

SSC Recommendation: Class Flexibility.

Input from students, parents, and teachers.

The School Site Committee has received significant input from students and parents communicating the following.

- For some students, a teacher can be a very bad fit. Students complain of different styles and personality clashes that can make the classroom an unpleasant environment, which results in suboptimal learning.
- The complaint process is overly cumbersome and subjects students to possible retribution and is therefore not a reasonable method for addressing problems created by poor personality match. Some have indicated that even after going through an involved process they have failed to reach a solution that was good for their child, and that their learning suffered as a consequence.
- The principal noted that requesting a class or teacher change causes significant problems, including a material difference in class size. It may lead to “teacher shopping” and scheduling difficulties and would disproportionately advantage higher performing students who know how to advocate for themselves.
- The principal also noted that changes do occur on limited occasions.

Recommendations.

The SSC recommends that the principal work to find a way to more flexibly and equitably address the issue of poor teacher/student “fit.” The SSC believes more flexibility and a mechanism that is student-centric and provides for resolution without the need to file a formal complaint with the district is advisable. Perhaps allowing counselors to have more flexibility is one aspect of a solution.