

## **Old Business**

Silvia Rocca spoke with La Trattoria Montese restaurant and they are willing to have a Waverly dinner night at the restaurant and give 10-22% back to the school. Will need to pick a night and get it going. thank you Sylvia

## **New Business**

Parent concerns about class sizes at Waverly brought to Kelly Balchunas' attention. Kelly contacted Mrs. Edoho-Eket to discuss parents' concerns about class sizes. Mrs Jacobs offered to talk about class sizes at this week's PTA meeting and hoped that parents would attend (Mrs Jacobs encouraged parents to talk about it) Mrs. Jacobs offered to answer any question or share what the current situation is with classroom size . . .

A bit of background regarding class size from Mrs Jacobs included the following - County has traditionally had class size ratios. Staffing numbers based on enrollment - student to teacher ratio. Always been a range of numbers for class size. Waverly previously stayed to the lower range of the ratio. Upper grades 3, 4, 5, class range is 25-30. Budget cut backs - state and federal - effecting our county and now in HoCo we have higher numbers/higher end of ratios - including Waverly. Paraeducators and media assistants taken out of the budget - which is in line with neighboring counties. Waverly numbers began higher this year - not a result of ESM model. Waverly now seeing more children registering over the summer and through the school year - previously not the case as much - also increasing our numbers.

### Questions:

Are there ways that some of these numbers can be creatively addressed since next years situation may not be different?

Mrs Jacobs shared that Waverly is continually assessing student's educational needs. Have made changes this winter to accommodate students needs. Trying to look at not making complete changes in AM content (session 1) and PM content (session 2) but making other changes that do fit our students. Sometimes these changes have led to higher numbers.

There are 4 or 5 classes that are 30 in number. All of these classes are above grade level classes. Mrs. Jacobs spoke to Waverly's director and was told those numbers are high across the county. The director felt the higher numbers would be preferable in an above grade class vs on grade or below.

Is there an upper limit to class size increase? Could we end up with 40 in a class?

Mrs. Edoho-Eket believes No - Probably not something that would happen. But county does not just look at the size of one class to make changes. It has to be a grade level/ school wide issue.

In the past a new teacher was brought in but we need to keep in mind that means restructuring/switching students and classes/teachers. There is a set number from the county for how many students can be a grade per teachers (the ratio). Can call the county to learn more.

A concern was voiced about first grade teacher only checking in with each reading group 3 times a week not 5 (on a daily basis).

This is not an issue of size. This is a result of the Guided Reading Model the county is adopting - of having only 5-6 children in a reading group. These smaller groups mean a larger number of groups which means less rotations per group with the teacher.

However, the group rotation is happening on an ongoing basis at the very least meeting with the teacher 3 times a week in addition to whole class instruction and the Daily 5.

Children who are falling behind do have interventions daily with Mrs. Fredericks. Also have interns in classes to help.

With students working independently frequently there was a concern about students choosing to do what they like - reading a picture book vs a chapter book or reading vs writing, etc.

Parents are encouraged to speak to the classroom teacher about these specific types of concerns.

The increased class sizes also puts pressure on related arts teachers. . .

There are changes that are going to be made to address this next year (rather than disrupt current year's classes). Considering having related arts class groupings independent of LA or math groupings (current practice). In addition to having more evenly numbered related arts class sizes per grade by grouping children this way the students would be in the same related arts class all year long even if they do change LA or math classes.

Getting a new gym next year b/c we currently have to double up classes based on the minimum 90 minutes of PE per week for each student. Intent of new gym, if we continue to grow, the gym could be sectioned into 3 areas so the classes can be separated.

Next year Waverly staffed for an additional teacher. Next year will have a reading support and math support teacher here both four times month.

Can Mrs. Jacobs share info about expansion/construction. . .

Ultimately will gain 8 additional classes on second floor of the new addition. This will be a process though - will not feel the expanded space all at once. For periods/months in the school year there will be team to team renovations after the main addition. So that will mean the new space will not be felt until the entire renovation process is completed.

Our projected enrollment is sky rocketing and the budget is not following. Increasing the staffing/decreasing class size requires money. What can parents do?

Go to PTAHC meetings. Write email and make calls to the Board and Hogan.

**Adjourn**