We are at 38,000, almost 39,000 students.
- Growth is occurring mostly in the northern/northeastern part of the county.
- We are working with our local planning committee, our county commissioners, etc. to prepare for these things.
- Mr. Brumblay showed the capacity percentages for the Middle and High Schools. To see these numbers, please review his presentation materials at the end of this section:
  - The first number is the capacity of the building without portables
  - The second number is the capacity with portables, along with the number out next to the percentage.
  - Red=over capacity, Yellow=slightly over capacity, Green=on target
- So, you've seen some of our plans, but what is next? Dr. Luna-Vedder is working with the county commissioners and the land acquisition committee to establish those areas where we're going to be ready to expand:
  - 37042 is our first region for an elementary - 2024
  - Middle-High region 2 is set for 2031
  - Region 4 will be set for 2029
  - Elementary region for 1-2 in 2026

**Questions:**

**Q: So did Kirkwood open at capacity?**

- We're right on target at 83%

**Q: It seemed like the rezoning process went very smoothly. Is there anything in particular that you attribute that to?**

- Yes, overall we felt really good about the work we did and the exceptions we were able to offer. We tried really hard to provide that flexibility to families, and it took a lot of work and a lot of feedback collection on our part, too.

- We're currently working on Kirkwood High School and Kirkwood Elementary; we're planning to open Kirkwood Elementary a year earlier to plan for the growth we are seeing.

**Q: Will there be a rezone once Kirkwood Elementary is finished?**

- Yes, we will go through that process again. We'll plan to engage an outside consultant again, meet with the public, and do the best we can to meet our needs and the needs of the public.

**Q: Didn't we just rezone though?**

- Yes, but only at the middle and high school level. Those zones are stacked, so they are together. Our elementary schools are different. We try to keep those communities together as much as possible, but there are more different elementaries that feed into a middle.

**Q: Is there any sense of if there will be a cutoff?**

- We are very far away from that right now, but will certainly provide more opportunities for feedback along the way.

**Q: how many acres do you typically look for?**

- Typically 20 for elementary, 40 for middle, 50 for high; but sometimes it depends on the land.

The full presentation about addressing school capacities can be accessed [here](#).

**The Safety and Health Team delivered an update for parents on the District's efforts to promote safe and healthy classroom environments.**

- Emergency management plan - accessible by local emergency officials, etc.
- Schools have emergency management teams, and we work with those teams on table-top sessions to discuss emergency situations and how those should be managed.
- We also have a district emergency team; there are a team of people on a text group so we can all be aware, and we also have an emergency line that rings to all department phones immediately
- We follow the standard response protocol. When your child comes home with paperwork, typically the emergency responses are on there. It's a protocol used in a lot of schools across the nation.
- Badges and emergency cards
  - The badges help us keep track of employees on site, and the emergency cards provide emergency contact information for employees on the back in the event that there is an emergency
- Alertus is a notification system that is accessible on all employee devices. Allows our school employees to send a help notification from any of their devices.
- The school radios have a panic button so that we can listen in on an emergency situation where an employee can't call the police, and we can call the policy for them.
- Raptor scans the sex offender registry for anyone who may be trying to enter the building that may be on the list. It will flag them.
- Security audits take place 4 times a year.

- Required drills. We are required to do 1 lockdown drill a year by the state; our district requires 4 times a year, one at an inopportune time. We do a fire drill once every 30 days. They also have to do tornado drills, MERT drills, and one other drill of their choice.
- School site assessments at the state of Tennessee
  - Basically, administrators and law enforcement will go out and look at each building to look for vulnerabilities. We then go over the information with Homeland Security and get recommendations.
- Threat Assessment Teams
  - These teams look for student behaviors that may be indicative of something going on that could need intervention - sadness, changes in behavior, risky behavior, etc. If there is anything suspected in the way of a threat, there is a procedure that employees are expected to follow.
- School threats
  - 2019-2020 - 63
  - 2020-2021 - 11
  - 2021-2022 - 50
  - 2022-2023 (to date) - 38
- CAD - If there are any calls that involve a weapon in a half-mile radius, we get a text so we can investigate and lockout the school where needed.
- Halo smart sensors detect vape use, and also detect other situations with environmental air quality. It also detects unusual sounds, like gun shots, screams, etc. so there can be intervention.
  - We received a grant to pay for these.
- Security stakeholders meeting - 4 times per year
- School Safety and Security Award Program
  - For schools that go above and beyond on their safety plan implementation
- Storm Ready - CMCSS applied for Storm Ready distinction in 2019-2020 and received it.

The full presentation from the Safety and Health team can be accessed [here](#).