

Sue Scherf's question:

Dr. Cronin has stated the reason why we are reconfiguring, is the inequity of the fifth grade experience. And I think we would be failing as a district to say it's because of education, it's because of space. So, next year, Mitchell classes will increase in terms of extra students. The enrollment numbers are currently grades two, three, four, in both Mitchell School and Bethlehem, shows a number of students at Mitchell, the next year, will add up to 459 students. Currently, the number of students at Mitchell is at 477,. But, 91 are kindergarten students, which means they are really only in the building for half a day. Which means in terms of classroom space, there are only 45 in the building at any give time. In fact, there are really 431 Mitchell students in the building at any given time now. Which means an increase of about 28 students next year. However, under the plan you are supposedly able to get rid of the portables, Dr. Cronin has stated, at Mitchell. But, how, if an increase in students in size, are we going to accomplish this? More over, if so, then why can't we get rid of the portables now, and why do we move the fifth grade?

DR. CRONIN: Well, I think I've spoken to why we are moving the fifth grade a number of times. But, in terms of the first part of your question on how we will fit everyone, I believe? You know, I've outlined all along that there are three -- there will be third, fourth, and fifth grade. There are eight classrooms of every grade. There are 24 classrooms. When you look at a map of Mitchell School, once you've taken the space that has been dedicated as office right now, and return that to a classroom which it was originally, there are 24 classrooms. So there is space to fit everyone in that building.

MS. SCHERF: You have four classrooms in protables right now, currently.

DR. CRONIN: We have third grade in the portables, correct. I'm not sure what your question is. I'm sorry.

MS. SCHERF: So how are you going to accommodate the extra 28 students and get rid of the portables when you have that much in there currently?

DR. CRONIN: There is -- there will be space for 24 classrooms.

MS. SCHERF: With the portables or without?

DR. CRONIN: Without the portables. We will not be using the portables.

MS. SCHERF: So why are we using portables now?

DR. CRONIN: I don't -- I don't have the answer to that. That was in place when I arrived.

MS. SCHERF: Thank you.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you for your questions.