
School Board Correspondence

2 messages

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Superintendent Russin and the School Board,

Thank you for all the time and effort you put into our schools. Your dedication is so appreciated.

I want to bring my thoughts to the table regarding the agenda items concerning the cellphone policy and school schedule.

I am all for doing away with cellphone usage at school. Cellphones bring a layer of distraction that is unnecessary while posing increased risk to our students. With the recent update to our cellular service, CWC users have free data enabled on their phones when in town. Data usage on cell phones completely circumnavigates the safety of firewalls that has been set up by the district opening up the possibilities of web browsing to anything available online UNLESS parents implemented their own protective measures. Regardless of what a parent does on their child's personal phone it does not protect them from what is available on those owned by other families. On top of the distraction and internet safety concern, I also see personal privacy being possibly invaded. With cell phones come cameras. Cameras that are directly connected to the internet for quick and easy sharing. These cellphones and cameras come in and out of locker rooms and bathrooms posing risk of indecent photos being taken. Photos which could be legally considered child pornography being taken on school property during school hours is not something we want to think would happen, but they can and they do. I am aware of inappropriate pictures being taken in the locker room and circulated through the student body within recent years. Sadly, this is a completely valid issue that deserves attention.

I also want to chime in one more time regarding the "Flexible Friday" option that has been in place the last few years.

Though my son has benefited from the increased availability of teachers on Friday, I continue to believe that it is in our students' best interest to be in school throughout the standard school week. The decreased school hours takes away roughly 3 weeks of our students instructional time per year. If it is believed that students are needing flexible time during the school hours I would suggest that CHS implement the "study hall" approach again. This was a block of time that was set aside for students to work on catching up, clarifying with teachers, or retaking tests. Study hall can be worked into the schedule a variety of ways, would minimize the time taken away from instruction, and provide the consistent learning environment that is our social norms.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the schedules and cellphone usage in our schools. They are important topics that have a large impact on our students safety, learning opportunities and I believe work ethic.

Janet McManus
