

Jessica Taveras

8:26 AM (48 minutes ago)

to Greg, me, Cindy, kgove, rimhoff, edelgado, cpoles@hbschools.org, mmccasland@hbschools.org

Hi Dr. Hobaugh,

I am following up on a few items regarding BOE topics that have been addressed recently.

First is the most pressing topic of student safety. As a community, we anticipate a successful resolution to this issue. Student safety should be the number one priority of the school and community leaders. We would like the police department and school to work together so that there can be a police presence at the school daily and for the whole day. We appreciate the police presence in the morning, but that is not enough.

I don't have to mention the high taxes we pay in High Bridge compared to other towns that have successfully implemented a daily police presence. I also don't have to mention that while security cameras are great, they do little to nothing during an actual emergency. That is evident in previous school emergencies, as we are able to watch through cameras as tragedies occur. The cameras do not stop emergencies; they simply allow us to watch them unfold.

I am confident that installing cameras could not possibly be the solution you have found.

Secondly, the merging of classrooms. Again, I don't have to mention the extreme taxes we pay in High Bridge. We pay these high taxes in exchange for a high expectation of our community. We expect our small schools to stay small. This situation can best be explained by example. Do you know how it's a two-lane highway on Rt 31, right before Cregar Road? And then, it merges to one lane before opening back up to 2 lanes.

This situation is frustrating, it is confusing, and statistically speaking, it causes mistakes and accidents. This is exactly what the parents of High Bridge are trying to prevent- Accidents and mistakes at the cost of our children. It does not make sense to combine classrooms for a year and then divide them again.

I would also be interested to know which preschool classrooms you will be combining as that grade has more classrooms than any other elementary school grade. It seems, logistically speaking, that would be the grade that would need to combine, if any.

Lastly, can you please send me the controversial health information you mentioned at the BOE meeting last night? I believe you said the 2nd, 5th, and 8th-grade curriculum. I would appreciate having the material in preparation for my children entering those grades.

Thank you!

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Jessica Taveras

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