

**Pembroke CCSD #259
Board of Education Meeting
December 14, 2021**

Official Response to Public Comments/Inquiry

1. *Why does the school only have a part-time Nurse?*

Positions are allocated based on the needs of the individual school. Currently, based on our students' medical/health needs and the small size of the school, the District only employs a School Nurse on a Part-Time basis. This allocation can change each year depending on the level of need of the students.

2. *What is the status of the agreement between State's Attorney Jim Rowe and the District?*

The District is currently in conversation with Attorney Rowe to bring programming to LRS that supports social emotional learning and civics. In addition, Attorney Rowe will also be providing community resources such as expungement supports, careers fairs, and opportunity for post-secondary education. We hope to have this partnership finalized by the end of the year. A tentative agreement will be presented to the Board at the January 2022 Board Meeting.

3. *Why doesn't Pembroke have a Social Worker position vacancy posted on the website?*

Currently, our District provides students with Social Work, Counseling and Psychology Services through an online therapy provider. Students receive services on a weekly basis as outline in the IEP. Students may also be referred for services by a staff member or at the request of a parent. Due to the shortage of teachers and other certified professional educators, the District entered into year-long contract with DotCom Therapy to provide the services to our students. As a result of our contract continuing through the remainder of the School Year, the District is not currently looking to hire any new Social Workers, Counselors, or Psychologist.

4. *Was Carver School sold? For how much? And what will the funds be used for?*

For more than a decade, Carver School has sat unoccupied and unutilized by the District. As a result, the Board of Education voted to move forward with selling the building through a Public Action (which is what is required by the State of Illinois). The school finally sold for \$125,000 on October 14, 2021. The proceeds for the sale of the building will be utilized to support general operations of the District. The Board is also exploring new programming options for our students that can be funded through these proceeds.

5. *Why doesn't the District recruit teachers from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)?*

Our District recruits for certified teachers at various colleges and universities across the State of Illinois. In the past, the District has recruited at various HBCUs, but the trends of college graduates moving across the county (usually not their hometown) to take a teaching job had drastically decline. As a result, our Administration focuses our recruitment efforts within our State, and in areas that surround Kankakee County.

6. *Why are so many students leaving Lorenzo R. Smith Elementary School?*

By virtue of District #259 being a "community school," our enrollment is solely based on the number of students that live within our District's boundaries. To that end, we have no control as to how many students we retain, attract, or that transfer out. In addition, we are also not allowed to recruit students who live in other communities.

7. *Is there a survey that can be done to see how people really feel about the school?*

Each school year, our students, staff, and parents are invited to participate in the "5Essentials" survey that is provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. This survey looks to collect data about perceptions and feelings on the school's leadership, instructional practices, student/staff safety, and the overall school experience for students. The data from this survey is utilized by the Board and Administration to make decisions on many elements of the management of the District's overall operations. This data is also shared with all students and parents.