



Date Requested: 01.21.24

Requestor Name: Nancy Rumfelt

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Cabinet Member: Cabinet

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Request:

General Questions/Comments

Peakview does not allow tours and only has an open day after choice enrollment closes. Is there a way to change that? **We would need to know more about Peakview not allowing for tours in order to answer this. We are not aware of Peakview not allowing for tours.**

What is normal practice for chair and vice chair of committees – can board members hold these positions and be voting members? **The normal practice is to not have Board of Education members as chair and vice chairs of committee. Board of Education members serve as liaisons between the Board and the Committee and are not voting members of the committee.**

Healthy Kids Survey: Can schools opt out of survey? **No, we do the survey as a district. One parent mentioned that BHS had opted out last year. How can parents opt their children out of the survey?The survey is an opt-in survey. If parents don't opt-in, they are by default opted out. A parent commented that they could not find information about the survey on the district website or the opt out form. Can the district stop participating in the healthy kids survey? The state does not require the district to do the survey. See more here: [Healthy Kids Colorado](#)**

Grades: Is it true that kids can fail in middle school and still pass and move on to high school? Are students allowed to redo assignments until they receive a passing grade? **It depends on the class.** Are teachers able to fail a student in their class? **Yes.** The district does not seem to value or base grades on meritocracy – why? **The district evaluates learning and mastery of state and national learning standards according to state and nationally defined proficiency levels.**

From Theo Robisonm Executive Director of Secondary Education:

At the MS level we added the traditional system into IC alongside the Standards Based Grading (SBG) system so students and parents can now see the letter grade that correlates with their SBG grade on the report card. This was suggested by the MS Curriculum Coordinators last year. Tiffany, Andy and I worked on this. Teachers felt this approach would help motivate some students who may feel like MS school grades don't matter. We will get an update on these efforts in the coming weeks. The Fall semester was the first time we had that practice in place in IC.

Here's the grading statement we created at the high school level last year. Andy Crisman and I have worked with this committee that represents high school ILTs for two years. We are currently working on aligning the Work Habits with Portrait of a Graduate. This was created and approved with 100% consensus by our HS ILT reps who participate on this committee.

High School Grading Statement:

GOAL OF GRADING: The goal of grading is to provide actionable feedback in a timely manner that is representative of what a student knows and has the opportunity to build upon or improve. Grading will empower students to engage in the learning toward mastery of state standards in the content area.

ROLE OF EDUCATOR: Educators will be clear with students about what they need to know and do through the use of learning targets and success criteria. Educators will ensure that a student's grade truly reflects what they know and can demonstrate. Educators will implement grading practices that encourage students to engage and re-engage in learning. Educators will provide diverse opportunities appropriate to their content area for students to demonstrate

mastery of standards.

ROLE OF STUDENT: Grades should reflect not only what a student knows but also what effort a student puts into that assignment, classroom, and test. Grading should reflect students' understanding of a concept, not just their correctness. Students should have an opportunity to redo assignments where their work product reflects a gap in understanding as this reflects an attitude towards learning. As students, we will put our best effort into showing our understanding of the topic and do our best on each assignment and test. It is important that our grade reflects not just the test and assignment score but, more importantly, the effort we, as students, put into the class daily.

Bullying and Discipline (this topic was clearly a top priority) Bullying at BHS is a big problem – what is being done to address this? **The EDI Director is working with BHS leadership and staff to address student perceptions and experiences at BHS.** Discipline and behavior problems seem to be blamed on IEP students which is not true and is unfair to these students. Kids are afraid to go to school and students are experiencing trauma from the bullying – especially when they must return to school i.e. where the trauma happened. The district used to report more on discipline and bullying statistics – why did the district stop?**The district continues to report discipline incidents according to state requirements in Infinite Campus.** Also, the district used to post on the website the reports regarding discipline – can this information be put back on the website? Principals are not supporting teachers in dealing with discipline problems as they don't want to deal with push back from district. A parent asked: how are we supporting teachers in dealing with the discipline/behavior/bullying problems? **We have implemented Positive Behavior Intervention Support at every school, we have a Mobile Behavior Support Team, and we have additional staff at schools (i.e. behavior specialists, social workers, and social emotional learning specialists) that support schools with behavior and engagement in learning.** Restorative justice doesn't seem to work as needs more follow-up with the students involved. What is the process in TSD? **Behavior incidents are handled on a case by case basis. TSD uses Restorative Practices, Positive Behavior Intervention Support, and other strategies depending on the situation.** Principals are not responsive to parents as it seems there is an incentive not to report so school looks good on paper. Why can't we install cameras in the classroom so parents can see the behavior of their student? **This would be a violation of FERPA.** Wouldn't this help and protect teachers and students? **See answer to previous question.**

Can we make a policy removing cell phones from the classroom? **At this time cell phone use is a site-based school decision.** A Minnesota school did this and grades improved as well as

behavior problems.

Taxes Why did the board vote to increase our taxes? The Board of Education is tasked each year with certifying mill levy rates associated with property taxes that support public education. For 2023 that rate was 44.571 mills. For 2024 that rate was 42.760 mills for a decrease of 4.1%.

How much will revenue increase with the new tax rate and values? Revenue associated with mill levy rates assessed for K-12 education is estimated to increase \$21.0 million from 2023 to 2024. Of that amount, an estimated increase of \$18.0 million is related to the mill levy for the School Finance Act as called for in the Constitution for the State of Colorado and which the district has no control over assessing. Any local increase in this category is correspondingly decreased from funding received from the State of Colorado.

What is the maintenance mlo? The “maintenance MLO”, more appropriately referred to as “Debt Free Public Schools” is allowed for in the Colorado Revised Statutes (Colorado Constitution) if approved by voters in the district. These funds are restricted to specific expenditures, one of which is maintenance of district assets and funds not expended can be carried forward from one year to the next.