

**Subject:** Comment for June 1 Board Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 4:08:08 PM Pacific Daylight Time

**From:** roger wroblewski <rtwroblewski@icloud.com>

**To:** pellizzari65@icloud.com <pellizzari65@icloud.com>, Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>, Susan Alvaro <salvaro@smcoe.org>, Chelsea Bonini <cbonini@smcoe.org>, Hector Camacho Jr. <hcamachojr@smcoe.org>, Jim Cannon <jcannon@smcoe.org>, Beverly Gerard <bgerard@smcoe.org>, Ted Lempert <tlemper@smcoe.org>, Joe Ross <jross@smcoe.org>, KBeebe@cta.org <KBeebe@cta.org>, Greg Bonaccorsi <gbonaccorsi@cta.org>

**CC:** rtwroblewski@icloud.com <rtwroblewski@icloud.com>

Good Evening Superintendent and Board:

As you know, on January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Board closed Gateway, and on March 15<sup>th</sup>, laid off teachers. Recently, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Board decided to open Gateway, but no action was taken concerning the laid off teachers.

So, how did you expect adding a new Therapeutic Day School and opening Gateway with fewer teachers would impact students?

This past week, I was informed about my teaching assignment next year. I was taken aback by it. Next Fall, I will be at two schools:

Gateway (0.5 FTE) - one classroom of 20 students, 9th - 12th grade which I see for two hours. One hour to teach mathematics and the second hour to teach science (for which I have no credential, training, nor curriculum). Also, one hour of Credit Recovery for 20 students some of which do not need credit recovery since they are in 9th grade.

Therapeutic Day School (0.5 FTE) - one class of 11 students, 7th - 9th grade, which I see for two hours. One hour to teach mathematics and the second hour to teach science (again for which I have no credential, training, nor curriculum).

In previous Board meetings on January 18<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Superintendent pointed out that we do not do well in serving this student population. With fewer teachers and more schools, I would expect that the Superintendent will be more disappointed in the results.

How effective do you think I will be with a daily prep of 7th - 12th grade mathematics and science lessons, 12 lesson plans a day? How effective will I be in bringing students forward when these students did not perform well in a comprehensive middle school or high school, and perhaps, continuation schools? These students each with individual needs, challenges, and behavior issues, will receive up to 15 minutes of direct instruction each hour of grade level science and mathematics. In other words, at Gateway, 9th grade mathematics for 15 minutes, 10th grade mathematics for 15 minutes, 11th grade mathematics for 15 minutes, and 12th grade mathematics for 15 minutes will be the norm four days a week and Wednesdays the shortened day ....well.....you get the point.

From my perspective, this new staffing model for the 2022-2021 school year will clearly result in the failure to educate the students in their grade level curriculum. Is this really for the best? Maybe the County Office of Education is not the correct place for these students. It seems that the County Office has determined that it should not be in the business of educating students. Maybe the County Office should abrogate its responsibilities and provide only services to school districts and remove itself from educating students. In my humble opinion, it does not seem to have any interest in students at all or

perhaps it simply is ill-equipped to run and design programs. I do not know which it is, but I do know students deserve better than this.

The budget for Gateway and the Therapeutic Day Class is based on fee-for-service. How does one price out these costs? For the new single classroom model at Gateway, is \$56,000 for each of 20 slots (\$1,120,000) for two 0.5 FTEs teaching 9th - 12th grade mathematics, science, social studies, and English sufficient? How does any school district decide that this is an appropriate fee for the planned services provided by two half-time single subject credentialed teachers - one credentialed in mathematics and the other in English? Are these the costs that the districts are expecting for educating their students in the new single classroom model at Gateway with the equivalent of one teacher?

My suggestion is that when the districts realize that \$1.1 million dollars pays for the equivalent of one FTE teacher for 20 students, then sugar the deal by rehiring the highly qualified teachers fired on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,  
Roger Wroblewski

Thanks,  
rw  
Sent from my iPad