
Fw: Follow-up after the meeting held at Prescott School in September of 2024

4 messages

Jeanne Joscelyn <jeannejoscelyn@hotmail.com>

Thu, May 15, 2025 at 5:05 PM

To: "elipkind@missoulacounty.us" <elipkind@missoulacounty.us>

Cc: Burley McWilliams <bmcwilliams@mcpsmt.org>, "davedjosc@hotmail.com" <davedjosc@hotmail.com>, Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>, Micah Hill <mhill@mcpsmt.org>

Erin Lipkind
Superintendent of Public Schools
Missoula, Montana

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and as an advocate for Prescott School in the Rattlesnake area of Missoula. Prescott School was closed in 2004 and immediately leased to Missoula International School. From the very beginning, MIS did not take care of the building, or the surrounding grounds as stipulated in many leases. Unfortunately, Missoula County Public Schools did not enforce the lease and for approximately 18 years of the lease and after, MCPS has been negligent in taking care of one of Missoula's most popular and effective schools. The students had high test scores and for many Prescott School was their favorite, as it was for the staff, the surrounding neighborhood, and the families.

Please get back to me and perhaps we can set a meeting time to address this ongoing case of neglect. I and many others are suspecting a case of planned obsolescence! This must be stopped.

Prescott School has been a school for Missoula's public school students for more than a century, however, Trustees have been disloyal to Prescott School and to the beneficiaries of the district, the MCPS students and the taxpayers.

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Letter of Concern

Krista Drechsler <kmdrechsler@mcpsmt.org>

Tue, May 27, 2025 at 11:19 AM

To: Jeffrey Avgeris <javgeris@mcpsmt.org>, Lisa Davey <ldavey@mcpsmt.org>, Kate Gammill <kgammill@mcpsmt.org>, Christina Hayes <chayes@mcpsmt.org>, Koan Mercer <kmercer@mcpsmt.org>, Wilena Old Person <woldperson@mcpsmt.org>, Ann Wake <awake@mcpsmt.org>, Arlene Walker-Andrews <awalker-andrews@mcpsmt.org>, Jenny Walsh <jwalsh@mcpsmt.org>, Megan Meg Whicher <mwhicher@mcpsmt.org>, Keegan Witt <kwitt@mcpsmt.org>
Cc: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, Tessa Masters <tcmasters@mcpsmt.org>, Amelia Robinson <arobinson@mcpsmt.org>

Dear MCPS Board Members,

As a follow up to our initial concerns about class sizes for the 2025-2026 school year, we wanted to share some new information. This is an email we received as a staff:

Dear All,

I am sending a confirmation update on staffing for next year in that we will have two 3rd grade classrooms next year. As a part of our In-district transfer policy, and leveling process, *we will be under 60 students going into 3rd grade next year.* There will be a leveling plan for Charlo, like we have done for other grades here and across the district.

We feel that it is also important to include the following information about other elementary schools in the district.

25-26 school year numbers based on current 2nd grade enrollment:

Chief Charlo: 59 enrolled; 2 classes with **29-30 students per class**

- We were at 66 students enrolled, but seven current students' families were contacted and told their 2nd graders would be unable to attend Chief Charlo next year for 3rd grade because of numbers. Some of them have attended Chief Charlo since kindergarten.
- We had a 3rd grade class cut for next year, and it was **not added back after the levies.**

Janet Rankin: 63-65 enrolled; 3 classes with **21-22 students per class**

Lewis and Clark: 64 students enrolled; 3 classes with **21-22 students per class**

- Originally had a 3rd grade classroom cut, but it **was added back after the levies.**

Russell: 62-64 students enrolled: 3 classes with **21-22 students per class**

Rattlesnake: 65 students enrolled: 3 classes with **21-22 students per class**

- Originally had a 3rd grade classroom cut, but it **was added back after the levies.**

Hawthorne: 60 students enrolled: 2 classes with **30 students per class**

- One of three 3rd grade positions was cut in March, and it was **not added back after the levies.**

Paxson: 72 students enrolled; 3 classes with **24 students per class**

Franklin: 42 students enrolled; 2 classes with **21 students per class**

Lowell: 64 students enrolled; 3 classes with **21-22 students per class**

- A 3rd grade classroom was **added** because of enrollment numbers. They have never previously had three 3rd grade classes.

We have been informed a 3rd grade class has not been added back to Chief Charlo because we were given back a kindergarten class. However, Chief Charlo's kindergarten enrollment is currently the highest in the district at 66, which necessitates the addition of a third kindergarten classroom regardless of other building positions or grade level numbers.

One of the three Chief Charlo 3rd grade positions was cut in March despite our 2nd grade enrollment numbers being higher than other schools in the district who also had three 3rd grade classes. We are deeply concerned about the impact the forecasted class size will have on our students' education.

Respectfully,

Current Chief Charlo 3rd Grade Teachers:

Krista Drechsler

Tessa Masters

Amy Robinson
