

District Parent Council Agenda

September 19, 2022 12:00 – 2:30pm – Admin Building

Welcome and Introductions

Karen Shapiro

Attendees: Stacy Bailey, Mary Gebara, Niki Robinson, Young Mi Choi, Corinne Dyksen, Liz Luyendyk, Jane Manfredi, Sarah Allen, Katie Cavanaugh, Stacey Smith, Tere Blanca, Karen Shapiro

Superintendent's Report

Stacy Bailey

Superintendent Hood is on a college tour to U of M, so Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey delivered report.

Absentee ballots go out in approximately a week, so the Bond is the biggest topic right now.

1. Vote by mail or in-person on November 8
2. Bond is for \$275 million @ the current 7 mills, representing a \$0 increase in taxes
3. The project is on the school district website, but also has its own website:
okemosbond.net
4. Bond will build 3 new schools while updating and renovating every district site
 - a. Hiawatha will get a new carline
 - b. Every school will get a secure vestibule
 - c. High school will get new tennis, softball, and baseball facilities
 - d. OPM is slated to have \$6M of work completed
 - e. Read more on the website!
 - f. Follow superintendent Hood on twitter: @superokemos
 - i. Help by retweeting!

BOND RELATED DISCUSSION: Bond needed as we are running out of space as: more students, who need more adult support in buildings (SSA of elementary, positive behavior, more social workers, reading specialists etc.) All need offices/classroom space.

Katie Cavanaugh has vote yes signs with her for those who want them.

Questions about Bond negativity have been asked, and while there aren't negative sentiments right now, there has been consideration about push back from Wardcliff area or residents wanting a decrease in taxes. Committee has been proactive in spreading the facts and benefits of the Bond.

If the Bond is rejected, students will suffer the most. Buildings are literally crumbling and will cost more if they aren't replaced. Updates still need to happen, but without the Bond they come from the General fund and take funds needed for students and staffing.

Bond is vital because we're running out of space: more students, who need more adult support in buildings (SSA of elementary, positive behavior, more social workers, reading specialists etc.) All need offices/classroom space.

Elementary school parents- how can that message be shared for those with young students or the older community?

1. For younger students: Bond affects every school,
 - a. Safety and security- all secured vestibules, all three new schools are state of the art safety, win for all older students,
2. Discussed how bond info can be shared at the PTA meeting-
 - a. Cornell and BW already doing this, Hiawatha parent asked how
3. For seniors: At large listserv- Meridian township help, neighborhoods
4. Bottom of OPS home page- at large community info service. (individ without students can be involved). New opt-ins processed start of new month.
5. We can place links on the facebook page for local neighborhoods and it will be featured on Home TV,
6. **Key: It is a Tax neutral bond and will help maintain property values**
 - a. General fund to maintain buildings, staffing, learning instruction etc. so other things lose out if we don't pass the bond

Will teachers salaries go up if the bond passes?

1. Likely no (KC) we are in a general fund deficit
2. Future phases: Montessori, senior center, pool, athletics, Wardcliff

Assistance: looking at wage studies, last year wage increases were done for childcare and transportation

Issues during negotiations: concern over hourly employees (who aren't paid if no school).

Para-pro's hourly for eg.

Punching a time card system is being updated.

Number of hours and days, can count teacher PD days as student instruction days.

STAFFING; struggling to find help, specifically para-pros, food service, operation workers, we are OK with instructional staff, NEW admin and principal at HS, New Cornell Principal too, many thanks to the interim Principal of Cornell

CALENDAR: released. Plan for 23/24- no have PLC (professional learning communities on the early release Wednesday) Full day PD vs PLC, so no early release days and all are Monday or

Fridays. Not part days anymore. Instructionally this shifts back and forth over time, so could change in ten years.

SERVICE DOGS: 2 new dogs, eventual plan one in each building, handler paid, donations for food and vet, posted for dog program coordinator position,

MASCOT: really positive responses, if you want to use the mascot in the logo, there is a permission form, (PTOs don't pay, and option 2 is pay level, PTO's pass it on to the Principal for approval). If fabricated customs can't print it forms don't need to be filled out (they don't do on field stuff, banners, jerseys etc.). Currently, PTAs can use any wolf costume to represent the mascot but in future there will likely be an approved costume.

Price for items from Fabricated Designs should be the same across PTA's and the same percentage should be made by PTA's doing fundraisers.

Fabricated designs has offered for direct order from parents with a built in percentage for the PTA's. Cornell buys all the shirts for their students so wouldn't use this.

-OK to rent a wolf costume for the homecoming

Board of Education Report

Mary Gebara

NEW HANDBOOK- will always now be current with state law as attorneys bringing it up to date (they can be altered to fit Okemos specifically)

SCHOOL BOARD: 3 open seats: Herself, Dean Bolton, Lyon-Callo latter two leaving, she is rerunning, there are 5 candidates, three seats open, research before you vote. October 6th at 6 PM the DPC will interview candidates which will be recorded and presented on Home TV and this can be linked to the FB pages. The board encourages all community members to learn about the candidates, where they are from, if they have students in the district, their involvement in the district, reasons for running etc. PTO's can invite the candidates in to talk at their meetings.

School Reports

OHS – Niki Robinson and Sarah Allen

- Parade Organizer- Contact Trisha Funk trisha.funk@okemosk12.net as you need to fill out the form to participate
- Seniors are starting a tradition of painting their own parking spots.
- September 20 – 5-9pm Culver's fundraiser to support the OHS Choir.
- September 27 – 5-9pm Culver's fundraiser to support the Dungeons and Dragons Club.
- Homecoming Class t-shirts \$15 and tickets \$10, being sold during both lunches. Tickets will be sold at the entrance of the dance as well.
- Conferences will be virtual again this year.
- OHS Parent Group will be in the parade as the candy brigade. Ask parent volunteers to bring candy for the candy brigade. Parade Sept 23 - starts 5:30. Here is the signup:
- OHS Parent Group Candy Brigade: <https://signup.com/go/PtjGefz>. Sign up to donate bags of candy and/or walk in the parade. More info in the signup link.

- Follow our Facebook page: Okemos High School Parent Group
- Test day snacks (October 15) – PSAT for juniors need snacks & mini water bottles.
- Band Car Wash-a-thon at Okemos High School on Saturday, September 17th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm to help raise money for the program
- Culver's fundraiser on Tuesday, September 20th, from 5-9 pm to support the OHS Choir.
- Culver's fundraiser on Tuesday, September 27th, from 5-9 pm to support the Dungeons and Dragons Club.
- Homecoming Events 2022:
 - Monday, September 19th - Kickball tournament @ Hartrick Park!
Even if you didn't sign up to play, still come to support your friends! Freshman vs. Sophomore games start @3:30, Juniors vs. Senior games start @5:30, Teachers vs. Upperclassmen game winner @7:30
 - Wednesday, September 21st - Bonfire @ OHS!
On practice football field - come to enjoy cider, donuts & the OHS band!
- Friday, September 23rd - Homecoming Parade
 - Parade starts @5:30 starting @ 2/42 church and ending at the OHS Stadium
If you wish to walk with your class, come to 2/42 church @4:30 & bring candy to pass out!
- Saturday, September 24th - Homecoming Dance at the high school in the cafeteria. Students should be picked-up and dropped off in the student parking lot entrance. Dance starts @8pm (ends @ 11pm) - tickets are sold at the door for \$10 (cash only).
- Tickets are also sold at lunch Thursday & Friday as well (cash only).
- **Please make sure you are ON TIME picking up your student at 11:00 or before. There is no supervision after that point.
- Spirit Days: Monday, Sep. 19 - PJ Day; Tuesday, Sep. 20 - Neon Day; Wednesday, Sep. 21 - WolfPack Wednesday; Thursday, Sep. 22 - Jersey Day; Friday, Sep. 23 - Class T-Shirt Day!
*Class T-shirts will be sold at lunch Monday - Thursday for \$15

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Tere Blanca

- CPG held its last meeting in person on September 7, 2022
- Chippewa has a new service dog bought by Delta Dental named “Chip”
- Teachers are selecting a book to discuss during PLC (book study). They are equity related.
- Virtual parent-teacher conferences will be Oct. 17-20.
- New math and English assessments for students called NWA (replaces Fastbridge). It connects to Khan Academy. Will be given starting the end of September.
- 7th graders going to Lake Lansing North 9/23.
- 7th grade camp should be back this year as it was pre-Covid. 2/7-2/10.
- 8th grade fall trips by team: 2 going to a cider mill and one to High Fields.
- 8th graders will go to MSU to see the Black Violinists this spring.
- 8th graders and Montessori planning trip to Washington, DC.
- Participating with Spirit Week for OHS Homecoming
- Softball Club tryouts on Sept. 21 and 25. Register asap.
- Youth Cycling Club – will host the 2nd free kids Fall Fun Ride on October 8th, 9-12pm.

Kinawa – Sarah Allen and Katie Cavanaugh

- Kinawa moving Oct 7th, their Fun Run Fundraiser
- Spirit week this week
- NWEA testing this week
- Carline concerns, people speeding, walk sidewalk side without driveways,
- Designated crossing areas- Kinawa (Niki)
 - Potentially involve the parent group.
 - PTA have insurance
 - Volunteers from the PTA?
 - Meridian Police? Complicated, got the Chippewa crossing before, construction, patrol area more? Look into speed limit signs?

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk and Corinne Dyksen

- Fall picture day will take place on September 21st (not Lifetouch this year, Canfield-Jenkins new vendor, through 2025, discussion all the buildings for a more affordable company, pricing different by 3.00 and no different backgrounds, cost of class composite, financially Lifetouch (discounts multiple kids) might still make more sense).

OPM – Niki Robison

Float for homecoming

Need one more lunch aide

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi

- Float decorated for homecoming this past weekend
- Spirit Week this week
- NWEA testing will start (in future there will be a dyslexia screener, K-2 has been validated)
- Fall Picture day Oct 3
- New Hires: SSA behavioral (Warren), instructional coach (Erin), Title 1 literacy specialist (Jessica Hielman)

Hiawatha – Carly Patel and Joy Magyar (Presented by Stacy Smith)

New carline lines will be painted, a handout will be made.

Okemos Education Foundation (OEF)- Mary Gebara

OEFSITE.org

1. Provides Large and small grants for teachers in addition to awards
 - i. Micro-grant up to \$250 and macro-grant up to \$2000

2. All donations go back into OPS
3. Apple Awards- on walls, certificate verbiage is what the student or parent said about that employee, pay the fee \$20.00 (\$25.00). Year round it can be distributed.
4. Annual Awards Banquet: Seven Teacher awards, Kellogg Center, Cash bar,
5. Normally if you have a recipient, PTA's sponsor a table- can contact Mary Gebara (marygebara@gmail.com) or Sue Hallman
6. OEF Pays for the fish tanks, 3-D printers, cross country skis, funded basketball.
7. OEF also funds PTOs (science night grant- 250.00)
8. OEF link at bottom of OPS website OEFSITE.org

Board of Education candidate questions for October interviews were discussed. Plan to interview them for Home TV, 6 PM, Oct 6, 2022. Candidates will get questions about 7 days in advance.

Bond Q&As Dos and Don'ts (handout)

New Business

1. School start times discussion
 - a. Past research teenagers starting early, just this year Williamston changed the start times, impact on sports
 - b. KC- an OPS community survey about this will come out soon
 - c. CA law
 - d. State level issue
 - e. Holding back: 2 bus runs, all we flip or all move 45 min later
 - i. If younger kids go earlier (issues bus in the dark, or bigger kids not at home)
2. School safety around Kinawa and Chippewa- discussed earlier regarding putting up "your speed signs" and parent volunteers
3. Young: Liability Insurance for PTAs is needed (Cornell and BW and Hiawatha have it), Chippewa maybe?
 - a. Facility use forms, who submits it? Office secretary? Has to go through admin first at Cornell. We as PTAs fill it out as we are running it.
 - b. New people at HS, in the past the PTA has not had liability insurance, but now there is a request for this.
 - i. BW RVNA, policy 155.00, Cornell- AIM Association Insurance Management Inc.
 - a. Officer liability 50.00 additional

- b. 2 mill general, 1 mill Personal and advertising, 50K fire damage,1 mill officer theft,
 2. During school hours not needed,
 3. Outside school hours need this if facility is being used
 4. Should DPC include a Zoom option?
 - a. Cornell offered use of their zoom link.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 17, 2022 - Admin Building

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

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