

**District Parent Council**  
**Meeting minutes**  
**March 15, 2021 9-11am**  
**Online Zoom during Covid-19**

Welcome and introductions - *Sarah Allen*

Attendees - Liz Luyendyk, Niki Robinson, Karen Shapiro, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Janet Philips, Carly Patel, John Hood, and Sarah Allen

Superintendent update - *John Hood*

- Students back in school
  - We welcomed back the little ones last week
  - The face to face interactions is so good to see
- Legislative
  - Changes came through on March 3
  - Funding is tied to Title I formulations
  - \$450 minimum per pupil
  - Some districts are getting \$1000s per pupil, Okemos usually gets \$80ish
  - Extended hours to receive this portion of money are required by March 22
  - This is federal money from December 2020 that the states have to figure out how to allocate
  - The BofE met and approved (6-1) an expanded schedule in order to get the \$1.6 million
    - As part of this vote they were having to balance the health and safety right now but also in the future
    - A second option to change a student between in-person and virtual will occur in later April
      - State testing has to be done in person so that affects the April date being later
- Sinking fund campaign
  - Building and site volunteers needed for the VoteYesfor OPS campaign
  - May 4th election
- Equity survey almost ready to go out
  - Mascot community ready to meet
- Next school year
  - At the moment it will only be in-person but the State BofE easily and quickly makes changes that gives the school districts very little time to plan for
  - Will likely be allowed to have a virtual option but no plan has been shared yet at all even though a plan has been asked for for quite some time
- Hiring season has started
  - At least five are retiring but he thinks there will be more
- Question was asked
  - What happens if parents opt out of state testing?

- It affects us if they don't test but we can't require a family to bring their student in during this pandemic to have them do the testing so it's out of our hands if families choose that
- Regarding positive Covid tests in schools
  - He says Covid is in our schools
  - All of the school will be told but for privacy only the ones that may have been in direct contact will be told about a possible contact
- Vaccine numbers for the teachers?
  - The union feels good about the amount of vaccines that have been taken
  - The district had to help some teachers with the health department to get their appointments
  - Most have the second and some will be finishing their second in the next few weeks
- How are the teachers feeling?
  - So much excitement
  - Some fear
  - The safety features implemented the teachers feel really good about them
  - Still plenty of mixed emotions
  - After being with the kids last week he can see the fulfillment the teachers have been missing
- Food Service hired?
  - Michael Wensel from Swartz Creek will begin March 22
- Human Resource/Inclusion Director will be hired over the summer

#### School Board Update - *Mary Gebara*

- Pleased to see Dr. Fauci says maybe three feet rather than six feet is fine for kids because they're smaller
- Recovery committee Mary is on is looking for post-trauma ways to help after Covid
- Sinking fund
  - Doesn't change the tax amount, it's just a renewal
  - If that doesn't get approved it will affect the district with \$1.3 million less a year that ultimately affects the students

#### Host School Update - Julie Bellinger - Hiawatha (not present but report sent over)

- Hiawatha was one of the testing locations for the WIDA Test this year. It has been a very successful endeavor. We have approximately 10 students left to assess and we will be able to close the window on this mandated assessment. I would like to extend gratitude to the following team, departments, and staff:
  - Our entire district ELL Team, Assistant Superintendent Bailey, and Stacey Molenda for their tireless planning and time. This effort and dedication ensured that we were able to implement this mandated assessment seamlessly and safely.

- OPS Families for their communication, trust, openness, flexibility, and efforts in helping to ensure their students were at the testing location they needed to be on their schedule days/times.
- OPS Teachers and staff graciously offered their classroom spaces as testing sites. We couldn't have done this without their willingness to support this endeavor and let us take temporarily over their spaces.
- OPS Operations Department ensured that our testing spaces were secure and deeply cleaned after each assessment cycle. They also made sure we were stocked with extra cleaning and safety supplies.
- OPS Transportation Department worked with the ELL Planning Team to offer families a transportation option, if needed.
- As with all colleagues/buildings across the district, Hiawatha Staff has been working diligently to prepare and plan for our returning students. We welcomed our K-1 students back on Thursday, March 11th. It was very rewarding to see all of the intentionality and thoughtfulness in our plans come to fruition. There was palpable excitement from all - families, students, and staff. We are looking forward to welcoming our 2nd -4th graders today, Monday, March 15th.
- Our Hiawatha PTO has been working hard to support the Hiawatha Teachers with financial support and encouragement through actions. Later this month they will be working with Hiawatha Families to provide boxed lunches for staff to show their appreciation.
- Looking ahead Hiawatha, and our sister schools, has much to consider, plan, and prep for:
  - OPS Revised Return to School Plan
  - PT Conferences
  - MSTEP
  - Reproductive Health for 4th Grade
  - Progress Reports for Spring
  - Planning and Preparations for the 2021-2022 School Year

OEF report - *Mary Gebara*

- Delivering popcorn to teachers today as a welcome back and thank you to all of them

Presentation Topic - none

### Building updates

OHS – *Niki Robinson*

- Updates
  - Prom planning
    - some sort has started, no definitive plans yet
    - No Post-prom
    - Maybe Jr, maybe only Sr?
    - Maybe outdoor?
  - Clubs may have option of meeting at school?
  - Senior farewell may still occur at St. Marthas? Maybe without the parents?

Chippewa – *Kristin Arnett and Niki Robinson*

- Updates
  - Rite Aid fundraiser is occurring
- Important Dates
  - March 17 is next parent meeting

Kinawa – *Karen Shapiro*

- Updates
  - The KPG is planning a virtual science fair for Kinawa to take place the week of April 26th. It will be a virtual “Science Week” and will include Flipgrids for student science project presentations, as well as virtual demonstrations 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.
  - Health class for 5th and 6th graders will take place during the 3rd trimester. Information was sent to parents.
  - Synchronous hours will be 8:45 am -12 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Wednesdays is virtual synchronous from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. Schedule likely to change per 3/11 John Hood email.
  - For students who will be in person: Kinawa’s doors will open at 8:30am. Students should not be dropped off prior to 8:30am. Students are required to wear masks at all times. Students will be expected to head directly to their first class and congregating/loitering in the hallways will not be permitted. Once in class, students must stay in their assigned seat/space and adhere to health and safety expectations. Staff will be in classrooms to provide supervision during this time.
  - Students will not be using lockers, but will be allowed to carry their materials/items in a backpack as they travel from class to class. Backpacks should be placed on the back of students’ chairs or in a location that eliminates distractions and maintains safety within the classroom.
- Important dates
  - March 9 th and 11 th school tours for 5 th grade students returning to in-person learning.
  - First day of 3 rd trimester and new school schedule, offering in-person instruction 3/15.

Cornell – *Liz Luyendyk*

- Updates
  - No fundraising this year
  - In PTO meeting question was raised if people go on Spring Break do they/will they quarantine?
  - Lunch box meals for teachers
  - Virtual science fair, maybe?

- Karen for Kinawa will send her their information

OPM - *Katie Cavanaugh*

- Applications are due
- Early May is when the school needs to know if families aren't returning

Bennett Woods – *Janet Philips and Nathan Schuster*

- Updates
  - No updates outside of school sent memo, no meetings because they aren't fundraising

Hiawatha – *Carly Patel and Amy Burton*

- Updates
  - Students can decorate a mask coloring page that will be hung for decoration to go with our "Can't MASK our Gratitude!" theme.
  - Donations can be made through our PTO PayPal account to help with boxed lunches and other goodies.
- Important dates
  - Staff appreciation lunch will be March 30th. PTO will provide boxed lunches from Chapelure for all staff.

New business - New Co-President for 2021-2022

Next meeting - April 19, 2021 9:00-11:00am, Eastern Time. Kinawa report.