

## Community Engagement Session

Kasey Smith <smittykcontracting@gmail.com>

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To: Brown, Cody <brownc@wcsdpa.org>; Mangione, Paul <mangionep@wcsdpa.org>; Stewart, Arthur J. <StewartAJ@wcsdpa.org>; Colosimo, Joe <colosimoj@wcsdpa.org>; Dougherty, Jeff <doughertyj@wcsdpa.org>; Zariczny, Donna L. <ZaricznyDL@wcsdpa.org>; Morgan, Marcy <morganm@wcsdpa.org>; Passinger, Mary <passingerm@wcsdpa.org>; Lindvay, Kevin <lindvayk@wcsdpa.org>; Huck, Ruth <huckr@wcsdpa.org>

Good Afternoon,

As a parent, tax payer, and business owner I am very concerned with the suggestion of closing Sheffield High School. The community has yet to be provided with any data about how this is a fiscally responsible move. Anyone who has been in Sheffield knows that Sheffield is one campus with many shared spaces between the High School, Middle School, and Elementary School. By removing the High School students from Sheffield you will not be reducing any maintenance costs to the building or the grounds; however you will be increasing bussing costs. You will also cause a decline in the property values for our area which in turn leads to less funding for the school district. Not only will property values decline though, but our population will further decline as more people make moves to locate a new school or be closer to their child's new assigned school. This is harmful to our county and school district as a whole. This will impact all small businesses throughout Warren County.

If you aren't concerned about whether or not this is a fiscally responsible decision then what is the driving force behind reconfiguration? I have seen some statements about education that Sheffield doesn't have AP or CP courses because they do not have enough students to offer the course. This means they need to attend Warren in order to take those courses. I believe that COVID showed us that students have the ability to learn online and that zoom is a great tool. Why can't the students in all outer lying schools take AP and CP classes on zoom? You could designate a couple classrooms in each school to be set up with the ability to utilize zoom and an aide could monitor those students. It has been confirmed that an aide can in fact monitor zoom classes and that students just need to have access to a teacher whether that is next door or across the hall. When the district is utilizing the virtual academy to teach students on days when a substitute is unavailable I cannot understand why we aren't making all classes accessible to all students within the district.

I also have major concerns for transportation. I am concerned about how long students will potentially be on the bus, but again the community has not been provided that information, so the best we can do is make educated guesses. Long bus rides majorly cut into a student's time to sleep, do homework, have family time, participate in after school activities, or work after school. Speaking of after school activities, I have concerns that the distance to Warren will hinder the ability for many students in Clarendon and Sheffield to participate. I also have concerns that some families will struggle with being able to pick their child up from school if they become sick or injured.

I believe that leaving all schools open is in the best interest of all students right now. If we truly need to eliminate a building then my suggestion would be to move the central office to some of those underutilized spaces. I am concerned that the community has not been given enough data to see why the district believes this would be a positive move for our students and community. I am finding many negative aspects on how this will not be in the best interest of our students or the community. Thank you for taking the time to listen to me and I hope I will get the chance to see the data that supports reconfiguration from a fiscal standpoint as well as a behavioral, mental health, and educational standpoint.

Thank You

Kasey Smith