

Public Comments
6/21/2018
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Thank you Board and Superintendent Berlin. SB 273 provides us with a unique and exciting opportunity – to dedicate more time to unstructured outdoor play. Play is critical for developing executive function and refining 21st Century skills. The unstructured downtime is also crucial to learning. Taking a moment away, physically engaging, taking in natural light and fresh air allows students to return to class ready to tackle the task at hand - paying attention to learning.

How many precious minutes a day does a teacher spend redirecting attention, correcting behaviors and refocusing students on the lesson? Truly, assign a numerical value in your head. Over the course of a 6 hour and 35 minute day, how many of those instructional minutes are used to get and maintain focus? I have to imagine it is more than 10. With the strategic placement of unstructured outdoor time (recess) throughout the day instructional time is more focused and productive. This was demonstrated by the Liink Project developed by Debbie Rhea of Texas Christian University. I encourage the implementation of multiple recesses at ACPS.

The other unique data ACPS has to implement is the TELL Survey results presented by Ms. Maddock at the June 7 meeting. Two things strike me: SB 273 is designed to provide more flexibility in a school's and a teacher's *use of time*. This was a stagnant data point between the 2016 and 2018 surveys. Ms. Maddock also presented Dr Ingersoll's research on the importance of teacher leadership. We have been gifted a perfect opportunity to invite teacher leadership in a highly impactful way as we ask schools to grapple with the challenge of modifying schedules to implement more recess for students.

My final point is this- recess is free. It does not cost us anything to let kids go outside and play. It does charge us with the responsibility of believing, just a little bit, that less can be more. A few "less" minutes strictly dedicated to explicit instruction can lead to so much more for students, teachers and the entire school.