

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

Welcome and introductions - Sarah Allen

OHS Update - Christine Sermak, Principal

- Thanks for the work of our teachers and staff.
- Teams trying to make improvements -
 - Building planning - 21 like district principals discussion - how to handle final exams - decided to not have final exams.
 - Mental health continues to be a concern -
 - no homework over breaks.
 - Students encouraged to truly unplug
 - Teamtime - teachers and students time to connect and recap
 - Video announcements and clubs doing video updates
 - Counselors to also do video announcements and be available.
- Online registration posted
- Q3 registration up online - registration and reservations posted online.

- Question(s)
 - You mentioned no finals? Michigan virtual students still taking exams?
 - Yes - OHS can control THEIR finals, but not other institutions. Michigan Alliance also has their own program and guidelines.
 - Do you have a sense of where we are in typical school years to how the kids are doing with online learning?
 - Several answers - some classes are getting through more material. OHS would like to use the time set aside for exam prep to do more in depth learning. Pass rate is lower than non-pandemic grading, though some students are thriving. How well and where instruction is at right now depends on the class.
 - If a student is failing they are starting credit recovery now rather than waiting further into the year like they do in non-pandemic times
 - Clearly missing in-person instruction but students are attending classes so she is pleased with that
 - Follow up - what are other districts doing?
 - Other models in other districts have more transitions whether they're in hybrid or in-person. Flexibility is key, and no one has found a best solution.

Superintendent - John Hood

- Response to Governor - March 1st in person option is being requested.
- How OPS will adjust our metric, based on the request.
- OPS is still on a measured approach based on the metrics which were approved by the BoE.
- Vaccine looming as a game changer.
 - Staff should be vaccinated, then OPS to reevaluate.
 - March could be a possibility, based on willingness of staff and availability of the vaccine.
- Goal of consistency for staff and students = continued with logical and measured approach.
- Question(s) -
 - We get that the teachers will be vaccinated, but what about the kids? Will we be going back immediately?
 - We will continue to re-evaluate, and likely still offer an online option. We recognize that children will be going back to non-vaccinated and potentially high-risk families.
 - Our goal is to go back full time - full day if possible.
 - Minimize transitions if at all possible.
 - Viewpoint - some parents that are vaccinated already are pushing to get their kids back at school. Many parents will be later in line, so how do we approach this?
 - Will OPS be putting out a response to the Governor's update?
 - Yes, and we (OPS) are posting clear, consistent information for the community every other week in an email and weekly on our website. Information from the district is readily available.
 - Other districts in the area are sending some grades back, etc. Is that an option OPS is looking into?
 - The staff are still at risk. What would be the rationale to put some at risk and not others? Other districts that are right next to us are simply using different metrics, based on the needs of that community.
- **The way we treat our teachers is a very important part of this equation.**
 - Some teachers have resigned, but he doesn't want to force teachers
 - It's important people are feeling cared for in our approach
- School Board recognition month - sending gratitude for their work here, and will be making an announcement tonight at the BOD meeting
- Mascot committee working and will have an update in May. Community update and look for feedback prior to that. Superintendent's committee.
- Equity work survey going out soon.
 - Update equity plan.
 - Equity committee meeting with the BOD (open meeting).

Board of Education - Dean Bolton

- December
 - Annual evaluation of superintendent - rated at high side of “effective”, based on the metric tool that BOD uses.
 - Welcoming 2 new board members tonight.
- January
 - OHS counselors and social workers presenting on social emotional mental health
 - Bonds and millage - will expire and will be going to the voters. These are renewals but because there are changes they can't be labeled as renewals
 - Non-homestead - tax on all non-homestead property (businesses)
 - Sinking fund - will expire - 10 year cycle - looking to review and expand the use. The legislature has broadened its use beyond just buildings but can also include security and technology.
- Question - does non-homestead property tax apply to the owners of a rental property?
 - Yes.

OPS Director and staff introductions

- Brian Fuller - Athletic Director
 - 1985 OHS grad.
 - Started 7/2019 - as HS Athletic Director
- Mark Fargo - Director of Operations - new from Steve Lathrop
 - Formerly Northview PS in GRR
 - Facilities background
 - Gratifying to work with the new challenges each day with facilities

Building Reports

OHS – Niki Robinson

- Important Dates:
 - January 13 Parent Group Meeting, 9:00am, AGENDA Join Zoom:
 - <https://aamco.zoom.us/j/96581331782?pwd=TjhiOUNyYkJsME9rbmZ2Yy9sRUFVZz09> Meeting ID: 965 8133 1782 Passcode: 566667
 - January 19-22 Return Semester 1 material to OHS main office, 8:30 am-3:00 pm
 - January 24-26 Quarter 3 Kick Star, 2:00-6:00, there is a sign up link in the
- News and notes for OHS
- JUNIOR MEETINGS: All juniors are asked to check their email for more information about scheduling their junior meetings. During these meetings, they will discuss post-secondary plans and progress towards graduation. Meetings should be scheduled during the months of January or February.
- Club camp; Group Information: Asian Culture Club: We will have an ACC meeting next Monday, 1/11 at 3:30PM, and everyone is welcome to attend! Join our Google Classroom (p6yxfwc) for the Zoom link or email Mrs. Norris.

- Athletics: Now Hiring: JV Baseball Coach, Varsity Girls Water Polo Coach, Varsity Boys Tennis Coach, and Varsity Girls Tennis Coach : Interested candidates should send a letter of intent and a resume to brian.fuller@okemosk12.net
- Band teacher - booster club meeting 7 PM 1/12.

Chippewa – Kristin Arnett and Niki Robinson

- Fastbridge testing next 2 weeks
- Social emotional testing afterward
- PTO meeting 1/20 09:00
- Sent gift cards to teachers.

Kinawa –Karen Shapiro

- Fastbridge testing starting this week.
- Keep Kinawa Moving (KKM)'s prizes are being put together for 4 "superstar" fundraisers (over \$300) and a team of 56 students that raised the most funds. The Superstars will receive a larger gift basket and the winning team will get a Kinawa water bottle "Kinawa Stronger Together", similar to the OEF logo for Okemos.
- We are waiting to find out what the profit of the virtual Scholastic Book Fair, however it seemed a bit smaller than in the past.
- Spirit week before break had daily fun activities and had good participation.
- Kinawa will be discussing the viability of a virtual science fair at our upcoming Board and Parent Group meetings.
- KPG just purchased two water filling stations for Kinawa so all of our drinking fountains contain bottle fillers besides the ones in the gymnasium, which could not readily be converted.
- Kinawa's School Counselors posted that if parents feel that their student is in need of support, they can fill out the form found at the link below and a counselor will be in touch with the student in the next 1-2 school days. These responses are reviewed daily during school hours.
- <https://forms.gle/Ypyaxo2EmSqRPZLg7>. The counselors also have a Google Classrooms set up with general student information as well as weekly wellness resources. Students can join with the code: yc54vyn
- The next Kinawa Parent Group meeting will take place online on Wednesday, January 13th , 7-8pm via Zoom.

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk

- PTO - 1/21 09:00
- Were surprised because they had their typical mid-year turnover from their mostly international students, just had new students come in last week
- Question to the group - Music foundation doing a fundraiser?

OPM – Katie Cavanaugh and Niki Robinson

- Fundraiser - t-shirt contest. Had design made and voted, and the winner got it printed. Big frog was the printer, out of Canton.
- Auction in May
- Doing a cookbook - looking for recipes.

-

Bennett Woods – Janet Philips and Nathan Schuster

- No report

Hiawatha – Carly Patel and Amy Burton

- Looking for help with the electronic sign in front of the school.

Next meeting Feb 8, 2021 09:00-11:00am ET “At Central”
Same Zoom id as this month.