



Citizens For Education



Fall Issue

November 2015

The objectives of Citizens For Education are to ensure a quality education for all students of the Council Rock School District, to better inform the Council Rock community of educational issues, and to increase the involvement of the community in the decision making processes affecting the quality of education in Council Rock.

Getting to Know Dr. Robert Fraser CRSD Superintendent

Citizens For Education sat down recently with Council Rock’s new superintendent Dr. Robert Fraser to discuss the first three months in his new role and both short and long term goals for the school district. We came away excited to hear about Dr. Fraser’s enthusiasm and energy for taking Council Rock to the next level. His slogan, “All roads lead to the classroom,” sets the tone for a continual focus on CRSD students and their needs from every member of CRSD’s staff.

Dr. Fraser’s educational philosophy revolves around his belief that teaching is an art as well as a science, oftentimes more art than science. He believes in curriculum equality across schools, with sufficient commonality, equal rigor, and consistent grading practices, alongside the allowance for and encouragement of each teacher’s individual style of teaching. Motivating, inspiring, and training teachers is paramount, as is giving teachers flexibility to be creative in how they do their jobs.

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Elementary Report Cards

In 2012, the Pennsylvania Department of Education adopted the PA State Core Standards which outline the rigorous, high quality academic expectations in the subject areas of English, Language Arts and Mathematics that all students should master at the end of each grade level. School districts were given until 2014 to begin implementation and in an effort to align with the updated standards, the Council Rock School District established an Elementary Report Card Committee that worked with educators and administrators to develop a revised elementary report card as a means to communicate a student’s educational progress. The revised report card was implemented for the 2014-2015 school year.

There were several key areas of change. In terms of accessibility, elementary report cards are no longer being sent home with each student. Parents can now log directly into the Home Access Center to view and print their child’s report card. The appearance of the elementary report card was modified as the size was increased from one to four pages and each student’s school photo was added to the first page. Additional subject areas including Art, Music and Physical Education were added in response to standards based individual evaluation and the revised report card also notes in which quarter the student had Library services, although individual performance is not measured in this area. Teachers providing special services (i.e., Humanities, IST, Learning Support, etc.) are not given direct access to input comments on a student’s report card, however, they can provide homeroom teachers with information that would be added to the comments section. In the subject areas of English, Language Arts, Reading and

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Writing, performance indicators were revised from the previous 1, 2, 3, 4 system to M = Meets Expectation and I = Improvement Needed. In the subject areas of Math, Social Studies and Science, performance indicators were revised as indicated below:

2013 – 2014

A = Advanced

P = Proficient

B = Basic

BB = Below Basic

2014-2015

E = Exceeds Standard/Expectation

M = Meets Standard/Expectation

A = Approaching Standard/Expectation

I = Improvement Needed

N/A = Not Assessed this Quarter

A “√” indicates limited progress

Content changes were also made and can be found by visiting www.citizensforeducation.com
=>Supporting Documents=>Elementary Report Cards.

The District Elementary Report Card Committee was proactive to seek feedback from teachers as well as elementary parents. In the spring of 2015, a Report Card Survey was sent out and 352 responses were

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(Dr. Fraser—continued from page 1)

Dr. Fraser emphasized his two primary short term goals: (1) Get to know staff, teachers, students, parents, and community members and build relationships to establish a foundation built on mutual respect and trust; and (2) Learn anything and everything about the district. In addition, Dr. Fraser promotes transparency in all CRSD efforts and has worked with the School Board to institute the recording of district committee meetings for playback on CRSD’s YouTube channel.

Dr. Fraser has set some ambitious long term goals. He will be leading the effort across the district to put CRSD in the top 1% of all districts in all areas, from excellence in the business office to the quality of the teachers, from athletics to maintenance, from the drama and other arts programs to the human resources department, and more. Achieving and sustaining systemic excellence in every way possible, says Dr. Fraser, is the future of Council Rock.

There are challenges to that goal, however, and primary among them are the unfunded and time consuming mandates handed down by the federal and state government to CRSD and other districts. These include Educator Effectiveness, the teacher and principal evaluations; the Keystone exams, of which a 2-year moratorium may be in the works; and the state’s fair funding formula which greatly impacts CRSD from a financial perspective. Dr. Fraser is hopeful that

the new PA Secretary of Education, Pedro A. Rivera, will be helpful in resolving many of these challenges.

With the district’s recent focus on capital planning and future redistricting, Dr. Fraser is optimistic that if the CRSD community as a whole focuses on what is best for the kids, staying respectful and transparent throughout the process, all will work out. His school size philosophy does not require a specific number of students per school, as he has seen large and small schools work well; instead, his objective is to use space as efficiently as possible from a teaching and learning perspective while minimizing cost and maximizing value for the taxpayers.

Dr. Fraser stated that a district Technology Committee has been formed, comprising teachers, parents and community members, to provide a focus for discussing instructional technology issues and plans. Committee meetings will be open to the public and will be recorded on the district’s YouTube channel. One topic to be discussed is alternatives to Moodle as a Learning Management System. Although Moodle is a free platform, it is not commonly used by colleges so CRSD is looking for a system that will prepare students for what they will use in college.

Dr. Fraser stated, “Every conversation begins and ends with students,” and this was evident in CFE’s conversation with Council Rock’s new Superintendent. CFE thanks Dr. Fraser for taking time to talk with us.

Two Middle School Projects

Council Rock is designing two middle school projects (an addition and renovation at Holland Middle and a new school to replace Newtown Middle) that will go out to bid in May of 2016 with the projection, at this writing, that both will be finished by September of 2018. In the same timeframe, the district will take steps to either close or use Richboro Middle for other district needs.

Decisions on which Elementary students will attend each middle school and the subsequent high school tied to it are still being evaluated. Two main reasons for this evaluation are:

- The current elementary boundaries will be dependent on the elementary redistricting that will be implemented in September of 2017 (see Elementary Redistricting and/or School Consolidation article on page 8).

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(Elementary Report Cards—continued from page 2)

received, representing approximately 9% of the elementary families. 70% of the responders understood the indicators as well as the wording of the standards of the new report card but 77% of the responders indicated that the report card did not provide relevant information about their individual child's progress. Additionally, the respondents felt that the indicator "Meets the Standards" was too broad and did not sufficiently identify individual student growth.

In response to this feedback, the District Elementary Report Card Committee recently sent out a letter to all elementary parents identifying the following revisions which became effective with the 1st quarter report cards for the 2015-2016 school year:

1. In Grades 3-6, the range for "Meeting the Standard" was narrowed by the addition of the indicator level of M+ to show when a student strongly meets the standard/expectation. When percentage scoring is appropriate, the following guidelines will be used:

E Exceeds the Standard	95% - 100%
M+ Strongly Meeting the Standard	90% - 94%
M Meeting the Standard	80% - 89%
A Approaching the Standard	70 - 79%
I Needs Improvement	69% and below
2. For those areas not yet assessed, the teacher will assign an NA to that domain.
3. The report card will define more clearly how progress is measured towards the standard. For certain domains, students will meet the standard before the last marking period. In these cases, the indicator is carried through until the last marking period if there is no further assessment on that standard. For example, if a kindergarten student meets the expectation to count to 100 during the second marking period, the student will maintain the M (meets the standard) until the end of the year. If this student demonstrates that he/she can count to 200 in the third marking period, then the student's score will change to exceeding the standard. It is expected that students who receive an "A" or an "I" will have opportunities to revisit the concept and work towards meeting the standard.
4. Provide more information related to a student's work in special area classes and characteristics of a successful learner. Special area teachers will now have the additional indicator of "A" (approaching) when considering a student who hasn't yet met the expectation.
5. In regard to the Characteristics of a Successful Learner section, clarification is being made as to the use of "checks" when coupled with an indicator. Going forward, checks will only be used with the intermediate (Grades 3-6) report cards. A check will show an area of need where the overall score is an "A" or an "M."

Citizens for Education is very appreciative of the work performed by the District Elementary Report Card Committee and thanks the committee for the time and attention it has given to this important project.

(Two Middle School Projects—continued from page 3)

- The district has not determined the final size of each middle school. This decision is dependent on the outcome of future decisions that revolve around the merits of rectifying the existing underutilization at CR North. At this time, CR North, the bigger of the two high schools, has 372 less students than CR South. To balance enrollment, Holland Middle, which feeds into South, would need to be smaller than Newtown Middle, whose students will go to North. In order to be demographically bigger than Holland Middle, the new Newtown Middle population would have to include students who live in Northampton.

Until these decision are made, both middle school projects are being designed to go out to bid with a relatively equal number of classrooms, core sized special rooms (i.e. Cafeteria, Library and Gym, etc.), and non-educational space to support 7 teams with a maximum of 140 students in each, for a total school capacity of 980 students. The bids for each school will include an option to remove 4 classrooms and allow either middle school to have just 6 teams. Having 6 teams at one school and 7 at the other, plans for an enrollment of 1820 students which matches the current and projected enrollment needs at the middle school level. Making Newtown Middle the bigger middle school that feeds into the bigger high school will better utilize both existing high school buildings. If the district does proceed with the option to take off 4 classrooms at either middle school, it could save \$750,000 at either or both middle schools.

Until then, as part of State Act 34 requirements of 1973 (which regulate school construction projects qualifying for state reimbursement), the public has the opportunity to make written comments on the renovation of Holland Middle School and the new Newtown Middle School, up to and including Monday December 21, 2015. Information about the projects can be found in the Act 34 booklets available for examination at the Reception Desk at Chancellor Center or at crsd.org. The purpose of the Act 34 booklets, and the hearings that will be held on November 19, will be to establish the need for the projects; review options considered by the Board prior to the decision to proceed with the projects; describe the construction and educational programs; present estimated construction cost, total project cost and local tax impact; and to give citizens and residents the opportunity to comment or pose questions. Below are some of the basics from the Holland Middle and Newtown Middle Act 34 booklets:

	<u>Holland Middle</u>	<u>Newtown Middle</u>	<u>Richboro Middle</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Construction Date	1973	1954	1963	
Renovation/Addition	none	1959	none	
Square Footage Before Renovation/ Old Building	135,000	119,000	88,000	342,000
Finished Square footage	187,872	185,400		373,272
Capital Improvement costs 2014/2015	\$24,639,708	\$22,096,239	\$16,933,184	\$63,669,131
Estimated Asbestos Abatement 2014/205	\$407,028	\$357,900	\$266,472	\$1,031,400
Maximum Construction Cost	\$10,205,520	\$45,098,568		
<u>Act 34</u> <i>Maximum Building Construction Cost*</i>	\$11,021,962	\$48,706,453		
Total Project Cost	\$53,321,802	\$58,582,310		\$111,904,112
Estimate to Remove 4 Classrooms	\$750,000	\$750,000		

**If the maximum building construction cost based on bids is equal to or greater than the maximum building construction cost based on estimates plus 8%, a second public hearing will be required before entering into contracts and starting construction on any planned work.*

Getting to Know Dr. Daneyelle Jordan Principal, Richboro Elementary

"It's all about the kids." Those five words sum up Dr. Daneyelle Jordan's philosophy about being the new Principal at Richboro Elementary School (RES). Dr. Jordan took over the helm at RES in July 2015 after 10 years as a School Psychologist here in Council Rock.

After graduating from Ithaca College with a degree in Psychology, Dr. Jordan worked for a year at the Devereux Foundation where she conducted research and worked at a residential treatment facility for the nonprofit. She then went on to Temple University where she earned her PhD in School Psychology. Her dissertation was in early admission to 1st grade. While at Temple, she landed an internship in Council Rock. This was a great experience for her and it led to a full time position in CR.

She was the School Psychologist at Richboro Middle and Hillcrest Elementary. Dr. Jordan then earned her Principal's Certification from Delaware Valley College, in which CR Administrators taught much of the coursework, and was chosen to replace Mrs. Rebecca Grimm as Principal at Richboro Elementary. (Mrs. Grimm moved to Maureen Welch to replace Mr. Joe MacClay who became the new Director of Elementary Education.)

Dr. Jordan has been married for 11 years and has a 6 year old daughter. She chooses to live in the district so that her daughter will have the benefits of a Council Rock education.

Over the summer months, Dr. Jordan made a point of building relationships; meeting with each staff member at RES before school started. She recognized the great staff in place at Richboro and it wasn't long before she saw first hand how well the building functioned as a team.

Making the transition from a School Psychologist to a Principal has given Dr. Jordan the opportunity to work with a greater number of students – something she wholeheartedly

embraced. She enjoys making a connection with the students.

Dr. Jordan has been involved in various district committees including Strategic Planning and Supervision and Evaluation. She has also done a great deal of work with the Gifted Program and the higher level learner, as well as the struggling learner, and will be involved with the Professional Learning Community (PLC) initiative.

As for her short term goals, Dr. Jordan will continue to build relationships with staff, students and parents. Getting into the classrooms as much as possible to learn teachers' styles is high on her priority list, as is getting to know the students both academically and personally. In order to keep the lines of communication open, she sends a weekly email to parents and staff and publishes a monthly newsletter that the staff contributes to, which goes out to parents.

Over the long term, Dr. Jordan would like to enmesh herself in RES and wants her staff to continue to build on their success. She doesn't feel significant change is warranted, but wants to optimize those successes. She is invested in the "whole child" and wants her students to become "contributing members of society" by fostering their academic, social and emotional behavior.

Dr. Jordan feels very fortunate to be part of such a great team – not only at Richboro but also within CR. She has received nothing but support from every level throughout her 11 years here. She also is extremely grateful to have Rich Hollahan and Beth Fox as past and present mentors. She looks forward to the monthly meetings with Joe MacClay, Director of Elementary Education, as well as the Superintendent's monthly meetings. To keep RES on the successful path that it is on, she is eager to learn as much as possible. And one of the main reasons why RES will enjoy continued success is that the mantra from the Principal's office is "It's all about the kids."

CFE would like to thank Dr. Jordan for taking time out of her busy day to talk with us and we wish her all the best in her new position as Principal at RES.

In Step with Joe MacClay CR's new Director of Elementary Education

Council Rock's new Director of Elementary Education, Joe MacClay, knew he had big shoes to fill replacing Joy McClendon who previously held the post. He made it through the very competitive interview process this year and has hit the ground running with no intention of slowing down.

Joe, married with 3 children in 2nd, 7th & 9th grades, graduated from LaSalle University and continued his education at Holy Family University where he received his master's degree in Education. He also earned his Principal Certificate from Delaware Valley University in 2005 and his Superintendent's Letter from California University of PA in 2013. Joe spent 7 years at Rolling Hills Elementary as Principal before being appointed last year as Principal at Maureen Welch Elementary.

As Director of Elementary Education, all elementary curriculum issues require Joe's involvement. He also deals with management and budgetary issues and is involved with several district committees including those for Academic Standards and Technology. CR elementary principals, along with several curriculum coordinators, report to Joe and he reports directly to CR Superintendent Dr. Robert Fraser.

Joe is learning all he can about the people and procedures within the district. Over the past summer, Joe met with all the new elementary teachers hired at CR. Besides getting to know them personally, he wanted them to know that he is a resource for them. Much of his time is spent walking the hallways of the 10 elementary schools to observe firsthand what is taking place. One of his main goals is to build strong relationships with the teachers, administrators and office staff at each elementary school, and being visible and accessible is a means to that end.

In the near future, Joe will be involved with the issues of elementary capacity, full day kindergarten and the possibility of a school closure and redistricting. Whatever the outcomes, there is one thing Joe works toward: the consistency of curriculum in all CR elementary schools, so that regardless of which elementary school a child attends, the curriculum is identical to the other elementary schools in the district. He looks forward to assisting in implementing district wide goals and delivering information as effectively as possible across the district.

Tech Corner – Bee Bots

Tech Corner highlights new and innovative uses of technology and the Council Rock teachers who make it happen. In this article, Citizens honors "Bee Bot" and the teachers from Churchville and Goodnoe who are responsible for Bee Bot's introduction to Kindergarteners in Council Rock.



Bee Bots are a Kindergarten "STEAM" initiative.

Bee Bots are small floor robots that can be programmed for direction and length of travel. They are the conduit for the introduction of STEAM (Science, Technology, Education, Engineering, Arts and Math) education across the curriculum at the Kindergarten level. STEAM education incorporates an "A" for the Arts – recognizing that to be successful in technical fields, individuals must also be creative and use critical thinking skills which are best developed through exposure to the arts.

Bee Bots are used at Churchville and Goodnoe for Reading, Writing, Music, Math and Robotics.

This year, Kindergarten teacher, Kim Bender and

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Joe realizes there is much he still has to learn, but he has a tremendous love of learning so this should not be an obstacle for him. He believes in pacing himself and absorbing all he can. He also has the benefit of having worked under Mark Klein and Joy McClendon who formed a strong support team. Everyone he has encountered so far has been very supportive and willing to help him.

Asked if there is anything he missed about being an elementary school principal, Joe said he missed "the excitement that comes with opening up a school in September." Joe is optimistic about CRSD's future and he feels extremely fortunate to be in his new position. CFE would like to thank Joe MacClay for taking time out of his busy schedule to sit down with us, and from our view it appears that Joe is already on his way to filling those big shoes!

CFE would like to thank Joe MacClay for taking the time out of his busy schedule to sit down with us.

(Bee Bots—continued from page 6)

Math Specialist, Mary Dougherty are using Bee Bots to enhance learning and develop basic coding skills in Churchville's Kindergarten classes. They join Goodnoe Kindergarten teachers, Ms. Nikki Birkbeck, Ms. Lauren McCusker and Math Specialist, Charyl Hills who are utilizing Bee Bots for the second year. At both schools, Bee Bots are an across the curriculum device for learning. Students learn a Bee Bot song and dance moves in their Music class. They are introduced to a book about Bee Bots in Reading and use Bee Bots to learn sequencing and predictions skills in Math and also write about Bee Bots in Language Arts.

Kindergarten students use Bee Bots to develop basic coding skills. Citizens for Education was given an opportunity to go into Ms. McCusker's morning Kindergarten class at Goodnoe Elementary School to observe the students interacting with a Bee Bot. When Ms. McCusker told the students there were visitors who wanted to see how they taught their Bee

Bot to dance, the students rushed over with excitement. They came with their written program directions that enabled Bee Bot to dance to a song they had learned in Music class. One of the students from Ms. Birbeck's class, Brodie Molden (left), programmed the demonstration Bee Bot to dance by using its forward, backward, left or right buttons



found on its back. The Goodnoe Kindergarten Class had so much fun singing the words of the song and watching the Bee Bot go through the moves of the dance.

Kindergarteners learn directional language, logical thinking, and problem solving. Under the tutelage of their teacher, Ms. McCusker and Math Specialist Mrs. Hills, the Bee Bots were used to help the students sharpen their prediction skills by guessing how many forward moves it would take Bee Bot to go certain distances. Students collaboratively figured out how to program the Bee Bot to do a full rotation that would return it to its starting position facing the classroom's Smartboard. Students then were asked to predict which way Bee Bot would face if he was programed to turn right for a fifth time.



Bee Bots arrival and growth in CR. The first Bee Bot arrived at Council Rock 2 years ago when Principal Nicole Crawford of Goodnoe brought one back from a PA Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE & C). Math Specialist Charyl Hills, who was nominated by her Principal, Nicole Crawford, and named by the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Technology and Communications as a 2015 *Keystone Technology Innovator Star*, worked with Ms. McCusker to develop activities and ways to integrate the one Bee Bot into the kindergarten curriculum. After watching the success of the interaction between the Bee Bot and the students, Ms. McCusker recognized the need for more Bee Bots intended for small group instruction. Thanks to a grant from the Council Rock Education Foundation (CREF), the number of CR Bee Bots has multiplied. In addition to the original Bee Bot, sixteen more have been added at Goodnoe Elementary School and another sixteen were added to Churchville Elementary School.

Citizens For Education especially recognizes and honors Mrs. Charyl Hills as one of Council Rock's exemplary Math Specialists for her teaching, her collaboration with colleagues at Goodnoe and other schools, and her integration of technology into the curriculum. As a Keystone Technology Innovator Star, Mrs. Hills was invited to spend a week with other Keystone Innovator Stars at Shippensburg University, a week that she says was "life-altering". Mrs. Hills is using the knowledge gained and the relationships made with other attendees to spread technology integration ideas in Council Rock. Her website "Math Moments" is a resource for teachers, parents and students - <http://www.crsd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=20166>. Follow her tweets @Good2noeMath which give insight into her love for teaching Math. You would just have to observe her with students, or talk to parents or present and former students to get a glimpse into how much her teaching is appreciated. CFE thanks Mrs. Hills for both her passion and dedication to teaching and for expansion of the integration of technology at Council Rock.

Elementary Redistricting and/or School Consolidation Decisions to be Made in 2016-17

Council Rock is in the process of looking at options for redistricting and/or school consolidation to begin in the 2017-18 school year and each successive year. At the October 1, 2015 school board meeting, Superintendent Dr. Robert Fraser gave a presentation on elementary school building efficiencies, capacities and educational programs. He stated that “this conversation is about more than ‘brick and mortar.’ At its core, our focus is on how to responsibly maximize our budget so that, in turn, we can maximize our students’ potential.”

Dr. Fraser stated that the district can increase elementary school space efficiencies and yield a maximum of 24 full sized classrooms throughout the district by:

- Capitalizing on economy of scale, by moving District special education programs to other schools
- Transitioning District Intensive Learning Support programs from full-size classrooms to half-size rooms
- Using mobile dividers in full-size classrooms to combine multiple grade levels of Resource Rooms for learning support
- Moving specialized areas such as Literacy, Math Specialist, and ELL to smaller spaces than currently allocated
- Repurposing fixed computer rooms to mobile labs

The maximum classroom gains are: 5 each at Richboro Elementary and Holland Elementary; 4 at Churchville; 3 each at Maureen M. Welch and Sol Feinstone; 2 at Goodnoe; 1 each at Hillcrest, Rolling Hills and Wrightstown. Newtown would have 1 less section.

Dr. Fraser is recommending that at the very minimum the District should redistrict to balance enrollment, thus correcting a tight enrollment at one school, and the under enrollment at other schools. For instance Newtown Elementary is tight this year and at 92% capacity because it absorbed Wrightstown’s 5th and 6th grade that, in June, included 106 students. At the other extreme, Holland Elementary, where the district replaced all the trailers with inside classrooms and renovated for \$19M, currently only has 298 students and could house 513 students. He stated that Council Rock students are being deprived every day, day after day from getting the benefit of a beautiful new school.

To further maximize efficiency and budgetary facilities’ operating cost, for facilities that are not needed, Dr. Fraser is asking the Board to consider closing one or two elementary schools – Rolling Hills and/or Wrightstown. Maintaining the status quo that keeps the same number of buildings, leaves one school (Newtown) at an efficiency of over 90%, and all the rest under 85%: 4 between 80% and 85% (in descending order – Hillcrest, Welch, Goodnoe and Rolling Hills), 2 at 78% (Churchville and Sol Feinstone), 1 at 70% (Wrightstown), 1 at 66% (Richboro) and 1 at 58% (Holland).

If Council Rock closes Wrightstown which currently has only 9 sections of students from K to 4, as part of the redistricting, the District’s overall usage of space efficiency would go from 78.6% to 82.3%. If Council Rock closes Rolling Hills which currently has 19 sections, the District would increase its usage efficiency from 78.6% to 85.4%.

Closing both schools only increases efficiency to 82.3% because it would require adding at least one 10 room addition to one of the medium sized schools, Hillcrest or Richboro, or possibly two additions, estimated at this time to be \$10M each.

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Newly Formed Technology Committee in Council Rock

Council Rock School District has formed a Technology Committee to develop a 5 year Technology Plan that will shape the district's future technology structure and instruction. The meetings are on the third Thursday of every month and start at 6:00 pm prior to the School Board meeting. The public is invited to attend and observe the meetings that will be run similar to School Board meetings.

Matt Fredrickson, the CR Director of Information Technology, heads the committee and he is assisted by Thomas Range who teaches Math, Business and Technology at the Sloan Alternative School. The committee is composed of thirty-seven members; eight Council Rock administrators, eighteen staff members and eleven members of the public.

At the first meeting held on October 27, 2015 the agenda included the discussion of CR's three-year strategic plan and laid out the groundwork for the rest of year. Members were invited to choose between two sub-committees. One led by Matt Fredrickson centered on hardware and software discussions; the second sub-committee will concentrate on Technology Integration and will be headed by Thomas Range.

The meetings are not recorded but Citizens will follow the discussion and post updates on the CFE Facebook page and website.

(Elementary Redistricting —continued from page 8)

The October 1, 2015 presentation gives detailed information on cost, and pros and cons, for full day Kindergarten for every student. Instituting full day Kindergarten would use 18 out of the 24 available classrooms but would gain back 3 classrooms used in the morning by the Champion's program, now held at Goodnoe, Holland and Welch, that would no longer be needed to help parents whose children are assigned to PM kindergarten.

The October 1 meeting can be viewed on the District's You Tube Channel and the "Elementary School Master Planning" PowerPoint is linked on the Council Rock home page, www.crsd.org, under "Elementary Master Facilities Planning." There, a link can be found to each school's floor plans and each school's current usage.

Citizens For Education has taken each of the school's current usage spreadsheet and increased the font, consolidated the information and put them on Citizen's website where those who are interested can more easily view the specifics of how each school uses its current space and where space economies can be realized.

Citizens For Education supports redistricting in Council Rock in order to best utilize all of the schools and maximize efficiencies.

Did you Know...

Council Rock libraries have a total of over 268,000 books districtwide, not including magazines, digital or audio books. Last year alone, the school district added 4,134 books at the elementary schools, 806 books at the middle level, and 339 books to the high schools.

In 2009, The American Library Association's recommendation for number of books per student in school libraries were 27 for Elementary students (average 33 per pupil at CR), 19 for middle school students (average 16 per pupil at CR) and 16 for high school students (average 14 per student at CR). Keep in mind that the totals for Council Rock do not include digital materials, which tend to increase at the higher grade levels.

Aside from the individual building budgets allocated to their school library each year, school funding for library books comes from the PTO's, book fairs, and visiting author book sales.