

Withrow Home and School Meeting

Date: March 30, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Play Structure Vote

Following a school wide student vote on five proposals for new climbers, the results have been tallied and will be announced to the school of April 30, 2017. Construction of the new climber will begin in the next months.

Discussion on Staffing Structure for 2017-2018 School year

Withrow has been allocated a headcount of 33 teachers for the 2017-2018 school years. This is a 1.5 increase since last year's count of 31.5 teachers.

Teacher headcount allocation is done by the board, and based on several factors such as number of students, number of special needs resources required etc.

The board requires the additional teacher be utilized in the Kindergarten program where there will be an additional JK/SK class in 2017. Currently the union is in negotiations for a cap on the number of students in Kindergarten. Primary classes have a cap of 20, while there is no cap for Junior classes.

The board has also provided the school with the parameters for staffing of classes for 2017-2018. Management and staff will soon begin the process of assigning staff and classes for next year. This process is an arduous one, which involves looking at multiple factors that would allow for the best social and learning environment for all students at Withrow.

As part of the meeting attendees worked in groups to create and present various staffing models based on the parameters for next year. The workshopped models will serve as resources for the staffing process conducted by Management/Staff in the upcoming months.

Field Issues/Help Needed

The field is currently fenced off during the Spring thaw in order to allow the newly seeded grass to germinate; however several community members have been breaching the fence and using the field as an off leash dog park resulting in damage to the field, as well as the soiling of the field by the dogs. This is a huge concern for the health of the grass, but also for the health and safety of students who often contend with the dog feces etc. Attendees at the meeting were asked to speak to community members seen in the field with pets, and appeal to them to not use the area until after spring to ensure the grass grows.