

From: **meredith mccabe** <[meredithmccabelpc@gmail.com](mailto:meredithmccabelpc@gmail.com)>

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019

Subject: Concern

To: [christina\\_hoggan1@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:christina_hoggan1@chesterfieldschool.com), [jaclyn\\_halaw1@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:jaclyn_halaw1@chesterfieldschool.com), [amy\\_jablonski1@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:amy_jablonski1@chesterfieldschool.com), [matthew\\_litt1@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:matthew_litt1@chesterfieldschool.com), [teran\\_brown1@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:teran_brown1@chesterfieldschool.com)

Dear Chesterfield BoE members,

In light of a recent article written on the New Jersey School Boards Association's website regarding an appellate decision involving Superintendent contracts, I am asking that the current Chesterfield Board of Education members review and investigate whether the decision to "Rescind and Cancel" and then "Approve and Accept" the current Superintendent's contract (as per the CES BoE Agenda/Minutes of the October 4, 2017 meeting in section 11) was done in accordance with NJSBA's standards and regulations and *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11*. The Agenda/Minutes can be found here:

<https://www.chesterfieldschool.com/cms/lib/NJ01001270/Centricity/Domain/32/9-27-17%20Rescheduled%20to%2010-4-17%20Agenda%20on%20web%2010%204%2017.pdf>

The article I am referring to was referenced at the BoE meeting held last night, April 17, 2019 and can be found here:

<https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-board-notes/march-19-2019-vol-xlii-no-32/superintendent-contracts-enjoy-a-day-in-the-sunshine/>

Thank you for your dedication to the education of all of the children in Chesterfield and for your timely attention to this matter. Please include this correspondence in public records.

Sincerely,  
Meredith A. McCabe  
94 Harness Way

April 15, 2019

To whom it may concern;

I'm writing on behalf of my significant concerns regarding the manner in which discipline has been handled at Chesterfield Elementary School for the past several years and the school environment that has been created as a result. I have two children, my older daughter is in fifth grade and my younger daughter is in first grade. Both of my children also attended Little Dragons. We have been a part of CES since 2011 and although I love the community our children are growing up in, I feel there is a significant lack of effective consequences, including a lack of discipline, within the school as a whole. Neither of my children have been identified as having significant behavioral issues, but both have been on the receiving end of other children who were obviously struggling in the school environment and took those struggles out on my children. For the sake of all of our time, I'll list briefly a few of the instances that I felt were severely mishandled by the administration of CES.

- When my older daughter was in Kindergarten in 2013 we had two incidents of her being choked by an older male student while in the aftercare program. One time he put his hands around her neck, the other time he grabbed her by the hood of her sweatshirt and used that to choke her. Neither incident was reported to me until I was told by my child what had occurred. When I called the school to report this, I was advised to contact the aftercare program. When I contacted the aftercare program, they reported the child would be receiving consequences. Due to our newness in the school, I didn't know many other parents. Over the years as I've grown to know other parents, I've found that same child choked or attempted to choke many other children and many parents contacted the school regarding this and were told similar "it will be handled" stories and yet it's quite obvious looking back it was not handled well, if at all. I am not sure if that child graduated CES or left the district, but I know I saw him for several years after the incidents with my daughter during drop off and pick up. My daughter continued to fear him for years.
- My daughter who is currently in first grade has had a child in class this year who was clearly struggling in the classroom environment. I heard daily from my own child the various aggressive physical and verbal issues this child engaged in and spoke often with her teacher about my concerns. Thankfully my child was never hurt in any way by this little boy, but as a result of the disturbances he was causing daily, my child was bullied frequently by another group of children in her class. These incidents included calling my daughter "so gay", taking her belongings and refusing to return them, writing on her pants and her face with a marker, blaming her for destroying things she was not responsible for, etc. She has come home more often than not from school extremely upset and reports that she "hates school". Her teacher has been wonderful, but I really do not understand why it took until March of the school year to address the child who was struggling so badly. I was told he was moved to another classroom. I can only hope he is receiving support and that the kids in my daughter's class who have been taking advantage of his disruptions are given appropriate consequences for their behavior towards my daughter.
- There is a child from 4th grade who is currently spending time in my daughter's 1st grade classroom daily as a sort of respite. This child is known to have significant and chronic behavioral issues and the fact that he has started spending time in a class that has endured so much already is outrageous. My child has reported to me that there was one incident in which he refused to leave the room and was physically removed by an administrator. Obviously children misinterpret situations, but at the same time, so much has gone on in her class this year I have no doubt "something" happened. My daughter also tells me that other children in the class have started saying that "acting bad gets you special privileges like walking around the halls and visiting your favorite teacher" and using this boy's frequent visits to their class as proof of this concept. I am not sure what has prompted this set of actions, but bringing an older child with severe behavioral issues into a younger classroom, when the administration already failed to support that same younger classroom until March of this year, seems to me to be one of the most shortsighted and obviously mishandled circumstances I've heard of to date in this school.

In conclusion, as a parent of two CES children, I know our administration can handle discipline more appropriately and can create a healthier school environment for all of our children. I'd like to see that process begin immediately. I have no problem with this letter being entered into public record.

Sincerely,

Meredith A. McCabe  
Harness Way, Chesterfield

## Burlington - Chesterfield Twp

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the Chesterfield Township School District, in the County of Burlington, of the State of New Jersey, that a Public Hearing will be held in the Media Center of the Chesterfield Elementary School, (30 Saddle Way, Chesterfield, NJ 08515), on (Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 7:00 pm), for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the following budget for the 2019-2020 school year.

### Advertised Enrollments

Enrollment Categories	October 13, 2017 Actual	October 15, 2018 Actual	October 15, 2019 Estimated
Pupils On Roll Regular Full-Time	654	674	690
Pupils On Roll - Special Full-Time	100	101	99
Subtotal - Pupils On Roll	754	775	789
Private School Placements	3	2	2
Pupils Sent to Other Dists - Spec Ed Prog	1	3	2

**Burlington - Chesterfield Twp  
Advertised Revenues**

Budget Category	Account	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Revised	2019-20 Proposed
<b>Operating Budget:</b>				
<b>Revenues from Local Sources:</b>				
Local Tax Levy	10-1210	9,221,448	9,435,877	9,624,595
Total Tuition	10-1300	46,675	40,000	40,000
Rents And Royalties	10-1910	25,099	0	0
Unrestricted Miscellaneous Revenues	10-1XXX	72,377	10,068	10,000
Interest Earned On Maintenance Reserve	10-1XXX	0	0	10
Interest Earned On Capital Reserve Funds	10-1XXX	285	20	10
Subtotal - Revenues From Local Sources		9,365,884	9,485,965	9,674,615
<b>Revenues from State Sources:</b>				
Categorical Transportation Aid	10-3121	71,680	143,738	143,738
Extraordinary Aid	10-3131	30,339	0	0
Categorical Special Education Aid	10-3132	136,277	654,710	654,710
Equalization Aid	10-3176	401,205	1,545,186	1,798,701
Categorical Security Aid	10-3177	43,728	60,146	60,146
Supplemental Enrollment Growth Aid	10-3179	85,512	0	0
Under Adequacy Aid	10-3180	60,016	0	0
PARCC Readiness Aid	10-3181	7,380	0	0
Per Pupil Growth Aid	10-3182	7,380	0	0
Professional Learning Community Aid	10-3183	8,010	0	0
Other State Aids	10-3XXX	8,410	0	0
State Reimbursement For Lead Testing Of Drinking Water	10-3300	2,380	0	0
Subtotal - Revenues From State Sources		862,317	2,403,780	2,657,295
Budgeted Fund Balance - Operating Budget	10-303	0	144,048	146,564
Actual Revenues (Over)/Under Expenditures		-646,849	0	0
Total Operating Budget		9,581,352	12,033,793	12,478,474
<b>Grants and Entitlements:</b>				
Other Revenue From Local Sources	20-1XXX	4,568	0	0
Total Revenues From Local Sources	20-1XXX	4,568	0	0
<b>Revenues from State Sources:</b>				
Other Restricted Entitlements	20-32XX	28,192	35,740	30,379
Total Revenues From State Sources		28,192	35,740	30,379
<b>Revenues from Federal Sources:</b>				
Title I	20-4411-4416	13,802	24,376	12,220
Title II	20-4451-4455	6,769	5,489	4,666
Title IV	20-4471-4474	7,622	10,000	8,500
I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)	20-4420-4429	135,406	140,829	119,704
Total Revenues From Federal Sources		163,599	180,694	145,090
Total Grants And Entitlements		196,359	216,434	175,469
<b>Repayment of Debt:</b>				
Transfers From Other Funds	40-5200	10	0	0
<b>Revenues from Local Sources:</b>				
Local Tax Levy	40-1210	1,942,729	1,963,251	1,959,972
Total Revenues From Local Sources		1,942,729	1,963,251	1,959,972
<b>Revenues from State Sources:</b>				
Debt Service Aid Type II	40-3160	319,983	336,986	336,305
Budgeted Fund Balance	40-303	0	701	11
Total Local Repayment Of Debt		2,262,722	2,300,938	2,296,288
Actual Revenues (Over)/Under Expenditures		35,390	0	0
Total Repayment Of Debt		2,298,112	2,300,938	2,296,288
Total Revenues/Sources		12,075,823	14,551,165	14,950,231
Total Revenues/Sources Net of Transfers		12,075,823	14,551,165	14,950,231



**Burlington - Chesterfield Twp  
Advertised Appropriations**

Budget Category	Account	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Revised	2019-20 Proposed
<b>General Current Expense:</b>				
<b>Instruction:</b>				
Regular Programs - Instruction	11-1XX-100-XXX	3,125,796	3,899,244	4,090,237
Special Education - Instruction	11-2XX-100-XXX	735,799	843,161	1,016,016
Basic Skills/Remedial - Instruction	11-230-100-XXX	191,960	121,425	229,345
School-Spon. Co/Extra Curr. Actvts. - Inst	11-401-100-XXX	2,322	7,500	8,000
Summer School	11-422-XXX-XXX	5,640	8,500	7,500
<b>Support Services:</b>				
Undistributed Expenditures - Instruction (Tuition)	11-000-100-XXX	207,909	253,360	178,371
Undist. Expend.-Attendance And Social Work	11-000-211-XXX	15,071	15,903	16,652
Undist. Expenditures - Health Services	11-000-213-XXX	145,582	154,043	160,503
Undist. Expend.-Speech, OT, PT And Related Svcs	11-000-216-XXX	235,189	275,753	320,934
Undist Expend-Oth Supp Serv Std-Extra Serv	11-000-217-XXX	501,617	534,675	597,000
Undist. Expenditures - Guidance	11-000-218-XXX	74,263	144,825	164,454
Undist. Expenditures - Child Study Teams	11-000-219-XXX	327,536	350,093	363,115
Undist. Expend.-Improv. Of Inst. Serv.	11-000-221-XXX	166,257	188,981	215,528
Undist. Expend.-Edu. Media Serv./Library	11-000-222-XXX	70,324	85,001	97,156
Undist. Expend.-Instr. Staff Training Serv.	11-000-223-XXX	20,847	50,359	34,500
Undist. Expend.-Support Serv.-Gen. Admin.	11-000-230-XXX	308,341	352,066	267,609
Undist. Expend.-Support Serv.-School Admin.	11-000-240-XXX	246,782	278,691	357,555
Undist. Expend. - Central Services	11-000-251-XXX	238,821	273,955	250,481
Undist. Expend. - Admin. Info Technology	11-000-252-XXX	84,471	101,094	70,671
Undist. Expend.-Oper. And Maint. Of Plant Serv.	11-000-26X-XXX	838,026	1,410,648	1,232,887
Undist. Expend.-Student Transportation Serv.	11-000-270-XXX	282,498	349,330	381,216
Personal Services - Employee Benefits	11-XXX-XXX-2XX	1,756,252	2,250,117	2,405,175
Total Undistributed Expenditures		5,519,786	7,068,894	7,113,807
Interest Earned On Maintenance Reserve	10-606	0	0	10
Total General Current Expense		9,581,303	11,948,724	12,464,915
<b>Capital Expenditures:</b>				
Equipment	12-XXX-XXX-730	0	34,000	13,500
Facilities Acquisition And Const. Serv.	12-000-400-XXX	49	51,049	49
Interest Deposit To Capital Reserve	10-604	0	20	10
Total Capital Outlay		49	85,069	13,559
General Fund Grand Total		9,581,352	12,033,793	12,478,474
<b>Special Grants and Entitlements:</b>				
Local Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	4,568	0	0
<b>Other State Projects:</b>				
Nonpublic Textbooks	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	1,655	2,083	1,771
Nonpublic Auxiliary Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	17,856	19,493	16,568
Nonpublic Handicapped Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	4,603	4,102	3,487
Nonpublic Nursing Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	3,104	3,783	3,216
Nonpublic Technology Initiative	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	974	1,404	1,193
Nonpublic Security Aid	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	0	4,875	4,144
Total Other State Projects		28,192	35,740	30,379
Total State Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	28,192	35,740	30,379
<b>Federal Projects:</b>				
Title I	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	13,802	24,376	12,220
Title II	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	6,769	5,489	4,666
Title IV	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	7,622	10,000	8,500
I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	135,406	140,829	119,704
Total Federal Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	163,599	180,694	145,090
Total Special Revenue Funds		196,359	216,434	175,469
<b>Repayment of Debt:</b>				
Total Regular Debt Service	40-701-510-XXX	2,298,112	2,300,938	2,296,288
Total Debt Service Funds		2,298,112	2,300,938	2,296,288
Total Expenditures/Appropriations		12,075,823	14,551,165	14,950,231
Total Expenditures Net of Transfers		12,075,823	14,551,165	14,950,231

**Burlington - Chesterfield Twp**  
**Advertised Recapitulation of Balances**

Budget Category	Audited Balance 06-30-2017	Audited Balance 06-30-2018	Estimated Balance 06-30-2019	Estimated Balance 06-30-2020
Unrestricted:				
--General Operating Budget	290,097	328,846	288,749	250,000
--Repayment of Debt	36,102	712	11	0
Restricted for Specific Purposes - General Operating Budget:				
--Capital Reserve	38,244	38,529	38,549	38,559
--Adult Education Programs	0	0	0	0
--Maintenance Reserve	0	500,000	500,000	500,010
--Legal Reserve	103,951	211,766	107,815	0
--Tuition Reserve	0	0	0	0
--Current Expense Emergency Reserve	0	0	0	0
--Impact Aid Reserve for General Expenses (Sections 8002 and 8003)	0	0	0	0
--Impact Aid Reserve for Capital Expenses (Sections 8007 and 8008)	0	0	0	0
Repayment of Debt:				
--Restricted for Repayment of Debt	0	0	0	0

**Burlington - Chesterfield Twp  
Advertised Per Pupil Cost Calculations**

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20
Per Pupil Cost Calculations	Actual	Actual	Original	Revised	Proposed
Total Budgetary Comparative Per Pupil Cost	Costs	Costs	Budget	Budget	Budget
Total Classroom Instruction	\$11,398	\$13,559	\$12,671	\$14,600	\$15,362
Classroom-Salaries and Benefits	\$6,718	\$6,886	\$7,172	\$8,166	\$8,887
Classroom-General Supplies and Textbooks	\$6,361	\$6,552	\$6,860	\$7,481	\$8,002
Classroom-Purchased Services	\$330	\$293	\$303	\$675	\$593
Total Support Services	\$28	\$41	\$10	\$10	\$292
Support Services-Salaries and Benefits	\$2,173	\$2,413	\$2,516	\$2,788	\$3,042
Total Administrative Costs	\$1,521	\$1,520	\$1,566	\$1,855	\$2,008
Administration Salaries and Benefits	\$1,252	\$1,405	\$1,446	\$1,542	\$1,541
Total Operations and Maintenance of Plant	\$925	\$1,048	\$1,080	\$1,131	\$1,284
Operations and Maintenance-Salaries and Benefits	\$1,217	\$1,307	\$1,488	\$2,054	\$1,834
Board Contribution to Food Services	\$821	\$856	\$923	\$932	\$976
Total Extracurricular Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Equipment Costs	\$7	\$3	\$12	\$12	\$12
Legal Costs	\$58	\$0	\$0	\$44	\$17
Employee Benefits as a percentage of salaries*	\$95	\$113	\$99	\$100	\$26
	30.47%	29.86%	33.14%	33.55%	33.16%

\*Does not include pension and social security paid by the State on-behalf of the district.

\*\* Federal and State funds in the blended resource school-based budgets.

The information presented in columns 1 through 3 as well as the related descriptions of the per pupil cost calculations are contained in the Taxpayers Guide to Education Spending and can be found on the Department of Education website: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/guide/>. This publication is also available in the board office and public libraries. The same calculations were performed using the 2018-19 revised appropriations and the 2019-20 budgeted appropriations presented in this advertised budget. Total Budgetary Comparative Per Pupil Cost is defined as current expense exclusive of tuition expenditures, transportation, residential costs, and judgments against the school district. For all years it also includes the restricted entitlement aids. With the exception of Total Equipment Cost, each of the other per pupil cost calculations presented is a component of the total comparative per pupil cost, although all components are not shown.

The complete budget will be on file and open to examination at the Chesterfield Elementary School building, (30 Saddle Way, Chesterfield, NJ 08515), Burlington, County New Jersey between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

The school district has proposed programs and services in addition to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.