

## District Parent Council Meeting Minutes

### October 16, 2023 12:00 – 2:30pm – Chippewa 7-8

*Attendees:* John Hood, Katie Diel, Tom Buffett, Andre Ridley, Karen Shapiro, Liz Luyendyk, Corinne Dyksen, Sarah Allen, Lily, Mike Callahan, Dawn Crandell, Amanda Brush Thornburg, Kristin Hundt, Niki Robinson, Katie Cavanaugh, Mark Polisdorfer, Marna Wilson (Township Trustee), Kelly Bianchi  
*On Google Meet:* Stacey Smith, Jane Manfredi, Sabrina Potterpin

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro* - Everyone introduced themselves.

#### Superintendent's Report - *John Hood*

- Introduced **Katie Diehl, Director of Safety and Security**
  - 1st day on the job
  - Background: 25 Lansing Police Department, held many titles including IA/staff services/patrol captain/gang resistance instructor
  - This is a grant position and a response to the SRO discussion last school year. This is modeled as a best practice. Director Diehl will have a permanent office at OHS but gets started at Central Admin first.
  - The grant is for a 3 year period
  - Will be in charge of drills, threat assessments, and more
    - Questions:
      - Will an introduction letter be sent out to the OPS community? YES
      - How many MI districts have DSS? Detroit and maybe Grand Rapids
- **Traffic Incidents** - There have been three involving students.
  - One here at Chippewa, one high school student (after hours) on bicycle on Okemos Rd, and one car hit our bus (refused to yield).
  - Working with the police chief on an education campaign and safety procedures.
  - Crosswalks will be repainted
  - A barrier will be place on the middle lane (which people use for passing)
  - Increased lighting on Hulett Rd.
  - Safe Route to School Group: MSU partners with 7 school districts. \$15K per school. We are already involved.
  - \$60K in engineering costs - we are getting grants.
  - OPM has major Okemos Rd traffic issue but this a police department issue
  - Teaching kids to look up.
  - Guests Marna Wilson (Meridian Township) and Mark Polsfofer (County Commissioner) reached out to Sam Singh for \$60K to allow safe design work.
  - New permits for crosswalk signs
  - Possibly add crossing guard at Chippewa if they raise the age limit up.
- Ribbon-cutting at the stadium last week

- Secure vestibules almost done (Cornell and Bennett Woods new doors delayed due to materials delay). Hopefully will do November or Christmas break.
- Summer: breaking ground on new Chippewa. In 2 years Cornell kids move into Chippewa. 7 year total project.
- **Senior Center** is part of planning and working with Township. \$5M ARPA seed funds. Plan by 2024-12/31/2026. Can include gym, pickleball (multi-purpose center), warming/cooling center, etc. Located by Meridian Township municipal center.
- **Start Time Changes:** New committee with teachers, admin and partnets to figure out how to move forward. November will look at 2 approaches: flipping schedules or all grades starting later. Bargaining units will need to approve. By January.

#### Principal's Report - Interim Chippewa Principal Andre Ridley

- Took the group on a tour of the newly updated workout facility at Chippewa. Teaching safe way to work out.
- \$90 K worth of new equipment; free weights, benches, circuit machines, ellipticals, treadmills and exercise bikes.
- Gym open to all Chippewa students and hopefully a program for OPS staff.
- 8th grade Community Service food drive and field trip was a great success. 3 SUVs full of food donated to the food bank.
- After school - parapro leading popular video game club

#### Guest Speaker - Kelly Bianchi, Operations

- Operations and Facility Rentals
- **Insurance** should not cost the PTOs a lot of money. Bennett Woods has a good, inexpensive policy (if others need a referral). (INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS HANDOUT)
- She can look at all the school policies: must have enough (\$1M coverage). She can look at it via email and PTOs can enter data online.
- Corrinne: Should we incorporate DPC? Centralize things like insurance? PTOs and Boosters - Corinne and Mike will look into.
- At Cornell, one PTO person signs in and can have 2 followers the system.
- **Booking Priorities:** 1- School-related event, 2- Community Ed, 3- Other events
- Need to specify needs such as open doors, bathrooms, custodial help (tables, chairs clean-up, trash). Custodial help during the week is no charge. At the high school, events can piggy-back on each other for custodial staffing.
- Can upload license to sell food
- Can book one year in advance

#### Board of Education Report - Tom Buffett

- Board policy committee (with Katie C) will have adoption of new/updated policies by next school year (through Trune)
- Contracted out superintendent performance review
- Audit report received by Liz Lentz (glowing)
- Goal of aligning school board budget with community needs

## Old Items

*Inclusive Playgrounds* - Dr. Slee has looked at and piloting at Hiawatha

New discussion on fundraising. Raise Right is a good fundraising app. Create within PTO. Can get no-fee gift cards and earn money.

## Other questions/Comments?

District nurses? Not in schools. Needed for medical action plans.

## School Reports (following)

*OHS – Niki Robinson, Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro*  
*Chippewa –Tere Blanca, Carly Patel, Dawn Crandell*  
*Kinawa – Liz Luyendyk, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush*  
*Cornell – Corinne Dyksen, Kristin Hundt*  
*OPM – Sage Hales-Ho and Mike Callahan*  
*Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi*  
*Hiawatha–Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith*

## DPC Building Reports

### Kinawa 5-6

- We have had a great start to the school year. Students have learned their routines and are doing well with the start of the school year.  
This year we are really focusing on being a part of our community. To help with this we have set up fall field trips to really focus on team building and fun for our students.  
All Kinawa 6th graders went canoeing at Heavner Canoe Rental at Proud Lake State Park
- All 5th Grade students will be going to Howell Nature Center October 2 and 3
- All students just completed their NWEA testing in Mathematics and will be taking the ELA NWEA assessment on 9/15
- We have a general KPG mtg scheduled for 9/20 at 6:30 via Zoom
- KKM will be 9/22- We would love to have as many volunteers as possible. This is our primary fundraiser for the school year.
- On September 25 we have Ken O'Connor coming to present to the Kinawa staff as we work to transition towards Standards Based Grading in the next couple of years.
- Kinawa's Picture retake day is Sept. 29

## Bennett Woods Elementary

- We have been working on our school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and are working towards earning our first school-wide celebration next Friday for being kind, safe, and responsible in the building.
- We took NWEAs.
- Next meeting is sept 21

## Central Montessori Elementary

- Welcome Back Popsicles on the playground event right before school started went well
- Spirit Wear Sale is ongoing and ends on 9/17 featuring a shirt with a "Peace begins with me" design that includes both the wolf and montessori dove logos. This phrase the students at each morning as a part of the peace pledge and emphasizes the focus on peace through the Montessori lessons.
- Eat Out fundraiser for September was on Sept 13 at Henry's Place & Asian Buffet.
- Upcoming eat out will be on Oct 11 at Kaiyo Sushi & Grill that will be opening sometime in September.
- PTO will be providing food for teachers during fall conferences in October
- OPM is decorating a float for the parade
- District Parent Council representatives will be Sage Hales-Ho and Michael Callahan.

## Hiawatha Elementary

- We had a very well attended first PTO meeting of the year with more than 20 parents and a handful of staff members.
- Next month we will start presentations if there are staff members that want to share formal reports on school happenings.
- Adrienne Hagon RTI coach will present in October.
- All event planning has begun, and we are adding another event back into the mix this year--multicultural night.
- Jody Noble, our interim principal, provided a very thoughtful update on our staffing challenges as well as shared training information about the new math and science programs that will happen during the upcoming PD day.

## Okemos High School

- Dr. Kemsley has been reworking the carline, especially while the athletics lot has been closed, to help it run more smoothly.
- The high school is asking parents not "excuse" students to go to lunch. Appts during lunch time will be excused WITH A NOTE; unfortunately, some parents are trying to circumvent the closed campus policy by "excusing" their students for lunch which is not acceptable.
- October 12th, LifeTouch will be coming back to take photos of kids who did NOT get a photo taken/ID or want to order picture retakes.
- Clubs are starting to be in full swing. They are encouraging students to join.

- October 6th, the HS will be mailing home State assessment data from last year and the results from the NWEA, a diagnostic assessment taken by all English 9, Lit Comp 9, Studies Algebra, and Algebra students.
- Each grade is getting \$250 for Homecoming week preparations.  
HOMECOMING WEEK:  
Kickball Tournament - Monday, October 2nd  
Bonfire - Tuesday, October 3rd  
Homecoming Parade/Game: Friday, October 6th  
Homecoming Dance: Saturday, October 7th
- Parents can sign up for Kroger Rewards for OHS fundraising.
- Updated information is on the Okemos High School Parent Group Facebook page.
- The next OHS Parent Group meeting is Friday, October 27, 9am.

Adjourn

**Next Meeting:** November 20, 2023, 12-2:30pm, Bennett Woods

Email: [Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com](mailto:Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com)

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