

CENTRAL LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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A message to the community from Superintendent Monique Dean (04/20/23)

We listened to you... and we learned quite a bit (Part 1)

Last month almost 300 residents and school employees of the Central Lake Public School District completed a climate survey. The survey was designed to assess what community resources are used to gain information, community likes and dislikes regarding the schools, and opinions about a proposed bond election to upgrade and renovate our school facilities.

We learned several things from this community climate survey, and we plan to do something about the opinions, questions, and suggestions residents expressed in the survey... starting now.

In this article I want to address community concerns and perceptions survey respondents expressed about the CLPS communication and curriculum offerings.

First, we were pleased to hear that community members—especially parents—liked the small size of the school district, the small class sizes, the individual attention, and the “sense of community” with the school community.

Secondly, parents shared concerns about the curriculum offerings available to the students of CLPS.

So, here’s what we are going to do about it: Beginning this month we will intentionally-increase our-communication to families and residents as it relates to curriculum offerings. Additionally, we will begin exploring ways students can get any subject they want in Central Lake Public Schools. Our goal is simple: to assure our school families and community that – beginning in September – all Central Lake students will have access to a wide-variety of course offerings. In short, we will meet the needs of each individual student that attends CLPS.

Here is the action we will be taking:

- We will increase communication about the programs we offer. Many survey respondents said they were not aware of subject matter that is and is not available.



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- Next, we will determine how we can provide students with access to subjects or classes that we currently do not offer.

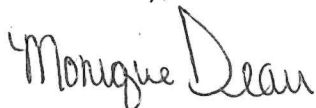
- Finally, we will explore and implement options that allow students to get the classes and educational programs they want. To do this we will explore options such as:
 1. Expanding our curriculum;
 2. Sharing teaching and learning resources with neighboring school districts;
 3. Developing partnerships with Char-Em ISD and its constituent school districts;
 4. Assessing the viability of partnerships with area community colleges and for profit trade schools; and,
 5. Assessing the viability of various online learning options.

While our climate survey taught us some things we should be addressing, it also taught us about something we don't want to lose: We are small-town friendly, we have small class sizes, we provide individual attention to our students, and no one here is just "a number." We are a place where everybody knows your name!

Stand by for additional things we learned from you and how we plan to address them. In future articles, I'll be talking about social emotional support for students, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and improving communication with community families.

In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions or additional suggestions. My email is dean@clps.k12.mi.us.

Sincerely,



Monique Dean
Interim Superintendent
Central Lake Public Schools