

Community Meeting

Erika:

Part of our jobs as teachers is to advocate for the students to keep their best interests in mind. We support and agree with Mr. Huard's strategic plan to improve and keep the district growing. However, we do not feel that moving 5th grade should be part of that plan. We feel strongly that moving 5th grade to the middle school/high school building and being considered middle school is not developmentally appropriate or what is best for our students/school.

There are a number of reasons we don't feel this move is appropriate. The most concerning things to us are: premature exposure to teen language and topics, maturity level, loss of elementary resources and activities (such as the elementary counselor, interventionists, etc.), and forcing students to "grow up" too soon. We feel that fifth grade is a transitory year, during which we spend so much time preparing them to move over to the other building. We see tremendous social emotional growth throughout the course of their fifth grade year. Sending them over a year sooner would eliminate that preparation and growth. 5th grade being moved would also take away some of the most fun and exciting activities we do in 5th grade that students spend years looking forward to. These include but are not limited to:

- Little Buddies
- Recess with younger peers in a developmentally appropriate setting
- Elementary Reading Month
- Elementary Field Day
- Mini Society
- Fear Factor
- Survivor Day
- Daddy Daughter Dance and Mother Son Night
- Elementary Assemblies
- 5th grade graduation
- Support Staff that students have spent years forming connections with - such as the guidance counselor, behavior interventionist, and academic aids
- Halloween Parade and Holiday Parties

Peyton:

We want to make it clear that we fully support Mr. Huard's strategic plan, with the exception of this move. As he stated, we are growing and changing as a district. As a result of that growth, Erika and I as well as the other elementary teachers believe it is time to put a bond together to add on more classrooms to the elementary school.

For the next school year while the potential bond is being put together, we have 2 solutions for the space issue.

1. We had looked at making the library a classroom last year before they chose to go with the computer lab instead. If it was just for 1 year, we could repurpose that space and put a classroom in there. We also have an art room that was used as a classroom in the 2020 - 2021 school year. If we have tech and spanish pushing into classrooms, we could have that for art as well and then be able to repurpose that room into a general education classroom.
2. Portable classrooms. There are affordable options both to rent and purchase portable classrooms. If we rented them, they would be gone after the bond was passed and the school had the addition put on.