

## District Parent Council Minutes

November 20, 2023, 12:00 – 2:30pm – Bennett Woods School

Attendees: Lauren Schefke, Karen Shapiro, Liz Luyendyk, Andy Phelps, Corinne Dyksen, Kristin Hundt, Sarah Allen, Jane Manfredi, Pamela Jones, Katie Cavanaugh, Tamara Marshall, Sue Hallman (guest speaker)  
(via Zoom) Sage Hales-Ho, Jessica Savage

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro/Liz Luyendyk*

- Meeting started 12:04

Superintendent's Report - *John Hood*

- Not in attendance

Principal's Report - *Lauren Schefke*

- Noted the new furniture in the library from the 2019 bond.
- WoofPack Bolt starting soon, PBIS (Positive Behavior) lessons have started. Will join full time after the test in January.
- ESER-funded after school programs M/Thur interventions for Math & Reading (5 week session) Students are identified by teachers. All elementary buildings with 25 students.
- BW selected for instructional coaching, 12 from state. Focus on how to teach writing.
- Building goals mirroring academic goals - growth instead of benchmarks.
- Most elementary teachers will be trained in Orton-Gillingham by the end of the school year.
- Secure vestibule at BW will be done 12/5.
- Enrollment at BW is 485 (similar to the end of last year). 4 sections in all grades but 5 in 2nd grade. (Cornell is down 20 students this year).

Board of Education Report - *Andy Phelps*

- HS enrollment at 1530
- Policy update still underway, trustees Phelps, Doxie and Cavanaugh are heading the committee. July 1st for adoption.
- Oxford report: having security look over and familiarizing the district with it. We will have recommendations for our district based on this.
- Budget increase of 45 (\$9,300/pupil) students.
- Staff looking at wage increases for all district employees when wages didn't keep up to market. Every year going forward will do an HR wage analysis.
- Update on Chippewa: design for new building has been finalized. Renderings can be found at okemosbond.net.
- Start Time Committee: aligning research (sleep science) with start times and plan in place next year. Parents say communication is key.

Presentation - *Sue Hallman, Chair of OEF*

- OEF - nonprofit that supplies grants to support OPS educational innovation.
- Works with all OPS schools and departments
- Last year committed over \$35K to district (\$30K non-consumables)
- Grants to teachers to \$1K up to three times a year
- Micro-grants up to \$250 (consumables)
- Professional Development Grant: up to \$2000K
- Commitment to Excellence Award \$1000K
- 4th grade field trip, Seeds of Science \$5K
- Author visit \$2500K
- \$18,000 committed so far this year.
- Friday Treats for all OPS staff
- Apple Awards \$20 donation to honor teacher/staff
- OEF Banquet was last week
- Goals: name recognition, money
- First annual golf fundraiser last year netted \$12K, this year June 1st.
- Looking for a DPC representative to add to the OEF trustees.
- Science Night \$350 for Elementary Schools, District Business Office
- \$40K annual budget.

#### New Business / Follow up

- Second nurse hiring status? Emergency response? Access to medical records? This was something the old nurse was working on before she left. We will follow-up with Mr. Hood next month.
- Scholastic book fairs. Canceled for the fall due to DEI concerns. New: doing opt-in for some inclusive books.
- Tennis courts at Kinawa: what's the issue keeping up grounds? New groundskeepers? Board would need request.
- **Questions for Food Service** - We will create a list to send to the food services director and present her responses at a later date.
  - Push to grow food
  - State funds for free lunch, only one year
  - How much food prep can and do we do?
  - Partner with MSU agricultural has that every Student Organic Farm?
  - If there's a time change when school starts, would food services offer extra snacks?
  - Food service lines, still long and time consuming. Strategies for better movement?
  - Nutrition standards (especially for breakfast - donuts/sweets)
  - Increase diversity of food choices (culture)

**OHS – Niki Robinson, Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro**

**Chippewa –Tere Blanca, Carly Patel, Dawn Crandell**

**Kinawa – Liz Luyendyk, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush**

- Trimester 1 ends on Friday, November 17th
- Report cards will be sent home on November 30th
- Kinawa is still working hard towards preparing all teachers to transition to Standards Based Grading. Teachers continue to have professional development around best practices with grading and aligning all activities to standards. Furthermore, departments continue to meet, look at data, and determine which standards students are doing well on and which ones need additional instruction on for students to become proficient with them.
- All Kinawa students will take the NWEA assessment on Wednesday, December 6 (Math) and Wednesday, December 13th (ELA)
- Music Concert season is upon us. Kinawa has been chosen as a building that will be broadcast on the Channel 10 local news. They will be showing a clip from both our Choir and our Orchestra concerts. They have not let us know when these clips will be broadcasted however, we will communicate with our families as soon as we know.
- KPG planning teacher holiday gifts (new ice machine and re-filling the teacher lounge with snacks)
- Excited to be a part of the conversation with Dr. Slee for Inclusive Playground Committee
- Students received rewards for a successful Keep Kinawa Moving! Excited for inflatables in the spring

**Cornell – Corinne Dyksen**

**Hiawatha–Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith**

**OPM – Sage Hales-Ho and Mike Callahan**

- In November we had an Eat Out Fundraiser at Bread Bites. In the process of planning upcoming eat outs and family events for the school year.
- Starting to plan the Spring Flash Dash annual fundraiser
- Plans to have an Impression 5 event one evening with OPM families during winter months
- Currently have a Spirit Wear Sale going on through 11/23

**Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi**

- We are just wrapping up a November "Thankful" for staff appreciation. We had over 32 local businesses donate items and had daily wheel spins to pick our winners. These included food stores, book stores, health and wellness, golf, soap, hair products, nail salons, coffee shops, yoga, clothing, trampoline activities, movie theaters, baseball and more!

- Most of our teachers will have completed Orton-Gillingham training (an approach for teaching reading that helps with students with specific learning disabilities in reading (like dyslexia) next week and the rest by the end of next year.
- We approved our by-laws.
- We have fun PBIS celebrations planned.
- We have Bolt trading cards for all of our BW kids and are waiting on the bracelets to sell for a "Bracelets for Bolt" fundraiser.
- ESSR COVID funds will sponsor extra reading and math help sessions after school. We are sponsoring thanksgiving meals, Shop with a Cop.
- We will sponsor a Girls on the Run spring session.
- We had a small but mighty fall BW beautification day.
- Next meeting is 12/21 (social meeting).

Adjourn

**Next Meeting:** December 18th, 12-2:30, Cornell Elementary

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Website: [www.okemosk12.net](http://www.okemosk12.net) – Families – District Parent Council