



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**West Clermont Citizens Advisory Commission Presents Findings on Safe Learning Environment to Board of Education**

West Clermont Schools seeks to create a safe and collaborative learning environment for all students, staff and stakeholders. To help achieve this goal, the district developed a Community Advisory Commission (CAC) made up of parents, grandparents, staff, teachers, administrators and board members in 2021/2022.

The 2022/2023 goal of the commission was to gather feedback from the community about what a safe and secure learning environment looks like and what tools and skills are required to achieve it.

The CAC presented a report to the Board of Education on March 20 on its findings. The report examined three pillars: communication, physical safety and security, and capacity building. Results were based on extensive research, including a survey completed by fifth through twelfth graders and several internal and external presentations from subject matter experts.

“The report found West Clermont to be proactive and thorough in its approach to student and staff safety and security,” said Mike Overbey, West Clermont Schools chief operating officer. “There is always room for improvement, however. We believe that by implementing a few additional safety measures, we can enhance the learning environment and increase academic success and the social and emotional well-being of our students and staff.”

These improvements include developing a better awareness of anonymous reporting tools and other systems and protocols with stakeholders; expanding building safety teams to incorporate students and families; finding efficient and effective ways of using district School Safety Grant dollars; and making safety and security professional development available to more staff.

Over the past year, West Clermont Schools has introduced a safety webpage, Safety Guide, and provided additional resources for stakeholders through blogs, podcasts and other materials. Learn more at [westcler.org](http://westcler.org).

**About West Clermont:** West Clermont School District commits to excellence with every learner, every day, and in every way. Its vision is that together as one community, we learn, lead, and succeed. The district believes that together we are ON THE RISE and values strengthening relationships, cultivating innovation, being relentlessly student-centered, and fostering empowerment.

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