

Good Morning Dr. Meloche,

August 30, 2020

The teachers of Cooper Elementary School are looking forward to serving our students this year. With that said, we need to address some significant concerns in order for the children to successfully start the school year.

Our first concern that has been expressed to us is the lack of planning time to design and implement a totally new teaching model. This structure requires us to balance multiple methods of teaching simultaneously. With this new teaching model comes the need for more time to prepare, plan and practice, especially in the beginning of the year. We suggest shifting the two inservice days from June to September to meet this critical need. We request that two of the additional student days, in excess of 180 days, be used for inservice days in the beginning of the year.

Another serious concern that we have is live streaming while teaching children in the classroom. We are concerned about not only the students' privacy, but our privacy as teachers. The demands of virtual instruction go beyond that of privacy. There are also questions about our ability to live stream successfully using our existing equipment such as chrome books and WIFI connection. We feel an option would be, on a voluntary basis, having specific teachers assigned to teach remote only.

A final major concern is the ventilation system in our building. We understand that due to the age of the equipment, we are not able to use filters effective for Covid 19. But, we want to make sure that we have a system that is running to the best of its ability to provide adequate ventilation throughout the building. We recommend that the district bring in an outside consultant to examine the system.

We are eager to meet our students and look forward to a great year. However, we need to communicate that our staff is feeling very anxious and overwhelmed. It is important that our staff come to school feeling safe and prepared to do the job that is being asked of them. Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Cooper CHEA Members