

District Parent Council Minutes
December 18, 2023 12:00 – 2:30PM
Cornell Elementary

In attendance: Karen Shapiro, Liz Luyendyk, John Hood, Tracy Ojerio, Stacy Bailey, Heather Pricco, Sarah Allen, Corinne Dyksen, Leah Kwapis,
On Zoom: Niki Robinson, Stacey Smith, Mike Callahan, Pam Jones, Mary Gebara

Welcome and Introductions - Karen Shapiro, Liz Luyendyk

Superintendent's Report - John Hood

- Water testing for lead at OPM. Central built in 1948, Cornell 1955. There was a Q&A open meeting. Talked about what the experts recommended. Meridian Water and other experts were there. All buildings built before 1987 have copper pipes that could have lead around it. Put additives in to help. Will test all buildings and publish results.
- Michigan legislature - Clean Water Act. Okemos committed to being a leader to implement the law, specific to schools and childcare.
- Hiawatha bond improvements: use community email service, homeowners association (accidentally contacted 1 but not the other). Want to change the entrance to Fairhills and exit on Summergate. Homeowners worried about increased traffic.
- Amber Clark - in charge of district maps at the Township.
- Q: Mike Callahan, OPM - Mold in the air...what's the plan? Testing all spaces in the building. Public notification for changing filters, results of all testing. Hoping for more extensive testing that just recommendations. A: John will do all recommended testing.
- Start times: Recommendation is after 8:30 for Middle and High Schools. Elementary shouldn't end too long after 2 pm.
- New PR and Communications director: Shannon Boskevitz.
- Matt Ottinger is retiring. Mikayla Temple (from local Fox 47 news) will take over.
- New facilities director - Mark Fargo left.

Board of Education Report - Mary Gebara

- Adopting tons of new policies. Edited for DEI, modernize and inclusivity. July 1 is the completion goal.
- 12/8 was Gaylord Mankowski Day
- Many district concerts with huge attendance.
- Superintendent evaluation and revised budget at last month's BOE meeting.

Principal's Report - Tracy Ojerio

- New seating in entryway/hallways
- New secure vestibule (waiting for final switch - keycards)
- Crosswalks will be painted in the spring (Alderwood, Silkwood)
- New videos with kids on expectations
- Wolf of the Week gets tickets for prizes
- Literacy night for K - 1 families

- With the PTO: School-wide celebrations - popcorn & movie, and other
- How to identify and work through micro-aggressions.
- Teachers: literacy/professional development coaches (20 teachers). Orton-Gillingham training and certification program completed or enrolled.
- Tracy and Steve S. went to North Carolina - using and creating new spaces.

Invited Speakers - MTSS Team: Stacy Bailey, Heather Pricco

- Update MTSS Systems
- 30 people on District committee
- MTSS Profile: where is our starting point? 1-2 year term
- Now: full day committee meetings. End - district handbook
- *Multi-Tiered System of Supports* - Data driven
 - Meeting the needs of each student
 - New progress monitoring tool
 - New SEL screener
 - Looking at professional development (elementary through high school)
 - Tiered delivery: enrichment, targeted, intensive. Team-based leadership - district/school, grade level teams, content area teams. Selection and implementation of instruction, intervention, and support.
 - The 9th grade team are excited to be included. Teachers are appreciating PD/coaching on this.
 - Comprehensive assessment system - includes formative, progress monitoring, universal screeners, diagnostic, benchmark/interim and summative.
- New communication website: revamping to make it easier to find and include MTSS documents.

OPS Building Reports:

Okemos High School – Niki Robinson, Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro

Chippewa –Tere Blanca, Carly Patel, Dawn Crandell

Kinawa – Liz Luyendyk, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush

- Student's just finished the Winter session of our NWEA progress monitoring testing
- Our students have showcased amazing talent during our musical winter concert series. Snippets will be aired multiple times on December 25th on WILX
- Our staff continue to work on the building blocks of transitioning to Standards Based Grading. This transition will not be fully implemented for two years however, the cognitive shift and the changes in practices have already begun.
- We are currently working to fill our Administrative Assistant to the principal's position. Sue Williams who currently holds the position is transitioning to Human Resources for the district.

- Kinawa will be participating in Spirit Week the week of 12/18 6. We (KPG) are gifting the staff a new ice machine and we have a "stock the lounge" happening, too!

Cornell – Corinne Dyksen and Kristen Hundt

- Cornell had our 'Global Cornell' festival in November! First time doing this event in the fall- great turnout and overall positive feedback.
- Winter testing has happened.
- Spirit week this week.
- Okemos and Cornell spirit gear was open at the end of November to have delivery before holiday. Also did a gift card fundraiser.
- Having whole school positive behavior celebrations about every 6ish weeks. Most recent was a maker space!

OPM – Sage Hales-Ho and Mike Callahan

- Building and district administration continue to work toward resolution of the water-quality issues that have been happening.
- The upper-elementary students will be participating in a service-learning field trip next week, attending the Ingham County Medical Center to sing holiday songs and interact with residents.
- The PTO has just completed a spirit wear sale, has its next monthly community fundraiser at Launch on Dec 13, and is gearing up for the large annual fundraiser, Flash Dash, which takes place in the early spring.

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi

- We sponsored ten families for thanksgiving meals.
- PBIS celebration occurred
- Practice underway for multicultural night (including a Chinese dragon dance).
- Science night planning underway. OHS clubs will be participating in both events. Many MSU groups as well!
- Thankful November for our staff (3000.00 of donations were awarded). Staff appreciation hot cocoa and cookies bar and giving all staff member buff city soap donated goodie bags with holiday cards.
- Social meeting on Thursday the 21.

Hiawatha–Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith

Action Items -

- Bussing: overcrowding. Often 3 to a seat. Stacy Bailey will get back to DPC on this.
- Receipts: How do we get reimbursed? Email or paper? A: Usually email a copy to the treasurer.

Other questions/Comments?

- Using "Zeffy" - Platform for nonprofits. Donations for fundraisers.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 22, 2023, 12-2:30pm, OHS

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

Website: www.okemosk12.net – Families – District Parent Council