

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 12/3/2018

Name: Monica J. Asher

Are you representing: Yourself Organization _____

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Principal, Chagrin Falls High School

Address: 1220 Huron rd. East # 907

City: Cleveland State: Oh Zip: 44115

Best Contact Telephone: 419-602-4522 Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes _____ No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 591

Specific Issue: School Report Card Changes

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes _____ No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Chagrin Falls High School

CHAGRIN FALLS EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Monica J. Asher, Principal • Amanda Rassi, Assistant Principal

December 3, 2018

Members of the House Education and Career Readiness Committee:

My name is Monica Asher and I am the Principal of Chagrin Falls High School; I am writing in support of HB 591. Chagrin Falls High School's performance index (107.4) makes us the number four achieving high school in the state of Ohio. We received an overall grade of an "A" on the 2017-2018 report card. Since the 2012-2013 school year, Chagrin Falls High School has received 29 "A"s on various report card components. Although we have experienced a great deal of success on the current report card format, we are strong advocates of the implementation of a new report card system that presents data on student performance in the form of raw scores and percentiles instead of grades.

Under the current reporting structure, schools receive a grade primarily based on the academic performance of students on state administered standardized tests. The Ohio Department of Education specifically articulates, "Report Cards are designed to give parents, communities, educators and policymakers information about the performance of districts and schools – to celebrate success and identify areas for improvement." (Ohio Department of Education, 2018). Reporting the academic performance of schools utilizing raw data fully accomplishes this goal and therefore a letter grade is not necessary.

Furthermore, the Ohio Department of Education recognizes that report cards are only one part of the story. The ODE encourages communication between communities and schools as a means to get a fuller picture of effectiveness as public schools across Ohio offer students many exceptional opportunities (Ohio Department of Education, 2018). Given that report cards are only part of the story, the current letter grade diminishes the importance of a well-rounded education inclusive of the arts, world language, health, and music. Research has consistently demonstrated the value of enrichment activities outside of core content as those activities encourage creativity, persistence, and the ability to communicate and collaborate (McCarthy et al., 2004). These are skills necessary to be successful in the world far beyond secondary education. These skills are not measured on the current report card through a letter grade.

Although we received a rating of an "A" for the 2017-2018 school year, I am more proud of the work my staff and students have accomplished; those accomplishments were not measured by a letter grade. Last year, seven CFHS students earned AP Capstone Diplomas as they successfully engaged in research examining topics such as: "Plea Bargains and Recidivism in Cuyahoga County: A Correlational Study", "Playing Instruments Through Sight Reading and Working Memory Capacity in High School Students: A Correlational Study", and "Time to Close Out the Closer? An Empirical Analysis of Relief Pitching in Baseball." 148 students participated in our senior project opportunity - completing



internships in places such as NASA, The Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, a variety of Law Firms, United Way, and Hyland Software. Two students won a state championship in Speech and Debate. The CFHS Band and Orchestra both received Superior ratings at OMEA. Several Chagrin Falls High School Art students were honored at the state level. The class of 2018 completed over 15,000 hours of community service and over 90% participated in extra-curricular activities.

Chagrin Falls High School is a top-notch high school not because our students' performance on a standardized test, rather the opportunities we are able to provide for our students that encourage the development of skills not measured on a report card. The current letter grade does not adequately communicate the full picture of the successes of each school and therefore should be eliminated. Our students are far more than a score on a standardized test or a letter grade – they are critical thinkers, they are compassionate thinkers, they are artists, musicians, and researchers. Our report cards should reflect the values we want to see our students demonstrate and the current letter grades do not reflect those values. I thank you sincerely for your time and consideration as you move forward to eliminate letter grades and work to communicate a fairer reporting mechanism for student success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica J. Asher" followed by the date "12/3/18" written below it.

Monica J. Asher

Principal

Chagrin Falls High School

Mccarthy, K., Ondaatje, E., Zakaras, L., & Brooks, A. (2004). Gifts of the Muse: Reframing the Debate About the Benefits of the Arts. Rand.

Ohio Department of Education (2018). Ohio School Report Cards. Retrieved December 3, 2018, from <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>