

District Parent Council
Meeting minutes
April 19, 2021 9-11am
Online Zoom during Covid-19

Welcome and introductions - Sarah Allen

Attendees - Sarah Allen, John Hood, Karen Shapiro, Katie Cavanaugh, Carly Patel, Janet Philips, Liz Luyendyk, Stacy Bailey, Nathan Schuster, Niki Robinson

New business -

- PSAT, MSTEP, SAT, ACT - discussion to review processes and what these tests measure.
- Ensure we are looking ahead to identify possible gaps in roster, we need to try to have:
 - Two members of DPC per school as parent representatives move up in schools so we continue to keep filling the roles for each school without a gap
 - A new Co-President(s) to join Sarah to rotate in as she rotates out of the President role, Liz Luyendyk agreed to be the Co-President and Karen Shapiro offered to help if needed
 - We asked Nathan if he'd continue as Secretary, he agreed

Superintendent update - John Hood

- On the website are the 2 millage voting campaigns ([LINK to OPS website](#))
 - Sinking fund - looking for renewal even though it can't technically be called a "renewal" because new state law language has added security and technology to be included options in these funds
 - \$100 per \$100K of taxable value (taxable value
 - Operating millage renewal
- Last Wed/Thurs community meetings to discuss findings of mascot committee ([LINK to meeting](#))
 - Brought forward the motion to eliminate the Chiefs mascot
 - Tribes are unanimously for its removal
 - Tribes do not believe this to be an honor when it is the mascot, school buildings are fine
 - Tribes don't use the word Chief in their language
- High school and athletics paused due to COVID spread.
 - Backed by the Ingham County Health Department
 - OPS is relying on the science and recommendations of the Health Department
- Hiring season 5 people/positions to be filled prior to the end of the school year - HR/Equity person, 4 principals at OPM, Hiawatha, Cornell, OHS.
 - OPS needs help for the hiring committees from Parent Council
 - Other new directors have been doing well.
- Equity Survey is coming out soon, after being translated to 5 languages.
- Question - does the board also get the diversity training?
 - The board will be getting the training, and wants to be involved in the process.
- Question - how is the mascot discussion concluding?
 - Written feedback has been more positive

- May 10 presentation to the BOE.
- May 24 BOE will take action.

School Board Update - Katie Cavanaugh

- Last week's major discussion was regarding the pause on athletics.
- Election May 4th! Get out the vote!
- "Vote yes on OPS" Facebook page.

Presentation Topic - Reproductive Health Curriculum during Covid

Presenter - Stacy Bailey

- No changes in high school curriculum
- Chippewa - no changes
- Kinawa - this year these lessons were moved to spring from fall.
 - Reviewed 4th grade lessons to include with the 5th grade lessons
 - 4th graders (last year did not receive the lesson content)
 - Nicole McGuire worked with teachers to review content
 - "Sensitive" content to be done online
 - Pre-recorded
 - Password protected
 - OPS requests that parents be present for this content
 - "Question period" is not part of this content, but working on it for next.
 - At the end of this year the 4th and 5th grade will be caught up.
 - "Exit tickets" are reviewed to know the students level of understanding
- Question - is oral sex covered at 5th grade level?
 - Likely, though Stacy did not quote exact content.
 - Stacy says Okemos has one of the most progressive sex ed curriculums she's ever seen, the PHASE board is very intentional for correct and accurate information
- Question - is this material occurring during health classes? It depends on which school for when it occurs.
- Question - Is there a parent sign off for some of the reproductive health content?
 - Having discussions was appreciated.
- Question - Are there avenues for the OPS and parents to partner up more frequently.
- Question - is there a way to have more communication earlier in the program?
 - Good feedback, and Stacy will pass that on to the OPS Health program (Mr. Stierley)
- Videos available for the 4th and 5th graders to catch up, or have content repeated?
 - It is possible, and Stacy will look into sharing that programming

Host School Update (Kinawa) - (Steve Stierley)

- Thank you - I would like to start off by saying thank you to our District Parent Council and the Kinawa Parent Group for all the support you have provided to our teachers and staff over the past year. In a year of constant change, new formats for delivering instruction to our students, and really not knowing what to anticipate from week to week with the pandemic going on, I can not express the

gratitude Kinawa's staff has for all the work and support you have provided to us.
Thank you!

Currently Happening at Kinawa

- Parent Teacher Conference Week is upon us. Conferences will be held tonight, April 19, from 4pm - 6:30pm, Tuesday, April 20, from 12:30pm - 3pm and again from 4pm - 6:30pm, and Thursday, April 22 from 2pm - 4:30pm.
- Kinawa's Administration is currently working on creating a master schedule for the 2021-2022 school year providing full day instruction with lunch for our students.
- We are very happy for and wish the best to the following staff members who will be retiring for Kinawa at the end of this school year.
 - Tim Case - Kinawa Counselor
 - Sue Angell- Kinawa MTSS Coordinator
 - Don Poore - 5th Grade Teacher at Kinawa
 - Marsha Chance- Gifted and Talented Coordinator for OPS
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- The U.S. Department of Education denied the State of Michigan's request to waive our State Assessments (M-Step) for our students. They did however waive our accountability language for this year. Waiving the accountability language allows families to opt out of the assessment and not have it count against the school district. Because of the denial of our waiver request, we will be administering the M-Step to all 5th grade students on April 26th and April 27th. We will be administering the M-Step to our 6th grade students on May 3 and May 4.
- Kinawa administration is currently planning for the 4th grade to 5th grade transition. We understand that the transition from 4th to 5th grade in a normal year is a difficult transition for students and parents. Doing it during a pandemic creates additional anxiety. We are working on ways we can help reduce anxiety for our students as well as strategies and ideas we can implement in the fall to make the transition as seamless as possible for our new students.

Upcoming Events

- No School on Tuesday, April 20 for our students as all staff will be engaged in Parent Teacher Conferences
- April 21st PLC's topic will be Addressing Anti-Asian Racism In Our Schools. We are extremely excited to have the following presenters to help bring this professional development to our staff.
 - Dr. Andrea Louie, Professor of Anthropology and APA Studies Advisory Board
 - Dr. Terese Monberg, Associate Professor Residential College in Arts and Humanities, APA Studies Advisory Board MSU
 - Jean Lee: KMS/CMS Orchestra Teacher
 - Katyana Norris: OHS Math Teacher
 - Student Panel: Komal Patel, Elizabeth GK, Jasmine Chow, Mariam Aboujrad, Bowei Li, Ovia Maiti
- M-Step Testing for 5th grade students on Monday, April 26 and Tuesday, April 27.
Asynchronous lessons for all 6th grade students as well as any students not testing.

- M-Step testing for all 6th grade students on Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4. Asynchronous lessons for all 5th grade students as well as any students not testing.

Points of Pride

- I am extremely proud of the Kinawa staff for the way they have risen to every challenge this year has brought and how they continue to go above and beyond to ensure each student is being taken care of and educated during the pandemic. Their flexibility and overall love for our students is what sets them apart from others. They continue to work, on average, 12 hour days to prepare lessons, grade assignments, and respond to student and parent emails throughout the school year.
- I am extremely proud of our students who continue to be resilient and flexible during this school year. They have truly been amazing and a breath of fresh air.
- Throughout the year we have had wonderful student attendance. Our average yearly attendance for Kinawa students is currently at 99.7% of students are attending each day.
- Finally, I am extremely proud of the community support for our teachers. We realize this has been a difficult year for everyone and appreciate the support our families have provided to us as we have worked tirelessly to navigate through all the curveballs thrown at us.

Building updates

OHS – Niki Robinson

- Updates
 - Class of 2022 and “Prom”: Class of 2022- In order to comply with CDC and local health department guidelines, this year's “prom” will be Okemos Seniors only. The look of “prom” won't be the same and is being changed to an outdoor “senior spectacular”. We know this may come as a disappointment to many of you, but this is out of our hands and we need to comply with the health guidelines and circumstances that were caused by the pandemic. The main focus this year is on seniors because this may be their final and only senior event before graduating. We are hopeful that the 2021-2022 school year will be an amazing one for our class.

- Important Dates

- April 19 Class of 2021 cap, gown, announcement Pick-Up
- April 20 Kick Start for Quarter 4 for ALL students, 2-6pm
- April 21 Parent Group Meeting, 9:00am via Zoom, Meeting ID: 972 1782 1881 Passcode: 039840

<https://aamco.zoom.us/j/97217821881?pwd=THlzelZ4SDBMd3ZoUFpVSFIWVg4Zz09>

- April 22 Class of 2021 cap, gown, announcement Pick-Up and pick up NHS medals
- April 27 SAT for grade 11 and PSAT for grade 9, No School grades 10 and 12
- April 28 ACT Workkeys and M-Step for grade 11 and PSAT for grade 10, No School grades 9 and 12
- May 1 TESTING OUT: Registrations for Testing Out are due May 1, 2021. Students must submit their request via this google form, which

must be accessed from their OHS google account. Testing Out will take place the week of August 2, 2021.

Chippewa – Kristin Arnett and Niki Robinson

- Teacher appreciation and need PTO newcomers for President and Treasurer

Kinawa – Karen Shapiro

- Important Dates
 - The KPG virtual science fair for Kinawa is being moved from the week of April 26th to the week of May 17th. It will be a virtual “Science Week” and will include virtual demonstrations/presentations from Potter Park Zoo, Abrams Planetarium, Nature Discover Williamston, and MSU Women in Engineering. Additionally, students will have links to various live cams at an array of zoos, aquariums, and other nature sites. Science Week will occur in conjunction with Kinawa science teachers.
 - M-Step for 5th grade students has been postponed and will now occur on April 26th and April 27th. The M-Step will be given to our 6th grade students on May 3rd and May 4th.
 - Parent Teacher Conferences will be held April 19, from 4pm - 6:30pm, Tuesday, April 20, from 12:30pm - 3pm and again from 4pm - 6:30pm, and Thursday, April 22 from 2pm - 4:30pm. There is no school for students April 20th.
 - The KPG is planning treats for Teacher Appreciation Week (the week of May 3rd) possibly including sandwiches, coffee and doughnuts, cookies and bagels.
 - Kinawa is also planning a book fair the week of May 17th through Scholastic.

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk

- PTO this Thursday
- Teacher Appreciation
- Need representative for principal committee

Bennett Woods – Janet Philips and Nathan Schuster

- No update to report outside of weekly information from the school.
- Looking into teacher appreciation ways and means.
- September restart for parent council and fundraising.

Hiawatha – Carly Patel and Amy Burton

- Box lunches to welcome teachers back after Spring Break
- Bellinger retiring so in discussion about a gift for her

Next meeting - May 17, 2021 (9-11am), EST - Mr. Hood will present about the Equity Plan