

Parent Advisory Council - 9/17/2026

Anthony Johnson, Chief Communications Officer, delivered an overview of the CMC Education Foundation

- Robin Burton and Haley Davis are the employees who implement all of the work of the CMC Education Foundation. They exist to provide even greater support to students in the district through providing additional support that supplements our tax dollars.
- Much of the revenue for the foundation comes from fundraisers and employee giving campaigns,
- The biggest expenses are the Teacher Warehouse, the academic awards banquet, idea grants, morale grants, and partners in education
 - The Teacher Warehouse provides supplies, but our percentage of students who are on free and reduced lunch has climbed in recent years to almost 60 percent, as well. There are items like hygiene supply packs and similar things to support in that way, as well.
 - We celebrate hundreds of students each year with our academic awards.
 - Teachers come up with ideas for activities, extra learning experiences, etc., and the foundation will fund those things through the idea grants.
 - Morale grants were created by the Foundation as a result of low morale, low retention, etc. in the aftermath of the pandemic. Principals can apply for special treats or events they want to do for their staff.
- Question: Do teachers widely know about the warehouse as a resource to them?
 - Yes! We have in-person shopping opportunities for teachers on weekdays and on some Saturdays, but we also have online shopping. That warehouse is managed by the students at the Kirkwood High School academy (Supply Chain Management and Logistics).

To see the full slide deck, please [click here](#).

Jessica Goldberg, Director of Communications and Marketing, delivered an overview of ParentSquare and some of the district's communication efforts

- Today, I'm going to talk about the common issues that people have with ParentSquare.
 - Merging accounts - that is often a point of frustration from parents. The easiest fix for that is to check your information in PowerSchool. Emergency Card first - PowerSchool has to be right for ParentSquare to be able to communicate with you.
 - Sharing contact information - Ultimately, PowerSchool only allows two people to be marked as a Parent or Guardian. You have two people who are allowed to have access in PowerSchool, and in order to have someone different serve in that role, you have to be sure you go through the proper channels to do that. We cannot take away access from a parent or guardian.
 - A great place to start at the beginning of each year is to make sure your information is updated in PowerSchool and to check your emergency card. You can do this through the Parent Self-Service Portal. (parents.cmcss.net).

- Question: The parent or guardian needs to go the school to update information?
 - Not necessarily. There are proper channels that you need to go through to make certain changes (Parenting plan, custody arrangements, etc.).
- Question: What about name changes?
 - That should be done through the school, and they can update PowerSchool and make sure it's correct.
- Question: I have a parent who homeschools, and she can't get a ParentSquare account for her student that is doing athletics through the public school system. What does she need to do?
 - The school can add her as a guest, and she can be included in a group for the team. The coaches and the AD at the school own those groups and can make sure she's included.
- Question: What information is available to students through StudentSquare?
 - It's almost exactly like ParentSquare, but it's only accessible through their Classlink. The student can communicate with Principals and the Teacher through the app. It's a direct message, but not a text.
- Question: Can I see the direct messages on StudentSquare?
 - Not direct messages, but if you ever have concerns, of course reach out to our team. We have the capability to look at any kind of message. Also, typically, teachers are going to post things on their google classroom, etc., and the StudentSquare messages are what also go to parents.
- Question: Are we ever going to get CEP (Community Eligibility Provision)?
 - Our team is investigating that, but also, CMCSS policy prohibits any tray from being taken from a child. They will be able to go through that line every day, regardless of how much they owe.
- Question: Is there a fund where parents or community members can provide money to go toward lunch debts?
 - Absolutely. There are some funds we put aside, but if you're interested in doing something like that, please reach out to any cafeteria manager at a school where you're interested in supporting and they can help facilitate that for you.
- What about FUEL/Yaipak?
 - Yes, we have great partnerships with those groups that provide additional food for students who are experiencing food insecurity. We've dispatched a needs assessment to determine what needs they have for hygiene, clothes, food, etc. to get a sense of where we can provide support. Dr. Causey and our FIT office also focus on homeless families, but also support students in need in various ways.
- Question: I'm piloting an afterschool tutoring and enrichment program for students at West Creek Elementary. How do I go about doing the required steps to get volunteers approved?
 - Below are the policies, procedures, and forms about volunteering in schools, high school student volunteer hours, and visitors.
 - [SAF-A015](#) - Visitor Policy
 - [INS-A078](#) - High School Volunteer Hours Recognition
 - [INS-F131](#) - High School Volunteer Hours Recognition Form

- [INS-P036](#) - High School Volunteer Hours Recognition Procedure
 - [SAF-A005](#) - CMCSS Volunteer Policy
 - [SAF-F023](#) - CMCSS Volunteer Interest Form
 - [SAF-F028](#) - CMCSS Volunteer Code of Ethics
 - [SAF-F029](#) - CMCSS Volunteer Agreement
 - [SAF-P009](#) - Use of School or District Volunteers
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- Question: Are you talking to SPED teachers about their perspective on their roles (as you think about recruitment for more teachers).
 - Yes. We will be doing a series of focus groups for SPED teachers during October.
 - Question: If I have an English degree and was interested in adding a SPED certification, what would that require?
 - There is a lot more flexibility in the state of Tennessee than there used to be, and our licensure team can answer any questions about that.
 - They also have information sessions on a regular basis for questions exactly like this.
 - Director of Certified Employment: Patti Koloski (patti.koloski@cmcoss.net).