

District Parent Council  
December 17, 2018  
@Bennett Woods

**Present** - Lynne Thatcher, Noelle Palasty, Amy Crites, Jayne Lock, Suzi Yunker, Niki Robinson, Sarah Finley, Sarah Allen, Amy Suhrheinrich, Karen Shapiro

**Welcome and Introductions** - Lynne Thatcher

**Interim Superintendent's Report** - Dr. Catherine Ash

- High enrollment numbers of students at Cornell. Board of Education has decided to go forward with a Bond Proposal for the May Ballot. 16 million dollars in budget cuts have happened over time. Concerted effort in flexible learning environment, personal learning devices, transportation, air conditioning and other upgrades will be addressed if bond passes.
- To alleviate enrollment capacity they are proposing to add five classrooms on to Bennett Woods.
- 24.9 mills over a period of time. If Bond passes you will continue paying the 7 mills we now pay, this bond will extend the current mill.
- There is a Bond tab on the district website and there are details about the bond in the committee reports. Election is in May.
- Okemos Schools will continue with the Labor Day waiver. Calendar for next year is still in negotiations but we have the flexibility to start prior to Labor Day if needed.
- Hiring an Assistant for Superintendent for Instruction to begin next school year. Interim Director of Instruction, Asia Wilcox will work several days a week this school year. Other administrators will assist in completing tasks. Position will be posted in February or March, screening done in April, second round of interviews to be done in April and plan to have new hire by the May 13 Board meeting.
- Board is entertaining a Policy for Opioid Antagonist, an optional policy, at state level. Drug Narcan is available in our schools if there is an overdose. Several in each school will be trained to administer. First reading of this policy took place, now policy is on website for community reading and then second reading will take place.
- Board adopted the revised budget at last Board meeting. Positive adjustments in revenue and expenditures. Positive \$376,500, Board keeps \$100,000 and employees receive a .75% raise according to contract.

**Principal's Report**- Noelle Palasty

- Enrollment is 423, 18 sections of general education, special education basic classroom and a resource room.
- Increase in social work time.
- There are a number of new staff members.
- Positive Behavior systems is in place. Expanding efforts on conflict resolution and social worker is in all classrooms educating about the behavior system. There is a different word focus at each grade level. Sensory room for students to reset themselves. There are

activities in the sensory room to help student reset. There is a behavior response team in the building and they will assist.

### **Board of Education - Amy Crites**

- Board as a whole is looking at how to support work in district in regards to mental health.
- Looking at new strategic plan in a few years.
- Meet on 2nd and 4th Monday every month with additional meetings as needed.
- Noted that expulsion meetings have been reduced and praises schools with use of conflict management and restorative justice.

### **DPC Business**

- Okemos Community Education, canceled due to illness.

### **School Reports - Prepared by school representatives**

#### **OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich, Lynne Thatcher, and Suzi Yunker**

- Dec. 17 - 21 is Holiday Spirit Week - A different theme each day, P.J.'s, Hat, Movie character, Fuzzy Sock, & Ugly Sweater.
- Dec. 18 Choir concert 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19 Orchestra concert 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20 Band concert 7:30 p.m.
- State Honors for OHS choir - 8 students were selected to sing at DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids in January
- Clothing donations are being taken through Jan 11. Warm, clean items for all ages. Bring to Main Office by Dec. 21st if you want to get them in before break.
- Poetry Out Loud school competition scheduled for Jan. 22. Contact Mrs. Garmon room A106 before break if interested.
- Save the date for the OHS Talent Show ~ 02.09.19 ~ 7:00 pm
- Okemos Key Club is selling Okemos Chiefs Ornaments for \$8.00 during lunch this coming week.
- OEF Apple Awards - a great gift idea for the Holidays! Go to [www.oefsite.org/apple](http://www.oefsite.org/apple)

#### **Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Sibylle Thornton**

- The CMS winter orchestra concert was Tuesday, 12/11 for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They also took professional photos which will be shared either digitally or for purchase, TBD.
- The Chippewa winter band concert was on Thursday, 12/13.
- The CMS winter choir concert is on Tuesday, 12/18 at 7:30 in the OHS Auditorium.
- The 2019 Chippewa musical is The Little Mermaid. Auditions will be held in the CMS Auditorium on December 17, 18 and 19 due to the large number of students interested!
- The Chippewa Winter Wonderland party will be on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> during school hours. They are looking for parent volunteers to help.
- The CPG asked CMS teachers to tell us their favorite shopping places and we've made buying a \$10 gift card to those stores super easy! They emailed out a link to parents to buy one or more gift cards and CPG will deliver purchases before the winter break! They

will also email the teacher about your gift so they'll know it's on its way! The link is through <https://signup.com>.

**Kinawa** –Sarah Finley and Niki Robinson

- no report submitted

**Cornell** – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- PTO is working to build up the Box Top and Scrip fundraisers to help the school families understand they require no additional money to be spent but can really bring in a lot of money if they would simply support these two fundraisers.
- Hat & mitten drive
- Food drive is collecting food for families in need

**OPM** – Kristin Arnett and Katie Cavanaugh

**Bennett Woods** – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock

- Next BWFC meeting is a social get together, open to all on Thursday, December 20, 6:30PM at Hop Cat.
- News In Brief from the November BWFC meeting
  - Principal Noelle Palasty requested, and BWFC approved the use of playground equipment funds for one or more adaptive swings (around \$500 each). More research, procurement and installation will be undertaken in due course
  - “Emoji Day” was a successful, much-anticipated reward for the school community meeting our Fun Run fundraising goal. Mrs. Palasty dressed as a smiley emoji all day long and visited all classrooms to congratulate the students on their efforts while passing out emoji stickers to all. Teachers wore emoji t-shirts/accessories too.
  - Mrs. Palasty led an exercise to review the purpose of BWFC and work towards developing working principles for the group. It was helpful to bring these things into focus and to give them proper consideration in our activities as a highly committed and productive team. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.
  - Box Tops have brought in over \$600.00 so far this year. These funds are typically used for miscellaneous items such as stickers, headphones etc.
  - BWFC donated \$100 to the Mankowski Christmas Party for Children.
  - We are trying a new T-shirt/decal fundraiser in partnership with a Bennett Woods family owned company, Nudge Printing. They are selling Okemos apparel, donating a portion of each sale to BWFC.
- First Grade Impression 5 Field Trips
  - All 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes have completed a 4-day field trip to Impression 5, split over the last 2-weeks.
- Applying the Equity Lens
  - BWFC members have been given copies of the equity plan documents provided by Dr. Ash at the November DPC meeting. We have created a shared Google document to capture our ideas and thoughts, so that we might more consciously view our activities and endeavors through the equity lens to serve our whole school community as best we can.

- District Digest - My one-page monthly update for the Bennett Woods community is proving difficult to maintain on a regular basis, as I suspected it might. I can't attend all DPC/BWFC meetings, and meeting minutes are not always made available quickly enough or in sufficient detail to translate into a useful document to share more widely in a timely fashion. The will is still there but the time and practical limitations of doing this successfully are apparent. It's on the backburner for now.
- Upcoming events:
  - BWFC Social Meeting @ Hop Cat on Thursday December 20, 6:30PM.
  - BW Holiday Sing-Along: 12/21 (2:45PM)
  - EDRU Skate night: 1/24
  - BW Family Science Night: 1/24 (*developing new sensory friendly zone this year*)

**Hiawatha** –Jen Nanzer

- No report submitted

### **Business**

- Next Meeting is January 14, 2019 at Cornell Elementary
  - Topic is MI Model of Health Education, John Hood
- Email: [Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com](mailto:Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com)
- Website: [www.okemosk12.net](http://www.okemosk12.net) – Families – District Parent Council

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Suhrheinrich