May 7, 2019

Dear Dr. Poe and Boone County Board of Education Members,

As Ockerman Elementary continues to face increasing numbers of incoming kindergartner students with low skill level and low Brigance achievement scores, we continue to develop efficient systems and programs to support our diverse student learners. During the 2018 – 2019 school year, 70% of our incoming kindergarten students were not prepared for kindergarten based upon Brigance testing. With the hard work and dedication of our kindergarten teachers, para educators and other support staff we have been able to move those students significantly but we still struggle to close the achievement gap due to the large numbers and the various needs of the students in a half day program. During the 2018 – 2019 school year our goal was to think outside of the box in regards to kindergarten and closing the gap. We implemented the full use of the Kindergarten Readiness Program from Fast Forward for ALL kindergarten students and have seen great improvements in basic skills of these students. In looking at the data for this year, we asked ourselves all where our students would be if they had been here for a full day of instruction along with the Fast Forword interventions?

 Beginning with 2019-2020 school year, our SBDM council has committed to having a universal all-day kindergarten program for all incoming Ockerman Elementary School k kindergarten students to help close the achievement gap and to give our students the chance they need for success. Through the restructuring of our current allocations we increased the class sizes for some upper grade levels which gave us one additional position that we will use in kindergarten which will allow us to have 4 full day classes. However, based on our enrollment average over the past three years, we would need one more allocation in order to keep class sizes manageable with our transient population resulting in 5 full day K classrooms.

Our SBDM would like to formally request an additional district allocation for a Kindergarten teacher to support the all day program. We will be able to use our Title 1 funding and SBDM funds to provide the two additional para educators needed for these classrooms. We have mapped out a plan to address the space issue as we will be moving towards a co teaching model for special education which will open up additional classroom space. We hope to receive this support to help increase student achievement and to help close the achievement gap in order to prepare our students to be successful as they continue their educational journey. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (859)282- 4620 or email me at kim.best@boone.kyschools.us . Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Kim Best

Principal, Ockerman Elementary School

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