



Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Spring Break

Darrel Christensen <darrelsbiz@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 5:07 PM

I would like to ask the Board since the Superintendent never got back to me. With the crazy year we've had, why do you think we need a stupid spring break? I have always felt they were unnecessary Especially this year!

Sincerely yours,
Darrel Christensen
parent

Racist dress code?

Pauly Donaldson <mpaulyd@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM

To: Judson Miller <jcmiller@mcpsmt.org>, nalaatsch@mcpsmt.org, publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Judson, Nick and the Board of Trustees,

Thanks for all you've been doing this past year to keep the students and staff moving forward during these unprecedented times. There is no way to ever thank you enough.

It has come to my attention that a handful of students have been wearing clothing with the Confederate flag on them. I first overheard it in conversation between 2 students discussing whether or not they should say something, but didn't out of concern that this "guy could be packing". It was at the very least a 'Disruption', and certainly a unnecessary threatening statement for non-white students in particular. Therefore a Dress Code violation.

I can understand the complexity of these situations from an administrations' point of view, but it could be argued using the events of recent (and distant) history that wearing a Confederate flag is by definition 'gang activity' that is asking for confrontation. Also a Dress Code violation.

With the undercurrent of tensions this promotion of racists beliefs through a symbol, could easily amount to violence. I have been made aware of one fight already between 2 students because of a racial slur.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to address this issue and make a statement that MCPS does not tolerate the promotion of racist beliefs on their campus.

You all have done so much already to enhance the safety of our students.

Here are a few examples of school districts across the country that have banned the flag and court cases that prove it does not impede "free-speech".

<https://mclellan.law.msu.edu/questions/confederate-flag>

<https://www.educationlaw.org/featured-caselaw/6521-hardwick-v-keyward>

<https://educateiowa.gov/resources/legal-resources/legal-lessons/first-amendment/confederate-flag-school-and-free-speech>

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Paul Donaldson

**MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Public Comment <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

High School start time comment

Charles Stuart <cs@enure.net>

Wed, Mar 10, 2021 at 2:49 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org

Hi,

I wanted to encourage the school board to consider continuing the later start in the day for high school students.

Anecdotally, my daughter has mentioned several times that she gets more sleep and appreciates not having to be up as early.

As well, I'm sure you're all aware of the research around later start times and improved grades and attendance when teens start school later.

One example:

<https://www.washington.edu/news/2018/12/12/high-school-start-times-study/>

Thanks,
Charles Stuart

425 E Sussex Ave
Missoula MT 59801

Prescott School -Time to place public school children ahead of private school children - Prescott School needs to reopen next year for public school childrenwithout spending millions

Jeanne Joscelyn <jeannejoscelyn@hotmail.com>
To: "publiccomment@mcpsmt.org" <publiccomment@mcpsmt.org>

Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 1:26 PM

Dear MCPS Trustees,

As a Rattlesnake resident some of you, especially Superintendent Watson, know the tumult, despair, and pain we experienced in 2004 when 3 of our area schools closed – Prescott, Rattlesnake Middle, and Mt. Jumbo School. Suffice it to say it was and still is one of the most tragic and painful experiences of my life and the lives of many people across Missoula.

I have written about the pain and the unfairness and indeed the massive amounts of corruption that took place in 2004 some of which is included in my blog – www.prescottschoolmissoula.blogspot.com. Please go to the website and read the posts. They are heartwrenching and deeply sad. And also maddening. For the school district to get away with the scam of hijacking our precious school, Prescott, one if not the most popular and beloved schools in Missoula is unconscionable.

The main culprits in this corruption were former Superintendent Jim Clark and MCPS Board of Trustees Rosemary Harrison. These two people along with many others in the administration and others whose arms they easily twisted to take part in this public/private school will forever be a part of the biggest scam having to do with the smallest school in Missoula. Please see the blog for this info. Others that figured prominently in this corruption were MCPS Trustee Naomi DeMarinis (Kimball) (sp), and former Missoula International School parent and Board Member of MIS and later MCPS Trustee Toni Rehbein and her running mates, Scott Bixler and Joe Toth, and many others.

Due to this corruption MCPS children suffered as they were needlessly bussed out of the neighborhood (middle school students) and thus sent to schools which were too big thus not as effective. Many other reasons why our students, neighborhood, and the entire community suffered due this extreme disruption due to the March 25th, 2004 decision.

We, the school board and school officials absolutely need to reopen Prescott School. This sentiment was voiced at a local meeting of lower Rattlesnake citizens. To loose another neighborhood school would further erode the education of our students and damage the neighborhood.

Additionally, Missoula International School MUST clean up the school and fix any damage they have done to Prescott School. I know the gym floor was in extreme damaged condition the last time I was in Prescott. Additionally, the grounds of Prescott need to be reseeded and returned to it's original condition. Prescott, before it was closed and leased to MIS was in perfect condition. No excuse that Prescott is not fit for use will hold water. If the school is not maintained well it is the fault of the MCPS Trustees as they were not monitoring the upkeep for which MIS was responsible.

Please get back to me about the plans to reopen Prescott School as it was in 2004. Prescott served many generations of Missoula's children and is a historic school. It has been a beloved school, a favorite of many children. This school was

3/18/2021

Missoula County Public Schools Mail - Prescott School -Time to place public school children ahead of private school children - Prescott S...

built at the same time as Washington School and Jefferson School. Therefore, if the sister schools are still serving our student so still should Prescott. It should not be the Cinderella of these schools.

Thank you for getting back to me and may Prescott School in Missoula be a happy school again serving it's rightful students, the public school children!

Jeanne Joscelyn

www.prescottschoolmissoula.blogspot.com

I am writing

Moving from MOA to In person

Amy Esp <corbin.amy@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 21, 2021 at 12:36 PM

To: publiccomment@mcpsmt.org, javgeris@mcpsmt.org, kmercer@mcpsmt.org, gdecker@mcpsmt.org, woldperson@mcpsmt.org, nhobbins@mcpsmt.org, meholland@mcpsmt.org, vmcdonald@mcpsmt.org

Hello everyone-

I am very thankful for the tough work you have all done this year and I want you to know that I recognize that decisions have an added layer of challenge this year.

I have had several friends and acquaintances who moved their children from MOA to in person or vice versa at the non-official times this year without incident. When I emailed the principals at our childrens district schools in early March, we were told that they were full and could not accommodate our kids. It is very frustrating that we were forced to make the decision when the numbers were high and vaccination seemed a far off reality. And now we are faced with the inability to move our children back into in person school when the risks and numbers are low again.

We have a high risk family member and have spent the year making choices to keep that person and other vulnerable people in our community safe. I also have friends who are educators and recognize that this year has been especially hard for them.

While our kids have done fine in MOA and would not suffer irreparable harm if forced to stay there, it would definitely be far better for them to return to in person school. My daughter is a 6th grader and this transition to middle school in a distanced learning environment has been especially hard. It is a time developmentally when she should be gaining more independence but the circumstances have limited her ability to do so. My son is younger but has definitely felt the isolation of missing friends, family and community interactions. While our immediate family has done ok, I have several close friends who have experienced serious mental health challenges in recent months from the stress and isolation of the pandemic. I know that we are not immune to that and I would love to give my children an opportunity to connect more and have a more normal experience then they have been able to over the past 12 months. The mental and social ramifications of the last year will be an ongoing crisis that we will deal with as a community.

I know that schools are not actually at capacity and that educators have gotten or will be getting vaccinated. I know that you will continue to pay the MOA & in person staff irregardless of the number of kids and the class and that some families will need to and opt to stay in MOA. I think that forcing people to stay in online learning when the mental and social benefits of in person are so crucial is not helping our community as a whole. I would ask you to reconsider letting people opt in to another move at this time for the last 2 months of the school year to offer a little bit of normalcy with the situation becoming better and better everyday.

Thank you for your time and all of your hard work!

Amy Esp
Lewis & Clark and Washington Parent
