

# Board Meeting 4/29/2021

This survey will be turned off at 3:00pm 4/29/2021, no late entries will be accepted.

Name:

Mrs. Jackson

Address/Affiliation:

Martin Elementary

Is this for Open Session or Closed Session?

Open Session

Closed Session

What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

Class caps for fourth and fifth grade.

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

- When agenda item comes up
- During the public comment section

Comments:

As a fifth grade teacher at a low income school, it is extremely important to have a class cap on fourth and fifth grade classes. In the upper grades, we need to focus on student mental health and it is extremely challenging to do so in a title 1 school when there are too many children in a classroom. Upper grade teachers would like to see EQUITY between all grade levels. With COVID regulations, we NEED a class cap on the upper grades ESPECIALLY for next year. It is not safe/possible to put 32+ students in a classroom with the COVID regulations put in place.

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Name:

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Address/Affiliation:

teacher  
.....

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during educational services  
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#### Comments:

Can we hire more teachers to alleviate the large class sizes in schools, especially in middle and high school? Students coming in from a whole year in distance learning, how can students get the attention they need? Board members, please look at the classroom sizes in our schools and hire more teachers!

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superintendant evaluation, equity

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### Comments:

I think it is wonderful and a great idea for the board and superintendent to be part of the Equity Network study sessions. It shows how much the team wants to improve our district. This is a great start.

While it is beneficial that you all are engaged in this conversation, there are others in the district (assistant superintendent, teachers, and staff) that do not have the same mindset. They may not have the awareness or have accepted that inequities exists and are really adamant about the maintaining the current status quo. Actions speak louder than words.

How is the board going to help all staff see through an equity lens?

Equity work is not a checkbox. There are many areas. What is the focus of our district next year? What will be the priority? What is realistic?

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Name:

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Address/Affiliation:

parent

.....

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reopening: Elementary

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#### Comments:

Can kindergarten students still be in the same group for first grade, since they do not know anyone from school? At the least they can recognize some familiar names.

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Name:

Aaron Rosenthal

Address/Affiliation:

Teacher - Westborough Middle School

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What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

Establish Class Caps

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#### Comments:

I teach English Language Arts. One of the core aspects of my class is developing writing skills. And one of my core competencies as a teacher is providing individual feedback to students on their writing. Capping class sizes means each student gets more attention, rather than me rationing my feedback to the most struggling or most assertive students.

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reopening/ contract  
.....

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Comments:

Pay teachers more. There is a teacher shortage and with teachers leaving our district it is hurting our students because of the instability that it creates. Students already suffered enough with the pandemic. For some students school is their only stable area of life and to see different faces all the time can be scary and disheartening.

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### Comments:

I am an elementary teacher in the district. I am writing in regard to establishing class size caps for 4th and 5th grade. I do not understand why K-3rd have a class size cap, but 4th and 5th grades do not. Students in 4th and 5th grade need just as much one-on-one and small group attention that students in K-3 get. Studies have shown that increased one-on-one interactions raises student test scores. With smaller class sizes teachers have more time to individualize instruction and make sure that it is adapted to fit the needs of each student. Lowering class sizes also lowers teacher stress, which will help teachers from feeling burned out. I urge you to help us with this issue. Having a class of 35-38 4th or 5th graders is not fair to the students and not fair to the teachers. Please make this a priority and establish a class size cap for 4th and 5th grade classes throughout the district. Thank you for your time.

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Alanna Wong

Address/Affiliation:

Ms.

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#### Comments:

The board needs to make class size caps a priority for the 21-22 school year and a priority for the upcoming contract with SSFCTA. This is a matter of public health and safety, in addition to best practices for education. While adults are increasingly able to access vaccines, our under 16s have no vaccine available. Decreasing class size and increasing one-on-one time with teachers is crucial to students' academic success, but even more importantly to ensure that we are supporting their socio-emotional health as we transition back to in-person learning. In most years, I have classes of 35, and it is incredibly difficult to support everyone equitably, particularly students who withdraw as opposed to act out under stress. A failure to cap class size handicaps our ability to do our jobs.

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