

District Parent Council Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2023 12:00 – 2:30pm – Hiawatha Elementary School

Welcome and Introductions - Karen Shapiro

In person Attendance: Jane Manfredi, Karen Shapiro, John Hood, Dr Beard, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush, Sarah Allen, Sarah Allen, Joy Magyar, Carly Patel, Stacey Smith, Jessica Savage, Melanie Lynn (BOE), Liz Luyundyk, Dr Slee, Niki Robinson, Tempie Brown (Athletic Director)

Zoom: Pamela Jones

Principal's Report - Dr. Nicole Beard

- Furniture refresh
- Technology purchases – Updated PA, ipads, radios
- Lunchroom new supervisor
- M-Step underway and NWEA April 24-May 5
- Music informances- trying to do better
- Anti-Bias, Anti-Racism study group
- Professional learning, LETRS, Orton Gilling, FAME
- Safety: common language for communication across elementary schools, more heads up before drills, resources
 - Will be forecasted to all schools in future according to Mr Hood.
 - Tornado, Cardiac, Lockdown, Fire etc.
- March is Reading Month
 - Students could invite whomever they wanted to read. Disney, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Jake from State Farm, ...
 - Did they display the letters?
 - Started in December until early February with draft letters for each grade
 - Mystery readers
 - Board read, Mr Hood, Stacy Bailey, Dr Slee was out of town but she wrote back, some zoomed
 - Lavar Burton, Zoom? Costs \$80 k to show up so he didn't come
- Mascot transition: legacy with the Hawk, pledge "today is our day to soar", tote bags, specific to Hiawatha, still see the Hawk, district communication is the wolf.
- CR-PBIS positive behavior intervention session, acknowledgement system: golden tickets, leader of the pack, superstar shout outs
- Past Events: Science night, Buff City Soap fundraiser, Schuler's book day, book fair, movie night,
- Future events: Mileage Club, Kindergarten Roundup, Teacher Appreciation week, Hiawatha Happenings, Hiawatha Field Day, Hiawatha Hawks Hatching

Superintendent's Report - John Hood

- Thanks to Dr. Beard for all she does!
- Sensory wall and hallway is unique here at Hiawatha.
- Dr. Beard brings unique perspectives on DEI work.

- Thanks to AD Brown as well for this
- HR director screening interviews (DEI will help, have helped create a rubric)
 - Attract and retain diverse hires
 - 16 admin in the last 5 years have turned over or left
- SRO (resource officer) community zoom session- 35 people there re SRO hopes and fears
 - Survey families
 - Dr Slee meeting with OHS student affinity groups
 - Grant to fund half of an SRO for 3 years (\$215 k), the rest from the district
 - Will be discussed with the board
- Start times presentation (Dr Hannah Hoffman, parent) to Board of Ed - Circadian rhythm expert (possibly trying to make this statewide)
 - 8:30 am earliest for 7th through 12th
 - Survey data as well
 - Next board meeting- themes from the presentation and survey, possible direction
 - 3 options: 1) Status Quo, 2) move all back, or 3) flip flop elementary and secondary runs
 - Maybe start next school year, needs to be talked to Teacher's Union
 - Possible flip and move back (impacts OHS work hours and sports)
 - Away games start at 4 pm (double headers), how does daylight savings time affect this? Can field lights help? All conference games start at 4.
- 2022 Bond updates- website live
 - This summer:
 - OHS athletics projects
 - Refresh and work at Central (new doors, finishes, vestibule, lockers, bathrooms etc), 100th year of building being here
 - Bid package early May to the board for next steps
 - Chippewa and Kinawa: design phase, tentative layout, all departments/teachers/staff/kids included in design ideas
 - 2 story design
 - 2 carlines and bus lines, shared food prep space with the 2 schools (different cafeterias), shared LMC, shared auditorium
 - Cornell staff included as they are next (unclear exactly where Cornell will be stationed during the rebuild)
 - Tempie Brown: Fields will operate differently- BW fields will be used to help when we lose fields at Chippewa
 - Old Varsity fields fenced- nothing changing here
 - Should be renting out BW fields
 - Looking at where community can rent fields, now its too open, issues with pets clean up (at OHS), locks being cut, etc.
 - Open the gate to practice, community rushes in and are annoyed if asked to move elsewhere so high school kids can practice
 - Needing to dedicate spaces for community
- Middle school- discussion of feminine hygiene products: public awareness campaigns, misuse, tampons and pads provided by the district, educational campaign
 - Will consider reaching down to 4th grade
 - Appreciated as backpacks are restricted

- Student initiated, students started with a campaign for donations of these items
- OEF- June 3rd golf fundraiser at College Fields
- Snow day: state denied the waiver of 1 day.
 - Cornell is short a 5 hour day. Need 60% attendance. This Friday is out (too soon and a religious holiday).
 - Lessons learned: Never schedule the last day of school for a Friday.
 - Bring them back or we have to pay a \$25 k fine
 - We are short the day and not on the hours. Re-sending to the government.
 - People were working, had to remove a shed and clean. Parental letters won't help.
 -

Action Items

- Accessible playground activities/equipment
 - Not at OPM, not a lot of accessible playground equipment
 - Equity and Inclusion issue,
 - Dr. Slee- BW Learned that accessible, inclusive, swings, but also other things that don't look different and seamless
 - Committee together for district standard at each of our locations, this is what we have and this is what we need. How do we fund those changes?
 - *Community uses this too as well as students needing it.*
 - Sensory, accessibility and social spaces. Is the swing in an area where they can be social regardless of needs.
 - Cornell and Kinawa - ground surfaces accessible.
 - Look at Patriarch Park
 - Leah Kwapis is a possible resource; Stacy Smith, will get reps from all the schools
 - District Standard
 - Who is responsible for upkeep of playground?
 - PTO at Cornell and central take care of the track
 - Who upkeeps this and who pays for it
 - PTO's can go beyond the standard but there needs to be a standard
 - Dr. Slee will start this process, design standards for district,
 - Township has a playground authorizer

Board of Education Report - Melanie Lynn

- Legislative advocacy engagement committee work really taking off
- DEI work: what are the next steps? Need to extend the strategic plan. Priorities and Efficiencies
- Manage Change

- Decision made to update the board policy as a whole? Looking at district policies, engaged a service that will evaluate if policies are updated. Do have a board policy committee, we have not completed the conversation regarding the approach to this.
- Are there any that need to be updated in the interim?
 - The board group are being addressed sooner- 5-106 for eg
 - Almost a year we have been talking about this, on website under the board tab

Invited Speaker Tempie Brown - Athletics Director

- Started November 2021 (women's basketball coach at Stamford prior)
- Overview: 25 sports, girls water polo (offered but no interest), 600+ athletes in a year, 300 students in 9 sports right now
- Three hall of fame coaches: boys lacrosse, volleyball, and 9th grade girls soccer team (most schools don't have a freshman team)
- Biggest challenge: weather
- Mental health of the student athletes (Stamford: goalie was obnoxious in soccer, great player, died by suicide)
 - Eli's project

Questions?

- Football in OHS - just wanted to thank you for all that was done last year and with the new coach with the challenging last year
- Future of youth football? Winter clinic great. How align youth with high school?
 - Goal to bring back football to the middle school field, coach Effe
- Inviting all ages to visit HS sports? Field trips? Soccer? Baseball?
 - Each sport youth night? Basketball had this at the games
 - Promote sports to younger students about what they might want to try
 - Youth baseball game is Thursday
 - Soccer camps, Viva Maroon, coach connects to Community Ed (baseball, football, and basketball)
 - Schools newsletters for camps
- How are athletic budgets set for specific sports?
 - She (Tempie) sets the operational budgets, all sports can raise funds for their sports,
 - Swimming- need new flags, comes out of her budget, microphones, bone conduction communication that is the general athletic budget, fundraising approval process. "Vertical Raise" for fundraising. Girls soccer raised 19 K recently with it. Goat yoga
 - Liz Lenz: helps ensure that all monies are accounted for
 - All bills through Tempie Browns office
 - Joe Kattelus trying to organize athletic boosters - not associated with her office
 - Bond money for bigger ticket items – "football" facility (stadium project) = 7 sports, band, etc.
 - Question: We are a winning swimming team, so why is there a disconnect between soccer, swimming, and why are we putting this into the other winning teams?

- Dollars go to what you need to operate safely.
 - Baseball is pricey, football didn't need much, had to replace helmets, film-review in locker rooms are for all.
 - Facility for swimming: not large enough to host a meet. Community space vs competition space (can we coordinate with Meridian Township in the future?) Need to improve this: lifeguarding, swimming, etc. \$250 million to redo pool.
 - Chieftan sign in the pool by the score board- doesn't work, she will check on that
- What process to start another team if not here presently? Boys volleyball right now is club level, waiting for MAHSAA, others: equestrian, gymnastics, etc. Board would then next to approve it as varsity or club.
- No current medical group to proactively indicate risks for student athletes as concussion risks can affect mental as well as physical health
 - "Safe play" education opportunity?
 - Dr Beard: Injuries- soccer, playing during recess.
 - Education of parents especially at club level
 - Lower-level club sports sign waivers to play
- Kids leave early for sports, golf starts 10 am, others early afternoon for student athletes. Can miss two days a week of afternoon classes. MHSAA- need to pass 4 of the 6 classes. Q: Can this be put into the newsletters for all the sports? A: Yes, link can be sent.
- Okemoswolves.org for the sports schedule.
- Okemosk12.net never updated, media and tech
- Student PR district- afterschool club Dr Slee.
 - Safety in sports, sextortion video (parents of HS and Chippewa), etc.
- Niki needs help with concession stands (not a fundraiser yet for sports). May 10th 2pm JV track meet - need help!
 - Booster group fell apart in 1 week before football started to have a concession stand at all
 - Opening for some events only 4/27 covered, 5/5 covered soccer fundraiser
 - Only concession license for the stadium, indoor it hasn't been bought, should be a booster group. Ok to sell prepackaged food.
 - Hard to work it if it is your kids sport so parents have to help other sports

School Reports

OHS – Niki Robinson and Sarah Allen

OHS Parent Group Updates

- Parent Group needs a new 2023-2024 Executive Board! Positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in a position, please let us know as soon as possible. We will vote for new board members at our last meeting on May 26th.
- **Prom** – At Eagle Eye. Asking junior parents to bring desserts (donations). FB page sign up, sign-up genius, dropped off office May 12th high school office or Niki's car, ok to ask senior parents too

- **Prom and Post-Prom** are two separate events taking place on the same night for the Senior and Junior classes. Prom is a formal dance sanctioned and coordinated by the school. However, Post Prom is Parent Group's largest event. Post-Prom is a casual, fun, and safe environment for students to continue the night's celebration.
 - Post Prom tickets are \$25/per person. You must be a Junior or Senior at OHS to purchase tickets. *If the ticket price is a financial hardship, please have your student contact their school counselor.
 - Attendance at Prom is not required to attend Post Prom and vice versa.
- Post Prom takes place right after Prom on May 13th, 11:00 pm – 2:00 am, at Okemos High School. Post Prom, just like Prom, allows for non-OHS guests. Tickets will be available for purchase online only at the same time as Prom ticket sales, Friday, 4/14/23 – Friday, 4/28/23. To purchase either or both Prom/Post Prom tickets, use this link <https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/hs/hs-prom/#/list> or go to the OHS website store under "PROM."
- 3 hours of large inflatables, casino area (blackjack, poker, and roulette - no cash, just fun chips), 9-hole mini golf, ping pong, photo booth, games (giant Jenga, axe throwing, battle lights, etc.), snacks galore, and the Giveaway prize drawing. Attire: Super comfortable casual/athletic wear.
- This year's Post Prom is an extra special event. Our Seniors were Freshmen when schools shut down due to the pandemic, and our Juniors were the first to start their freshmen year online. This sign-up is specifically for prize donations for the Giveaway drawing at Post Prom: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949A8AC22A6FDC25-post>
- If you'd like to make a monetary donation to help fund Post Prom or any of our remaining events, you can write a check to OHS Parent Group and drop it off at our mailbox in the main office, or you can make an online donation through the school's payment system HS Parent Group | Okemos Public Schools ([revtrak.net](https://www.revtrak.net)) Use this link and donate through the school's online payment processing system. Any amount is appreciated and will go directly to supporting and recognizing students and staff.

Principal's Report (Dr. Dan Kemsley)

- State testing was this week. Seniors went to the zoo for a field trip. This was a pilot program this year and it went well.
- Prom and post-prom coming up. "A Midnight Masquerade", Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023
Location: Eagle Eye Golf Club
- May 21 is graduation at the Breslin Center.

OHS News

- OHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT presents: The Wizard of Oz - April 28-29 & May 5-6 @ 7:00 pm | May 7 @ 2:00 p.m.,
- May 18-Seniors' Last Day
- April 19th-NHS New Member induction/Junior Recognition Ceremony
- Presentation: Sextortion for OHS Parents, OHS Auditorium, May 1st 6-7 p.m.

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Tere Blanca

- CPG planning Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8-12) - coffee & doughnuts, potluck cultural desserts, yogurt parfait bar, catered lunch, and maybe massages
- State testing:
 - 8TH GRADE TESTING - April 18 and 19: M-STEP Social Studies; May 1 and 2: M-STEP Science
 - 7TH GRADE TESTING - May 3, 4 and 5 : M-STEP MATH, May 9, 10 and 11: M-STEP ELA
- MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS VARSITY LACROSSE GAME Okemos -vs- Lansing Catholic United - April 27th at Okemos High School. A Youth Mental Health Fundraiser supporting Eli's Project.
- There is a limited supply of 2022-2023 Chippewa yearbooks still available for pre-order. We cannot guarantee that extra books will be available to sell once they arrive for their delivery in June. Please order now using this link if you are interested: <https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01014789>.
- Chippewa construction to begin mid- next school year
- Sextortion info session for parents at OHS

Kinawa – Sunny Han and Leah Kwapis

- We had a wonderful turnout for our Science Night on April 7th. We had many students complete experiments and display them during Science Night
- Kinawa has started the required M-Step testing on our students. 5th grade students test in Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. 6th grade students test in Math and ELA.
- Field trips planned for our students. All 5th Grade students will be going to Celebration Cinema on April 18th and will be going to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum June 1st. 6th Grade students will be going to the Lansing Lugnuts game on May 31st and Michigan Adventure on June 7
- We will be offering students bounce houses from Planet X on May 12
- We will have a Spring Book Fair May 17-19.
- Kinawa will be hosting Entrepreneur Night on May 19th
- Kinawa will be hosting all 4th grade students on May 23rd. On this day we give students a tour of the building, introduce them to staff, and discuss what to anticipate when they transition to Kinawa. Fourth grade students will also eat lunch at Kinawa on the day.
- Kinawa is currently in the process of scheduling students for next school year, analyzing the projected number of students, and determining teaming
- Kinawa staff are currently learning more about and will be working towards moving to Standards-Based Grading in a couple of years
- Phoebe (Social Emotional Support Dog) has been doing wonderfully and has already made a huge impact on the overall culture of the building.

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk and Corinne Dyksen

- Nature Garden cleanup
- Global Cornell 4/28
- Kindergarten Roundup 4/18
- Mileage Club up and running
- Family Fun Night 5/19
- Teacher Appreciation week planning

OPM – Niki Robinson and Sage Hales-Ho

- Planning 4th grade graduation for the last day of school
- Planning for improvements to OPM building over the summer and possibly extending into the fall.
- Starting mileage club on Monday, April 17. Received the sponsorship through MSU Sports Medicine
- Holding staff appreciation lunch donated by Henry's Place on Thursday, April 20 during PD day
- Planning Flash Dash - annual fundraiser. Still looking for sponsorship. Planning event for May with lots of incentives for reaching fundraising goals
- Next eat out fundraiser is at Sindhu Indian Cuisine on Monday, April 17 at lunch and dinner.
- Next meeting is Monday, May 8 at 4:15 in OPM library or zoom

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi

- Multiple teacher grants were awarded including some Orton-Gillingham reading books
- We are getting new shorter basketball hoops and new mulch for short term repair of drainage issues
- We confirmed spending the funding for our woof pack dog.
- Parent group worked on bylaw amendments
- Voting for board positions next meeting
- Mileage club is going fantastically
- 5/5 bike and roll to school
- 5/21 block party
- 6/2 field day

Hiawatha – Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith, Carly Patel and Joy Magyar

- We just wrapped up a very successful Book Fair, which included a Movie Night one night to increase foot traffic at the fair.
- Schulers Book Days was a big success, raising nearly \$300—a very easy and low maintenance way to raise money.
- Mileage Club is starting this week (kickoff is 4/19, rather than 4/17 due to the weather). Adding two family run nights this year.
- Hiawatha's biggest fundraiser of the year, Hiawatha Happenings is scheduled for 5/12 from 5-8pm. An admission wristband for kids is \$10 which will give access to all activities (food trucks not included). Adults are free. New this year will be an option to pre-purchase admission, and pick up your wristband "will-call" style the night of the event to skip the line! Come out and join us for fun, games and an amazing auction!

Old Business Update on school start times (BOE) (see above under Superintendent's report)

Action Items

Inclusive Playground Equipment (see above under Superintendent's report)

Topics for libraries presentation (May meeting)

Other questions/Comments?

Dog's naming

Willow- Law agency said kids can name her

Chip name by delta dental

Other dogs may keep their original names

Adjourn Next Meeting: May 15, 2023 - Kinawa 5-6 School

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com Website: www.okemosk12.net – Families – District Parent Council