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Clash at the Claremont School Board Meeting 4-26

“This is absurd,” concerned citizens said when Claremont High School leaves out funding for the yearbook committee in a board meeting on April 26.

Computers and equipment are needed for the yearbook committee after 5 years of use, but the board believes it best to postpone their funds. The end resulted in a public hearing that will discuss solely one the funds towards the yearbook committee for new computers and equipment.

Some board members disagree, thinking it’s best to reconsider their decisions in providing funds towards the yearbook committee.

“The students need to understand that the money and the equipment they are given is meant for producing a product that represents the entire school, not just a select few,” board president, Steven Llanusa said.

“We’ve seen how bad the yearbook has become these past couple of years. I’m not sure I want to give money to that class if this is the product they produce,” board member Beth Bingham said.

While other members of the board believe it best to invest funds towards a significant part of the school.

“They want to have a yearbook that the school is proud of. But how can they do that if you don’t give them the equipment they need to do just that?,” board member David Nemer said, who thinks that the yearbook committee deserves a chance regardless.

“The computers cannot run the software provided by our publisher for putting together our yearbook,” said Yearbook advisor, Vance Peterson.

Peterson requested 3, 500 dollars for three new computers they can use to better layout the yearbook. Select board members agree with the proposal and think that the computers are long overdue.

“The yearbook has been struggling with these problems for well over a year now,” Nemer said.

Select members believe that this is a form of censorship and aren't too happy about that. But other members believe that it's a “good form of censorship” and are considering the concerns of the children of the yearbook committee.

“We hold our teachers and our students in high standards, and the yearbook class, quite frankly, hasn't met the standards that standard recently,” said board member Beth Bingham.

After discussing the topic back and forth, members have come to a 3-2 vote on having public meeting on Wednesday, May 8.

“Two weeks, you three yes-voters better be ready for a showdown,” said board member, Nemer, who also has a daughter in the yearbook committee.

“I'll fight every damn step of the way of this,” said Nemer, reassuring the audience that the yearbook committee will get the funds she believes they deserve.

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