

From: **Renee Delia** <[mcguire.renee@gmail.com](mailto:mcguire.renee@gmail.com)>

Date: Sun, Apr 30, 2023 at 6:20 PM

Subject: Concerned parent

To: <[csharkey@hbschools.org](mailto:csharkey@hbschools.org)>

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing to you to further express my many concerns and fears about the plan to make the current kindergarten class into one section for their first grade year.

When we moved High Bridge, over 10 years ago, the district was praised for their small, intimate class sizes. I knew that this was a school that my children would need to succeed. As a parent having an IEP all through my school years I knew that I wanted a school with small class sizes for extra support not only for academic reasons but for social and emotional support. I feel that in the last few years this has been a struggle in this district and my biggest fear is giving them less support will only make things worse.

Both of my older daughters have IEPs for different reasons, my biggest fear is that my youngest daughter will get lost in such a large group of students and could be potentially overlooked if she doesn't get the individualized attention that her older sisters got. I feel my daughter and the other students will not get the appropriate education they deserves at such a young age. We know that first grade shapes a child's opinion of school for the future years. If they are in an overcrowded classroom with rows of desks how can they have an experience like every other High Bridge student before them? How will a student succeed if they need flexible seating? Or if a student get distracted easily? How will students with learning disabilities get the support they need? How will students with different behavioral needs be met?

Going from a small class where they have the time to bond with their peers and teacher to an overcrowded class is not fair to them. My youngest daughter deserves the same experience as her two older sisters had in elementary school. She will most definitely miss out on the bonds my older girls formed with both their first grade teachers, Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Richardson. I have no doubt that Mrs. Morris will succeed and be phenomenal. This decision is not fair for the teachers and the young students who deserves so much better, we should not settle to be an average elementary classroom.

Thank you so much for your time. I look forward to working together to figure out the best outcome not only for my daughter and other students but the teachers as well.

Renee Delia

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