

Summary of Parent Meetings 4-11-2022

The school board would like to thank the parents who attended the meetings and offered their ideas. Below is a summary of parent, school board and church leadership input at the meetings. As is so often the case, the concerns brought up at the meeting revolved around several core issues. The primary issue was communication. Below is a more detailed description.

Parent Questions and Concerns (group and individual)

1. Communication to parents about board and administrative activities is a big concern among parents. Improved communication is needed.
2. Parents would like to have input and feel heard when it comes to board decisions.
3. Parents would like enough details in communication so they know their children are safe at Redeemer. Put an end to rumors.
4. Parents were concerned about how any future threats of violence and general security would be handled.
5. Parents feel the student body would benefit from a structured system of emotional, social and mental health support.
6. Parents had questions about the specific occurrences related to Mr. Mirly's Peaceful Release and coverage of the principal position going forward.
7. Parents would like to know the teachers are being supported.
8. Parents were concerned about policies around students being interviewed alone by a single adult at school and about documentation of these meetings.
9. Parents would like more connection between the church and school.
10. Some parents who've been at Redeemer for many years, stated they hope parents don't over react to a specific incident. The parents hope that as a community we don't over react to actions taken by each other.

Parent Recommendations (group and individual)

1. Regular in-person meetings hosted by the school board, like a town hall, as a venue for ongoing open communication with parents.
2. Several specific resources for emotional and social support for students were shared.
3. Find a way to involve non-church parents more directly in board decisions.
4. Bring aboard new school board members.
5. The board should ensure all parents are aware of the protocol for bringing concerns to the board.
6. The younger students should be kept distanced from the upper grade students until the end of the school year due to what some of the younger students may have heard about threats.
7. The church should be secured during chapel services.

Ideas Presented for the School Board's Future Consideration

1. The board will take steps to improve communication with parents when items of concern arise and in general. This was an item noted by our accreditation team and is part of our accreditation follow-up process. It will be addressed formally and informally.
2. The board will notify the parents of the process in which parents can participate in School Board meetings including as observers, presenters, or by written communication. This process may be added to the Parent Handbook for parent reference. The school board email will be shared with parents.
3. When there are concerns parents should speak to their child's teacher first, then the principal if needed, then the school board and then the Pastor and/or the Executive Director of the congregation.
4. In person meetings will be used in conjunction with email notices when appropriate.
5. Surveys to parents can be utilized.
6. The board will consider regular parent/board town hall meetings.
7. Task forces assigned to investigate and make recommendations can be created that include non-church members who may not be eligible to sit on the board, as well as church members. One such committee could address communication.
8. The board will investigate options for providing mental health support for our students.
9. A task Force to investigate threats immediately/in real time will be established so that the responsibility does not rest with one person.
10. The board will reach out to church members who may be interested in becoming new members of our board.
11. A general review of Mr. Mirly's suspension and peaceful release was presented at the meeting. Mrs. McChrystal will serve as acting principal through the summer. She will continue to teach the core subjects in her classroom with support from a consistent substitute as needed.
12. The board will investigate policies around student/adult interviews.
13. A Director of Youth and Family Outreach has been hired by the church. She will help improve church/school connections with direct interventions and guidance to the school board.
14. The board will investigate securing the church during chapel and distancing younger from older students as requested.