

My name is Lisa Untrauer, I am a first and second grade combination teacher at Carolyn Clark Elementary School.

I have 2 topics that I would like to comment upon this evening.

In 2004 when Carolyn A. Clark Elementary School first opened its doors we had 701 students.

Four years later our student population peaked at 862 students.

At some point between 2004 and 2008 we added three portables to our campus because there weren't enough classrooms to house our students.

Now let's look at 2017-18 school year. Clark school has a total of 633 students. (that is 229 less students from our peak)

Currently at Clark school there 10 empty classrooms, and 3 empty portables classrooms.

It doesn't make sense to me to have the newest school in the district operate each day with that many empty classrooms.

It doesn't make sense to me to have a few schools that need millions of dollars of repair opening their doors daily when we have schools like Clark that operate with empty classrooms.

Wouldn't consolidation make sense?

My next comment revolves around class size. Year after year during all of the professional learning sessions that teachers have attended, we were called upon to practice differentiated instruction, that one size doesn't fit all. All students should be challenged at their own academic and developmental level.

In first grade, to gain knowledge of a child's academic abilities we assess them individually. This helps us form leveled groups for all subject areas so that we can create lessons to challenge students appropriately.

In 2010 my class size went from 20 students to 24 students. It took more days to assess the children.

Think about it for a moment.... While I am reading with one student..... what are the rest of the 24 students doing?

In 2010, it was more challenging to meet the needs of **all** of the students. It took longer to assess to determine the children's abilities.

By increasing class size by adding 3 more students, our ability to differentiate and meet the needs of ALL students will be compromised again.

My prediction is that the Gifted and Above grade level students will be affected because they already meet standards. They don't need to be challenged.

AND the students that will be far below grade level will suffer as well. They take more time to teach.

SO, will we

disregard the teachings of Chris Emdin and Sam Seidel

and turn to our curriculum publishers for their expertise and teach by turning the page and reading what is on the next day's lesson?

Increasing class size is NOT a good way to cut costs.

In conclusion, I hope that you will reconsider the thought of class size increase

and also think about filling the empty rooms at Clark School!

Thank you for listening.