

4/25/16 LPC Forum Question/Concerns/Comments

The following is a list of concerns voiced at the public Forum on 4/25/16. There were not a lot of questions asked but those that were are included here with the answer. Most were suggestions or thoughts for the LPC to consider.

- If the schools are consolidated and an alternative program is placed in the current middle school, does the school retain its name?

The current middle school building would not retain the name, as it would no longer be used as the middle school. The 7th and 8th grade section of the current high school would retain the name Trimble County middle School, the SBDM and principal would remain intact, as would all middle school extra-curricular activities.

- It was stated that heating and other possible expenditures would not be a necessary should adults be in the building.

It would obviously still be needed with students or adults in the building. It would, however, be very limited with one class of alternative students, and the central office personnel in the building. Many issues that we must expend funds could be contained with the smaller population in the building.

- The statement was made that the community should be proud of our teachers, proud of our schools. We should pray about this decision. We want the best for our students. Give your best you get your best. The presentation of the plan proposed by the board office was well thought out.

- It was stated that the decision placed upon the LPC is a tremendous decision. It will impact the school district for many years. This requires some tough decisions regarding finances, salary schedules. We have seen a lot of statistics, this is about relationships. Sell the plan. The taxing opportunities was mentioned briefly. The most important people are the teachers and the students. If the superintendent and the principal are gone for a week, the building still runs. An alternative program is certainly a need.

Students are the most important people in all of this followed by the parents, teachers, and the community.

- It was stated that we should be saying the Pledge of Allegiance every day and praying in school every day.

- One speaker stated that her 5th grade daughter wanted to stay in elementary school. Alternative program a need for the district.
- Speaker stated that her 7th grade daughter cried every day as a sixth grader and every Sunday night because she did not want to go to the middle school. She loves 7th grade. As to going to TCHS as an 8th grader she says" I want to go to the high school, I hate the middle school building." When her husband was in school he hated school because of the middle school building. 141 out of 173 is embarrassing. I have talked about taking my children out of Trimble County Public Schools, even as an employee of TCPS. Maybe the proposed change will make it better.
- Speaker stated that elementary is the safest setting for 6th graders. 6th grade can be taught in elementary. If we do not change something we will lose our best students and parents.
- Speaker stated the opportunities to students after consolidation are needed. Middle school students should be able to earn high school credit, currently they don't even if they take and pass the class. My 5th grader is not ready for middle school. It is not a maturity issue, it is where he is. 6th grade in the middle school would set him back. This decision is not about happiness, it is about what is educationally best for our students. An alternative program is needed. Our children deserve better.