

Community Engagement Session

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Dear School Board Members and Administrators,

My name is Daejah Cochrane Smith, I am in 6th grade at Sheffield Middle School. I was asked how my mental state has been since hearing of the possible Master Facilities Plan. It has been a little off, but nothing too bad. I know that if I were to go to Warren my mental health issues would sky rocket because I don't do well in big crowds already. I would consider Warren a large school already and combining Sheffield with Warren would make it even bigger. If I had to be there 5 days a week for 7 hours a day I don't know what I would do.

I was then asked what I would like to say to our school board and administrators. I would like to say that I think that this plan is a horrible idea. I know that many people at my school have mental health disorders and going to a bigger school would have a huge impact on their mental health. Not only would a larger school impact mental health, but could lead to many more issues with behavior and learning. Test scores would decrease because there wouldn't be enough teachers to help around the classroom making it harder for everyone. People with IEP's will have a harder time getting the help they need. If the people with IEP's do get the attention from the teacher / teachers then what happens to everyone else who may be struggling in that class? Long story short they would fail. At Sheffield we are able to get the help that we need due to smaller class sizes and this helps us be more successful.

I am thankful for my small school, being able to know all of my peers, and get the attention I need and deserve from my teachers. I hope you consider how important this is to many students and that you don't take our school away from us.

I hope that you take me seriously even though I'm just a kid. Not only am I a kid though, I am a kid who will be affected by this.

Thank You,

Daejah Cochrane Smith