

District Parent Council notes 11/16/2020 - Online Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic

Meeting went to Zoom after difficulty for some to join Google meet.

Meeting start on Zoom about 1:13pm

Welcome and getting started:

- John Hood, Superintendent
 - Been busy as a district
 - Food service Director, Lynna Hassenger passed away in a car accident - OPS re-assessing her job functions. She handled several other school districts as well.
 - To make it more feasible for a new hire, OPS will focus on hiring a new director to cover OPS only. Job is posted, hope to hire Food Service Director in January
 - New Operations director hired, Mark Fargo, starting Nov 30 with 1 month overlap with current Operations Director.
 - Massive turnover of all District Directors, except for Special Education and Athletics (new hires in Technology, Operations, Food Service, and Transportation)
 - Return to school plan - board adopted model "B" hoping to start in the third trimester
 - Jan 24-Mar 8 transition. Stacey is actively working with the tech department
 - COVID metrics now posted on [OPS website](#).
 - Similar to Ann Arbor Public Schools
 - Metrics posted for return to school, and re-closing.
 - Working with Ingham County Health Department and MSU on metrics for returning to school
 - Per MIHHS, all sports shut down until at least Dec. 8.
 - Athletics had moved to conditioning only already before the Health Department's most recent announcement
 - District budget update - better than expected.
 - Can do some add backs based on current numbers.
 - Lost about 60-70 students.
 - Per pupil foundation was not impacted as much as previously thought.
 - 2021-2022 budget will be affected as well
 - Equity work
 - Working with Great Lakes Equity Center to ensure the policy is inclusive
 - Looking for replacement to Chiefs mascot
 - Committee needs a meeting administrator
 - Cell tower - turned down by the board
 - Looking into further transparency measures to future OPS construction plans are posted
- Tonya Rodriguez, Board of Education representative
 - elections have relieved some stress
 - Sarah Wohlford and Tonya Rodriguez did not run again
 - Congrats to Katie Cavanaugh and Melanie Lynn on their re-election
 - Andy Phelps and Jaime Taylor as new members of Board
- Stacy Bailey, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

- DPC is looking for feedback on what the plan is for the kids that are struggling? What's going to happen with those kids? What next?
 - Stacy presented "multi-tier system of support"
 - Based on in-person learning
 - How do we support the mental health of our children?
 - How to move MTSS to virtual
 - RTI coach - if a parent is looking for additional support, start by contacting the student's teacher
 - Students are encouraged to email their teacher
 - Teachers are working to reduce group sizes to ensure participation by elementary students, and support teacher/student interaction
 - Working to support all students
 - Benchmark assessments and monitoring
 - Identify what all, some, and few students need?
 - Kami and Peardeck are two examples of online instructional resources that teachers have started using to support student engagement.
 - GOAL - Educate with excellence and inspire learning for life
 - No plan to retain (penalize) students for COVID
 - How to keep students moving forward with their peer/age group despite the challenges that COVID imposed
 - How to handle "specials" - looking into ways to also address gaps developed during the pandemic
 - Reiterated that teachers, and all OPS management are available for support
 - What is the plan for the mental health program once we return? Do/will we have a program to address how to live through and move on from a pandemic?
 - Stacy says this is going to take YEARS coming out of this pandemic and that there are organizations putting together plans for what to do
 - She says the fear will linger for years
- Building reports
 - **OHS – Niki Robinson**
 - **Important Dates:**
 - November 30 Class of 2021 deadline for Cap and Gown orders
 - December 18 Class of 2021 names for diplomas due to Marcy Mosher
 - **Athletics:**
 - All winter sport athletes must complete online registration (including all form and physical) before the first day of tryout
 - Boys Basketball, Skiing, Wrestling, Cheer, Dance Team- November 16
 - Boys Swim/Dive-November 23
 - Click on this link to get started.
<https://www.planeths.com/?keyword=%2Fuser%2Fsignin&school>
 - Now Hiring: Varsity Baseball Coach and Varsity Girls Water Polo Coach: Interested candidates should send a letter of intent and a resume to brian.fuller@okemosk12.net

- Virtual parent group starting, contact Niki for details

Chippewa – Kristin Arnett and Niki Robinson

- New trimester 11/23 - need to change schedule by 11/28
- Counselor connection –
- Online - extra curricular tutoring available

Kinawa –Karen Shapiro and Sarah Allen

- The Kinawa Parent Group raised \$1,260 for Teacher Appreciation gift cards last month. That amounted to \$20 gift cards for all Kinawa teachers and staff. We initially asked for \$10 gift cards, but received so much that we doubled the gifts (after a small KPG supplement).
- Kinawa Parent Teacher Conferences occurred via Zoom last month. Parents were held in waiting rooms until the teachers let us in.
- KPG is hosting an online week-long Keep Kinawa Moving fundraising event. It is usually a one-day field day type event in late September. We are using FundHub for donations and kids' personalized web sites where the kids can log their activities that they do. Each day there is a choice of indoor and outdoor activities to participate in. There are individual, team, and school incentives.
- We are planning a virtual Scholastic Book Fair at the beginning of December.
- The next Kinawa Parent Group meeting will take place online on Wednesday, December 16 th, 7-8pm. Our first KPG meeting was held online in September with record attendance.

Cornell – Liz Luvendyk

- Cornell's student directory is being compiled and will be available to parents before winter break.
- The PTO is highlighting a Cornell teacher or staff member twice a month in a get to know you email.
- There is still not a consensus on fundraising for this year, there is hope for smaller restaurant nights and a paired down fundraiser in the Spring.
- Yearbooks were distributed at the last materials pickup

OPM –Katie Cavanaugh and Niki Robinson

- Hiring two new teachers
- Working to figure out new ways to fundraise.
- Turnover for the PTO

Bennett Woods – Janet Philips and Nathan Schuster

- Not doing monthly parent group meetings
- Nothing scheduled
- School is working on updated directory
- Virtual spirit week this week

Hiawatha –Carly Patel and Amy Burton

- Construction Update - Wrapping up AC Installation at Hiawatha (to be finished by end of month) and beginning the planning for Restroom Renovations for the Summer of 2021

- Parent/Teacher Conferences are getting planned for Nov 2-20th
- BoOKEMOS - Getting Library Books in the hands of our Hawks!
- In the process of getting things in motion to order a new electronic sign.
- Teacher Distribution funds will be coming to teachers soon.
- Hiawatha Happenings usually brings in funds but had to be cancelled in the Spring. No plans yet for one this year but we will update as we know more.
- Hawk Walk will be postponed this year since it's hard to know what the school year will look like at this point. The \$450 deposit for use of the Fund Hub for that event is going to be rolled over for use later.
- Book Fair will not happen unless we are back in-person. A virtual book fair might happen – will update parents if so.
- Hiawatha t-shirts/sweatshirts...coming soon via on-line ordering.
- Culver's Night Out- Program is on hold until the restaurant can have higher capacity than 50%.
- Amazonsmile.com - 5% of your purchase goes to Hiawatha. Please select Okemos Hiawatha
- Teacher Appreciation – we are working on setting up a 'gift card drive' in place of the appreciation dinner.

Next meeting 12/21 - meeting 9-11am, ET - Online Zoom