



**Chester Upland School District**

Receiver's Meeting Public Comment Responses

Meeting Date/Time: March 23, 2023 @ 6pm

<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1. What is the status of the bell system? (It cannot be heard in all areas of the building.) What would happen in an emergency?	There have been 3 companies assessing the PA system problems and other ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) projects at Chester High School (CHS). Our current projects include repairs to the system.
2. When will students be assigned lockers? /Status of locker rooms?	All CHS and STEM Academy at Showalter (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) students were provided the option to use lockers at the start of the school year. If there is a student who is without a locker and wishes to have one, they need to see their school counselor or building administrator.

3. Equity in funding – What are the budgets for the schools?

TITLE	OBJECT	BUDGET
Salaries	100	\$ 6,971,275.00
Benefits	200	\$ 4,519,075.00
Professional Servcies	300	\$ 210,000.00
Property Services	400	\$ 11,000.00
Purchased Services	500	\$ 27,355.00
Supplies	600	\$ 136,920.00
Property/Equipment	700	\$ 22,000.00
Other Objects	800	\$ 25,100.00
<b>CHS Total Budget</b>		<b>\$11,922,725.00</b>
TITLE	OBJECT	BUDGET
Salaries	100	\$ 2,795,620.00
Benefits	200	\$ 1,851,825.00
Professional Servcies	300	\$ 165,000.00
Property Services	400	\$ -
Purchased Services	500	\$ 6,780.00
Supplies	600	\$ 57,580.00
Property/Equipment	700	\$ -
Other Objects	800	\$ -
<b>CUSA Total Budget</b>		<b>\$ 4,876,805.00</b>
TITLE	OBJECT	BUDGET
Salaries	100	\$ 2,632,385.00
Benefits	200	\$ 1,787,080.00
Professional Servcies	300	\$ 215,000.00
Property Services	400	\$ -
Purchased Services	500	\$ 4,665.00
Supplies	600	\$ 50,085.00
Property/Equipment	700	\$ -
Other Objects	800	\$ -
<b>Main Street Total Budget</b>		<b>\$4,689,215.00</b>
TITLE	OBJECT	BUDGET
Salaries	100	\$ 2,721,675.00
Benefits	200	\$ 2,035,075.00
Professional Servcies	300	\$ 75,000.00
Property Services	400	\$ 6,000.00
Purchased Services	500	\$ -
Supplies	600	\$ 25,000.00
Property/Equipment	700	\$ -
Other Objects	800	\$ -
<b>Edgmont Scholars Academy</b>		<b>\$4,862,750.00</b>

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4. What is the status of teacher vacancies?	2 teacher vacancies at CHS 2 teacher vacancies at Edgmont Scholars Academy (ESA)																																																																																										
5. Are there nurses in every building?	Yes, there is and has been a nurse in every building. There are days when a particular nurse is absent due to contractual time off. On those days, we have guest nurses who will contact and/or our current nurses' support for medication and other needs.																																																																																										
6. Is there consideration to a Special Education Coordinator for gifted students with IEP's?	Yes, we are supporting students in gifted with the current special education caseload. We are looking to enhance gifted support in the 23-24 school year via a universal screening which would help identify																																																																																										

	additional students who may not be currently supported. We hope to include the universal screener around
7. What schools are without crossing guards?	This is being researched as part of the traffic study for the district. Once the information has been received, a response will be added to this section.
8. Are there not enough maintenance staff to maintain the buildings?	There is currently a grounds position vacancy.
9. What is the status of the inoperable marquees?	Currently the project is being put out for Bid as this passes the threshold for ESSER funds.
10. What is the district doing to address morale?	The district is working closely with Mass Insight who facilitated a climate survey as part of their research on the district. Through that process the district has gained valuable information and will be working collaboratively with the staff to improve the overall culture of the district that has direct ties to morale.
11. Is there consideration to having a Director of Special Education position separate from the current Director of Pupil services role?	The district is evaluating several positions throughout the district to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students. During that process, we will review our special education department's efficiency to ascertain where additional support is needed.
12. How were 1350 Edgmont and 1450 Edgmont paid for by the district?	1350 and 1450 were purchased with the 2022 General obligation bond acquired in May of 2022.
13. Can the organizational chart be updated and include telephone numbers?	We will update the organizational chart as there have been new hires along the way. The staff directory is located on the website with the email addresses and phone numbers
14. What is the district status on academics, accountability, and action in more detail?	During the 2021-22 school year, stakeholders identified priorities for the comprehensive plan aligned to academics. The comprehensive plan may be found <a href="#">here</a> . Also, building principals will continue to present on academics and action steps for improving academics at their schools.
15. Why are salaries for positions not posted on the board agendas?	At the direction of the Receiver, salaries were removed from the Receiver's agenda in 2022. Salaries for all district employees can be found on the state's website (double check for actual location)
16. What are the district's vacancies?	District vacancies can be found on the district's website under the Human Resources page.
17. What is the status of repairing the bells at Chester High School?	There have been 3 companies assessing PA system problems and other ESSER projects in CHS. With ESSER projects this will be included and will be fixed

18. Is there consideration to an Advisory Board for charter school performance?	The school district has the right to audit all Charter Schools attached to it. The audit team is made up of Chester Upland School District (CUSD) administrators.
19. How will the district address students that are hanging out of buses?	Whenever this behavior is observed by community members, we will request that the bus number, location, and time of the incident is written down. Please email the information to <a href="mailto:imaldonado@chesteruplandsd.org">imaldonado@chesteruplandsd.org</a> or call Mr. Maldonado at 445-247-7886.
20. Is there consideration to a Bus Buddy program?	Yes. There is consideration to establish a Bus Buddy program.
21. How will the district address security needs and metal detectors?	We currently have in place at CHS/STEM academy and Toby farms. We are currently looking into purchasing one for ESA to address security needs in that building.
22. What is the status of addressing bathrooms?	There is a capital project currently out for bid that will address all bathroom needs in our district.
23. What are the ESSER deadlines?	ESSER II Sept 2023/ ESSER III Sept 2024
24. Does the district need an outside contractor to clean the buildings?	Once school is out on summer break, our current team will be working diligently in completing deep cleaning in all our buildings.
<b>Questions after the meeting:</b>	
25. What is the district's strategy?	The district's strategy will continue to be more clearly communicated after the work with Mass Insight has been completed.
26. Can the district consider more new teacher mentor opportunities?	Starting with the 2023-24 school year, per state requirement, new teachers will participate in induction over 2 years. Additionally, new professional staff members will continue to be mentored by tenured professional staff over the same time period.
27. Is there consideration for the National Honors Society?	Yes, there is consideration being taken to add the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society.