



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Fwd: [External Email] Size of First Grade Classrooms

1 message

Lynn Plascyk <lplascyk@woodbridgeps.org>
To: Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 9:37 AM

Good morning Marsha,
Please include this as correspondence in Boardbook for the October Board of Education meeting.
Thank you,
Lynn

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Meghan McElligott <missmeghan01@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 9:25 PM

Subject: [External Email] Size of First Grade Classrooms

To: <lplascyk@woodbridgeps.org>, <jdahya@woodbridgeps.org>, <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>, <lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org>, <bhopkins@woodbridgeps.org>, <mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org>, <jhughes@woodbridgeps.org>, <ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org>

Hello,

I am a parent of a first grade student at Beecher and I attended the BOE meeting on September 16. Although I was very happy with the outcome of the meeting, namely the decision to add another first grade teacher, I have been curious about the issue of space.

I have only seen the inside of Mrs. Ortiz's class at the Open House so I am not sure if all the other first grade classrooms are that small, but I was wondering if there is a recommended square footage allotment per student. I was also curious about the square footage of the first grade rooms.

I agree with many of the other parents that the room seemed very small. Having taught fourth grade in a title 1 school in the East Village of Manhattan I did sometimes have classes of 22 or 23 but the classrooms were much larger. I understand the superintendent's point that having fewer students in the room will create more space for the remaining ones but still I'm wondering where these first grade classrooms fall regarding the recommended amount of space per student. Also is there a mandated (not sure if that's the right term) amount of space or just a suggested one?

There was much discussion around the amount of students in the room, but not as much direct discussion about the size of the rooms to begin with and if they are offering an optimal learning environment for our students. If not, are there creative ways to give them more classroom "areas" and places for more collaborative learning? With the addition of another first grade room will the students now be comfortable on the rug or will their knees still have to overlap? Hopefully they will be able to sit in table groupings and not rows with chairs pushed totally in. I realize there might not be anything that can be done about this now, but I think it's an important issue to raise.

One of the strategies put forth to deal with the large classroom numbers in the first grade was to add more support from paras and specialists. However from what I heard parents saying when voicing their concerns, more bodies in the room also exacerbates the problem of a cramped space.

If somebody could please respond with an answer on what the recommendation is, if they're even is one, for square footage per student and then also what the square footage of those classrooms are that would be great. Thanks so much for your time.

Best,
Meghan

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