

# Applying what we learned from CDL

Mikell Harshbarger <thegreath@comcast.net>

Mon 3/8/2021 11:26 AM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

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Good day and hello,

It is exciting to see that teachers and students will be back together in classrooms soon. Moving forward, I hope that you will be soliciting feedback from teachers and other staff about the knowledge and wisdom we gained from doing distance learning over the past year. CDL forced teachers to be innovative with their use of technology, and we would all benefit by finding out what worked well.

Something on the minds of many teachers like myself is the hope that we will use this return to classrooms as an opportunity to evolve and to improve on how things are done, rather than as a chance to "go back to normal." In particular, many of us have found new ways to utilize educational technology as a way to reach our students and to improve their educational experiences. Not only have teachers expanded their repertoires when it comes to using technology, but our students have gained new knowledge and developed new skills that will serve them well in the future.

Before we had to leave our classrooms due to COVID, there was an insufficient number of devices like Chromebooks available to students. Teachers were limited in the activities and the amount of time they could make use of this technology, since in many classrooms, there was only one device for every two students. In the past, many of us found that if we borrowed devices from other teachers, our students performed much better than if only half of the students were using computers at a time. For example, I found that my students were much more engaged and successful in math on iReady or Kahoot! or when doing writing activities on Google Docs or when creating research projects using Google Slides when all of my students were on computers at the same time. However, it was not always possible to find computers to borrow, especially if multiple teachers were teaching the same subject or doing the same activity at the same time. This lack of access to sufficient technology was especially pronounced when we reached Testing Season (April and May) as test prep and then testing itself made Chromebooks harder to come by.

I hope that as we return to classrooms the district will be budgeting and planning for continuing the 1:1 student to device ratio, especially in the elementary schools. I want to be able to build on the successes from CDL, but this will prove difficult if the district "goes back to normal", only providing one device for every two students. Please do what you can to ensure that we don't return to the situation where there were not enough computers available in the classrooms.

Thanks so much for all your hard work and your dedication to making our schools the best that they can be. Take care and stay safe.

Mikell Harshbarger  
5th Grade Teacher  
Elizabeth Page Elementary School

# Protecting the Brattain School

Brian Josephson <brian.a.josephson@gmail.com>

Mon 3/8/2021 11:35 AM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

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Dear School Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Springfield Historic Commission. The Historic Commission is dedicated to preserving history for future generations of Springfielders. We also offer assistance in technical planning for historic preservation. Specifically, we are writing in regards to the Brattain School building. This beautiful building constructed in 1925 helped educate generations of young residents. It is an incredibly unique building and the only one of its kind in the greater Lane County area.

Historic Preservation is important because it creates a shared sense of identity in the area. Springfield is a growing city with a rich history and we can teach this history through our historic buildings. This makes preserving this building of the utmost importance. This value is recognized both in state and federal planning rules. As we continue to grow we are at risk of losing this value. With the Admin Building gone, and the recent renovation of the Brattain House we are rapidly losing buildings of great historic character. The Brattain school is the last of these three beautiful buildings owned by the school district and we do not want to lose it as well.

We understand that in the face of a global pandemic and school re-openings this is not the most pressing issue, but as we move forward we are trying to build a productive and proactive relationship for the benefit of all of Springfield's residents. Please consider us a partner moving forward and include us in future conversations about the building. Additionally, if you have any existing plans to change the building we would like to hear what is being considered. Finally, we respectfully request that the Springfield School District list this building locally or nationally so we can maximize financial assistance in future renovations.

Best,

Brian Josephson

City of Springfield Historic Commission

## Public Comment: Board Meeting-March 8, 2021

COLLEEN HUNTER <ckhunter13@aol.com>

Mon 3/8/2021 11:59 AM

To:public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

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Superintendent Hamilton and Members of the Board,

I would like to reference my public comment from the previous business meeting which included statements made by Colt Gill in his application for a waiver of standardized testing this year to the United States Department of Education. He emphasized that support for students and families through care and concern, and not deficit thinking about academic loss was critically important at this time in our schools and communities. The feelings of security, safety, wellness and mental health are extremely important for everyone right now, most especially our most vulnerable: all students, especially those who have had limited access to Comprehensive Distance Learning due to homelessness, lack of resources and other variables.

In light of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the "normal" of our everyday lives has drastically changed, to say the least. The entirety of our existences has been forever effected. We have all lived through trauma: students, parents, teachers and everyone in our communities. What was once the "norm" in every aspect of daily lives is forever changed. Because of this year in the lives of us all, the educational experience has been effected so as to make the status quo of teaching and learning questionable and clearly ineffective. Now is the time to reflect on the things that have been valuable in the practices which educators have been using this past year. The innovative and effective strategies and practices of these educational professionals should be harnessed and shared to inform others and allow for different and more humane educational relationships by leaving the previous standardized approach to curriculum and service delivery to students changed for the better. There is very possibly a "silver lining" to consider in the events this past year. It would not be prudent to allow the waste of valuable resources which have proven practical and successful by the extremely difficult and committed efforts of the teaching staff of this school district.

Respectfully,

Colleen Hunter  
retired SPS teacher  
Member of CAPE (Community Alliance for Public Education)