**Date: February 19, 2020**

**Present:** Lacey Degado (K), Bonnie Mulkeen (1), Sarah Wilson (2), Liz Strauch(3), Paige Warner (4), Joe Maione (5), Angela Stephens (TA), Natalie Marinelli (Support Staff), Keith Koteles (Special Area), Laura Gaddy (Admin.), Harvey Bagshaw (admin.), Karen Crane (Parent), Marc Levy (Parent), Amanda Moore (Parent), Vincent Esposito (Parent)

**Absent:** N/A

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| **TOPIC** | **PRESENTER** | **NOTES** | **NEXT STEPS/WHO’S RESPONSIBLE** |
| Welcome | Warner |  |  |
| Senator Todd Johnson | Mr. Johnson | -Introductions were made  -Purpose of visit: Senator Johnson has worked for Union County for several years. He wants to hear what is working, genuine concerns, and what’s important to us in Union County.  The following topics/concerns of parents and teachers were discussed:  - Support for struggling students and social/emotional/mental health needs   * When students need extra support (academically and socially/emotionally) teachers feel they don’t always have the available support they need. Mental health issues are on the rise (anxiety, depression, etc.). The media portrays that teachers are upset about not getting raises but in reality, teachers are upset that we don’t have the resources necessary to meet all the needs of our students. Our county has made efforts to help with this but the state needs to understand these concerns.   -School Size/Class Sizes   * The Stallings area (and Union County in general) is growing). The middle and high schools in the area are large and we are having growth here as well. Class sizes are increasing in 4th and 5th grade. School facilities are funded by the county, not the state. In addition, lowering class sizes in grades 4-5 could lead to more classrooms needed which in turn leads to schools having to be built. Many LEAs in the state cannot support this consequence of lowering class sizes.   -State Testing   * Teachers feel that testing Kindergarten students and first grade students on an iPad is not effective. It puts stress and pressure on students, teachers, and parents. Testing in general is a real concern and it feels to many school employees that the only purpose of the testing is to grade our schools and teachers. The team discussed what “value” these tests have for us as educators. Students are becoming more and more anxious about all of the testing and the reading and math EOGS do not give teachers any more assessment data that they do not already know from working with their students. The science EOG does give teachers information as it is a “content” based test. The data that the state provides us is just a scaled score-it’s not informative or useful because it is not specific enough to inform instruction. The tests are also too long. Elementary aged students (except for maybe 5th grade) should not have to sit for 3-4 hours to take a test. | Email: todd.johnson@ncleg.net |
| New meeting date for March | Gaddy | March 25, 2020 at 3 pm in the Media Center |  |
| Staff Questions |  | N/A |  |
| Parent Questions |  | N/A | . |
| Next Meeting |  | March 25, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the Media Center |  |