

District Parent Council

October 21, 2019

12:06 start time Lynne Thatcher – Welcome & Introductions

- Parent Reps went around and introduced themselves

Superintendent's Report

- District Cultural Advisory committee advised Mr. Hood to attend Equity Leaders Conference in Indianapolis. Focused on school governance, questions and tools to check bias regarding disparity.
- Enrollment update, up 50 students from last year. Stan Fred statistician consulted. \$8000 per student did not know foundation analysis picked \$100 per student, state adopted at \$120 per student. Finance and board did a great job analyzing data when budget was unknown.
- Financial Audit completed, came back great and with \$350K back to the fund balance. Auditors would like it 12-15% currently at 10.1%
- Strategic Planning Process (SPC) underway, survey went out and we received around 700 responses. Held two meetings at high school during lunches, community forum 25-30 community members attended. Mission, Vision and Values at the core of first meeting. Meetings are open to community. Goal to have mission and vision by January.

Conversation trends:

- Equity
- Facility maintenance
- Size of schools
- Mental health
- Drugs, addiction, vaping
- Whole culture approach, Whole Child
- Teacher shortage, teacher retainment
- Preparing child for life not just 4-year college: trades, armed service, community college etc....
- Bond Work Continuing
 - Construction team at next BOE meeting on the 28th
 - Construction preview parent presentation Nov 13th at Bennett Woods
 - New classrooms and bus loop at Bennett Woods
 - Air Conditioning will not be completed next summer
 - Bathroom renovations (flip flop summers for work, if bathroom is renovated first then following summer air conditioning will be completed.) common area bathrooms only.
 - 3M film update after BOE contract will be bid out.
 - All information on website, transparency is of highest priority for this project.
<https://www.okemosk12.net/>
- District Cultural Advisory committee
 - Website Check the website
- Social Media
 - Have entered Twitter @superokemos

Board of Education Representative – Katie Cavanaugh

- School Lunches –
 - Questions/Concerns directed to food services regarding child's lunch account.
 - Discussion ensued. How can we change our system regarding food choices? Parents can make notes on lunch account either contacting food services or on www.sendmoneytoschool.com

New Business

- Best practices for parent groups
 - Google form sent out to parent group presidents
 - Our board members bonded
 - Financial Controls – two required signers
 - Bank Statements
 - Witnessing cash collection, separate from treasurer
 - Audit
- Topic Schedule Update
 - Neurodiversity, MSU teacher –
 - MStep - January
 - Technology safety
 - OEF – November

Community Education – Kim Burchman

- Non-profit, all profits go to general fund OPS.
- Recreation: several recreations activities for all ages
- Enrichment – K-6th
 - K-6th girls dance
 - K-6th boys dance
 - Chess for Beginners
 - Early release activities
 - Okemos special needs camp runs in the summer, since 1977.
- Okemos Kids Club
 - Full day preschool infant to 4
 - Half day preschool infant to 4
 - Before and After care at all 4 elementary
- Funding sources
 - Tuition
 - GSRP – grand funded for at risk preschool age children
 - DHS
 - Scholarships
 - Facilities

- Equity Alignment
 - Preschool immerses different cultures, provide diversity training for all staff
- Meridian Township and Community Education work together to not offer same programs

Principal's Report – Jody Noble

- 1/3 population did community service last week during school hours; Hartrick Park, Dobie Road Retirement Home, food pantry, Potter Park Zoo and a few others. Kelly Cesear – Great interest for increased participation.
- Base Days – Thursday
 - In Unity there is Strength: Teacher committee compile base lessons. Two weeks ago, students completed a teaching program involving restorative circles. Community Circle. Demonstrate with teachers how the practice can be used. Problems brought to circle. Next one is What is my Name? Students will discover the meaning of their name
 - Dart Bank funded a new STEM Lab
 - Two New Clubs: Robotics and Archery Program

Building Reports:

OHS – Niki Robinson; Angie Wilson

- October 23 – Parent Group meeting 9:00 AM.
- StraightTALK Program: Our first quarter speaker series focused on staying true to your goals and staying away from drugs and alcohol. The Okemos Channel filmed the presentation: <https://okemoschannel.viebit.com> If you need additional resources to support your student, please contact the student's counselor. You are not alone. There was a StraightTALK presentation for parents, 6:00 p.m. on October 15.
- October 25 marks the end of the 1st quarter
- SENIOR PICTURES DUE NOVEMBER 4th. Pictures must meet specific requirements which are listed on the website with examples.
- YEARBOOK PRICES GO UP AFTER NOVEMBER 1st. Make sure you order early and save money! Our website has step by step instructions on how to order. Yearbook Website: yearbookokemos.weebly.com
- November 13, 14 and 19 are Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Online Payments link for season passes and participation fees: <https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/9024>
- Coming up sports
 - **Tuesday 10/22**
 - Volleyball vs East Lansing-FR/JV 5PM, Varsity 6:30PM
 - Water Polo vs Holt/EL (Senior Night) –JV 6PM/Varsity 7PM
 - **Thursday 10/24**
 - Girls Swim & Dive vs East Lansing 6PM
 - Freshman Football vs East Lansing 6PM

Chippewa – Sarah Finley; Kristin Arnett

- Upcoming Important Dates
 - October 23 - Chippewa Community Football Game vs Dewitt at OHS - 7th at 4:30/8th at 6:30
 - October 24 - 8th Grade Band Halloween Concert
 - October 25 - 8th Grade Fall Harvest Dance (3-4pm)
 - November 5 - Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon
 - November 5-7 - Fall Parent/Guardian teacher conferences
- CHIPPEWA WALK/RUN - Over \$13,000 was raised which will go back to the students and teachers of Chippewa to enhance educational programs and learning spaces.
- CHIPPEWA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD - Science Olympiad is a science competition club for any interested 7th or 8th grader that is passionate about learning science and wants to meet to train and possibly compete in statewide Science Olympiad competitions. It will meet at Kinawa 5-6 school on Thursdays (except for any day that school is not in session) from 3:30 pm – 6pm.
- OKEMOS ARCHERY SEASON HAS BEGUN - While the Archery Tournament season hasn't officially started yet, our experienced archers were able to participate in the Grand Ledge Classic over the weekend gearing up for the 2020 tournament season. The program at Grand Ledge is super and it is always fun to participate. With only 1 week of archery club complete, Okemos Archery did a great job. We took 2 Middle School teams (6-8th grade), and seven 9th graders as we slowly build our high school presence.
- CMS BOYS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS - We will be hosting tryouts for the CMS boy's basketball teams during the dates and times below. Athletes must have a current physical on file prior to tryouts. Please contact Coach Aho (7th grade) at phil.aho@okemosk12.net or Coach Clark (8th grade) at bob.clark@okemosk12.net with any questions.
 - October 24 8th 3:00-5:00 7th 5:00-7:00
 - October 25 8th 5:00-7:00 7th 3:00-5:00
 - October 28 8th 5:00-7:00 7th 3:00-5:00
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon on November 5th--Volunteers & Donations Needed!
 - Please use this link to sign up to contribute food, supplies, your time or a monetary donation so that we can provide a special luncheon for all the teachers and support staff who work long hours during the parent teacher conference days! View the Volunteer Sign Up here: <https://signup.com/go/etufheB>.
- Box Tops: Box Tops are sent in twice a year and the next deadline for submissions is fast approaching! Please send in your clipped Box Tops before the November 1st due date. There is a pencil-shaped collection box in the main office. You may have noticed that some Box Tops labels have changed and are not meant to be clipped but scanned. You can do this by downloading the Box Tops app to your phone and scanning the store receipt. Please contact our Box Tops coordinator Meg Elias at megelias@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.
- NUMATS REGISTRATION
 - M-STEP scores have been mailed to parents for their review. Those 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have scores in the ADVANCED OVERALL PERFORMANCE LEVEL, in either reading or math, are eligible to participate in Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search. (NUMATS) While M-STEP scores are used to determine eligibility, the Talent Search program then requires students to take an off level test (the

SAT or ACT) to determine possible access to programs. Therefore, it is recommended that in addition to advanced M-STEP scores, students electing to participate in NUMATS also should have demonstrated advanced academic performance and/or aptitude.

- Registration packets with more complete details will be available in the Guidance Office beginning Thursday, October 3rd for interested students to pick up at school. These will not be mailed.
- Additionally, there will be an informational meeting for interested parents on Thursday, October 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Large Group Room at Chippewa. It is recommended that interested families read through the packets available in the Guidance Office prior to attending the meeting to determine what, if any, questions they may need answered at the meeting. Then, please plan to attend on October 17th, as the detailed information provided at that meeting will not be duplicated by phone or email.
- Questions not answered in the packets, or at the meeting, may be directed to Deb Hamilton, District Coordinator/Secondary Consultant for Gifted Education, at 706-501.

Kinawa –Karen Shapiro

- Parent-Teacher conferences are November 5-7th. Sign-up is ongoing online at: <https://www.myconferencetime.com/kinawa/>
- Some important dates:
 - October 22- 6th Grade Choir Concert at Kinawa @7pm.
 - October 24 - Halloween Band Concert at Chippewa- Kinawa students will walk to Chippewa.
 - October 29- Cyber Bullying Presentation for all Kinawa Students (Cyber Safety and Bullying). The Michigan Attorney General's office will present their OK2SAY student safety programming presentation.
 - November 4-8: Kinawa's Fall Book Fair.
- Socktober 2019: Seventh hour Academic Extension classes are participating in Socktober again. Asking families to consider donating new, or gently used, socks for Socktober! Socks are one of the most needed clothing items, but the least donated. New, or gently used socks are a small item that can make a huge difference! We will donate our collected socks to Child and Family Charities. All donations (new, gently used socks) will be collected until October 25th and can be dropped off in boxes around the school - library, office, end of hall trash cans. Each day we will collect and count the donated socks. Our school goal this year is 800 pairs of socks!
- Keep Kinawa Moving was a great success this year. We raised over \$22,000. Kinawa uses Deposit-a-Gift for their online fundraising which charged \$1,291 but there were substantially more online donations this year. Only about \$8,000 of the total was received through cash or check.
- Archery Club has begun with 190 students. Not all who signed up made it in due to the huge demand despite 2 extra sessions this year.

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk; Sarah Allen

- Our annual fall fundraiser, Cougar Run, raised a little over \$19,000. Our goal was \$18K, the students will receive a week of no homework the week of November 4th.
- Halloween celebration will take place in 10/31 with classroom activities and all school parade.
- PTO will start staff lounge, lunchroom and gym updates.
- Staff luncheon in November 5th will be provided by PTO.
- Our 3rd grade teacher, Jon Hughey, received an OEF award.
- PTO is looking to increase recycling bins at the school but space is terribly limited.

OPM –Katie Cavanaugh

- We have some recent upgrades to our playground paid for by PTO
 - Tree Walk - recently planted around the paved playground path different types of trees representing each classroom
 - Peace Labyrinth
 - New set of swings
- This past Sunday we had a fundraiser at the Cosmic Pumpkin Family Event at Zoobies in Old Town
- Student Council is selling coupon books as a fundraiser
- Our book fair is coming up in early November. It coincides with parent/teacher conferences which is great for sales
- Our annual Family Fun Bowling event is coming up November 16 at Spare Time
- New staffing positions are finalized

Bennett Woods – Janet Philips; Jonathan Pickett

- Upcoming dates:
 - Nov 4 -7, book fair.
 - Nov 13 - Construction Preview Parent Presentation (6:30 pm), family council meeting will follow (ie: tentative project timelines, safety measures, overview of project).
- Enrollment at Bennett Woods is up about 20 students
- Family council sent a hard copy in students backpacks for volunteer signs and an introduction to join our meeting as a way to encourage participation.
- School staff is working on a building directory which will include the student's name, grade, teacher and address, and the email address, phone number and name of Contact 1 and 2.
- Fun Run had about 17 classes with 100% enrollment and we raised about \$20k

Hiawatha – Carly Patel; Amy Burton

- Principal, Julie Belling, stated that there are 497 students after count day. 5 sections of 2nd grade, at capacity in kindergarten (didn't split classrooms so added aides).
- 27% ELL students (25 different countries) (need more parent support as well, translating emails, homework assistance, etc. per parent – bring up at strategic planning as well, print pledge of

allegiance written out), adding ELL aide. Parent suggested that having a couple ELL Parent Representatives would be nice for translating emails, etc.

- Hawk Walk Fundraiser – Goal was \$15,000, total raised \$18,238.07. Website donations amounted to \$13,270, so it was definitely worth doing the new FundHub format. Teachers helped a lot this year with getting donations. Offered teacher incentives for 100% registration, cookie parties, etc.
- Playground Supervisor – Still in need of playground supervisors 11:30-1:30 all days, any day. Sign up through <https://www.edustaff.org/>