

District Parent Council
September 17, 2018
Board Room Administration Building

Attendance- Dr. Ash, Lynne Thatcher, Sarah Finley, Katie Cavanaugh, Melissa Cochran, Sarah Allen, Amy Suhrheinrich, Kristin Arnett, Jayne Lock, Andi Pincheira, Karen Shapiro, Anupama Atre, Sibylle Thornton, Nicki Robinson, Jen Nanzer

Welcome and Introductions.

Building Representatives.

- OHS- Andi Pincheira, Lynne Thatcher, Amy Suhrheinrich
- Chippewa- Karen Shapiro, Andi Pincheira
- Kinawa-Sarah Finley and vacancy
- Cornell- Sarah Allen, Katie Cavanaugh
- Bennett Woods- Anu Atre, Jayne Lock
- Hiawatha- Jen Nanzer and vacancy

Superintendent report. Dr. Catherine Ash

- Turf field is complete and unveiling ceremony is this Friday, Sept. 21 at 6:45pm. Donation for the field was made by the Grewal Family in honor of their parents.
- Bus capacity is at 77% and watching four routes as trouble spots and adjusting as needed.
- Studying Chippewa crossing and figuring out how to make it more visible to drivers. Will be getting a sandwich board purchased by road commission as an added way to notify drivers of the crossing ahead. Possibly more signage will be added to educate drivers.
- Enrollments up 71 students from last year and budget was based on 75 student increase. Bennett Woods up 15, Cornell up 44, Hiawatha down 22, Montessori same, Kinawa down 26, Chippewa up 39, High School up 36 students. Added classroom at Cornell.
- Facilities committee looking to address enrollment issues at elementary level. Do not need to deal with capacity at upper building levels. Cornell is the most affected by capacity issues. Committee met and looked at options of adding 4-5 additional classrooms to either Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell or Hiawatha. They looked at re opening 4-5 of the empty classrooms at Wardcliff located in the south wing. They studied all of these options regarding benefits, negatives, cost, etcetera and will put forth a plan to Board. An email will be sent to everyone from Dr. Ash explaining more details with about this issue. Board will decide what recommendation will be on ballot in May. Some security options will come out of this committee as well.
- There is a student out fundraising for Kinawa for furniture and this is not real fundraiser. If you come in contact with this student, please contact the school district.
- Budget audit is available Monday night. Budget is very close to its projections. It is a positive of less than a percent off of what was projected.
- Cornell traffic challenges are being worked on and looking at solutions.
- Security door cameras are up and running. Discussed encouraging kids to say things when they see things. Looking at additional security recommendations which will be brought forward. District uses a balanced approach for security as there is a wide continuum of beliefs about the subject.
- Number of social workers in our buildings are still not at the level as they were prior to budget cuts. Elementary levels are back to the same level. Board will be educated on what different jobs

responsibilities there are for the various positions, including, psychologist, social worker, and counselor, to help Board prioritize during budget decisions.

- Superintendent search applicants will be given to the Board of Education this week as they were posted through MASB. They are reviewed in closed session on September 24th and will narrow the list and finalize questions. The Board will utilize a local facilitator to assist the Board with a process for sorting and selecting candidates; finalizing questions; managing the interview process; including stakeholder interviews; and decision making. First round interviews are on October 8 and 9 with the Board of Education and second round interviews on October 24 will also include stakeholders. Opportunity for parents will be on October 24 with finalists. New superintendent will be announced at November 12 Board Meeting.

Board of Education Report

- No report

Committee Reports

- Currently no OEF representative. OEF is looking for Board Representatives.
- Special Education - Anu will continue to inform as topics arise as there is no official committee.

Upcoming Topics for District Parent Council

- Discussed upcoming meeting topics.
- Discussed questions for Board of Education Candidate Interviews on October 15 from 1:00-2:30. Candidates receive questions in advance from the DPC. DPC provides a time keeper and asks the questions at this televised event.

Building Reports Highlighted

- OHS- Homecoming week activities September 22-29. Monday is powderpuff game, Wednesday is the bonfire, game on Friday and Dance on Saturday.
- Chippewa Walk/Run is Friday, September 28.
- Cornell- Global Cornell Fair divided the event up into various jobs instead of one person being in charge and it worked well.
- Central- In need of lunch room advisors.
- Bennett Woods- Fun Run is October 5 and still use Get Moving Crew website but family council runs event. Skate nights at Edru four times a year. Include a sheet in Friday folders after DPC with information from the meeting.
- Hiawatha implemented a play ground training meeting on the playground for each grade this year. They changed their lunch schedule this year and included a visual timer for the lunch period. Hawk Walk is coming up in October. The fourth grade class music puts on the Haunted Music Room.

Reports from Building Representatives

OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich and Andi Pincheina

- Homecoming September 22-29- Harry Potter theme- Seniors Gryffindor, Juniors Slytherin, Sophomores Ravenclaw and Freshman Hufflepuff. There will class t-shirts and spirit week themes each day. All events are school sponsored, extracurricular activities and school policies/code of conduct apply.

- Saturday, September 22 Float building in faculty parking lot
- Monday, September 24 Powderpuff football game (junior girls vs. senior girls) 6:00pm at football field
- Wednesday, September 26 Bonfire 7:00-8:30pm at OHS. Marching band will play, DJ, dancing, food and lots of fun.
- Friday, September 28 Homecoming Parade starts at 5:30 at 2/42 Church (Bennett/Hulett) heads through traffic circle and ends at OHS Stadium
- Friday, September 28 Homecoming Football Game at 7:00pm
- September 29 Homecoming Dance 8:30-11:30 at OHS Commons
- Spanish trip for June of 2019 is Costa Rica, organized by Señorita Funk.
- Parent Group meets September 18 at 9:00
- PSAT/NMSQT testing for Juniors who are interested in National Merit Scholarship on Saturday, October 13
- Understanding the College Admission Process presentation Monday, September 17 from 6:00-7:00 in OHS Kiva
- Home-to-School Communication takes place through many mediums at the high school. Weekly News & Notes, FLEX video announcements, website, message board on Jolly Road, Principal report at Parent Group meetings, Power School, handbook, Okemos Substance Abuse Prevention Parent Network, twitter and more.
- OHS Band Car Wash was held on Saturday, September 15
- Okemos High School turf field will hold its first football game against Grand Ledge on Friday, September 21

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Andi Pincheina

- Friday, 9/21 - First CMS Parent Group meeting at 8:45 am in the large group room.
- Volleyball games: 9/17, 9/19, 9/24, 9/26
- Cross Country meets: 9/17, 9/24
- Friday, 9/28 - CMS Walk/Run Event, 1:15 pm. Fundraising is in full swing. The Walk/Run t-shirt can be ordered online, as well as donating for the fundraiser.

- Chippewa is looking for a volunteer to run an after-school competitive science Olympiad club. If you enjoy working with students and fostering science learning, engineering skills, problem solving abilities, and creativity please email Mrs. Noble at jody.noble@okemosk12.net.
- Math Circle - These students, and sometimes their teachers, meet with mathematical professionals in an informal setting, after school or on weekends, to work on interesting problems or topics in mathematics. The goal is to get the students excited about mathematics by providing a setting that encourages them to become passionate about mathematics. The Kinawa/Chippewa Math Circle is open to all students in grades 5-8, and we will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m in Room 303 (Mrs. Murembya's room in Kinawa). This year's math circle is being led by Professor Rajesh Kulkarni from MSU. Our first meeting for the 2018-19 school year will be on Tuesday, September 18th at 6:00 p.m.
- M-STEP scores arriving to the homes of all parents/guardians shortly.

Hiawatha- Jan Nanzer

Past events

- Ice cream social/Open house was held on August 29th, it had a great turn out, classrooms were open to families and ice cream was provided by PTO
- August 30th - All grades/classes attended playground lessons on the playground during the morning to review rules and expectations during recess
- Curriculum night was September 5th and had a good turn out as well
- 1st PTO meeting was held on Thursday, September 13th at 7pm. PTO meetings will alternate between morning and evening meetings to give working parents an opportunity to attend meetings.
- Picture day was held on September 11th

Upcoming events

- 1st early release day September 19th
- September 28th - Kindergarten field trip to apple orchard
- September 28th - 1st grade field trip to planetarium
- October 3rd Student Count Day
- October 3rd Hawk Walk
- October 5th - 4 th Grade to OHS Stadium Show 9:35 – 11:00 a.m.
- October 8th Brainstormers! Assembly – 1:30 p.m.

- October 17th Early Release Day 1:50 Dismissal
- October 17th - Kindergarten - field trip to Abrams Planetarium & MSU Dairy Store 9-12
- October 26th Annual PTO Hiawatha Harvest
- October 31st - 4th Grade Haunted Music Room 10:30 a.m. – All school assembly in gym

Changes this year

- Lunch schedule has been changed this year to the following: 2nd Grade: 11:25 – 11:45; 1st Grade: 11:45 – 12:05; Kindergarten: 12:05 – 12:25; 4th Grade: 12:30 – 12:50; 3rd Grade: 12:50 – 1:10
Changes to lunch schedule has provided less students in cafeteria and on playground for safer environment and timer is displayed during lunch to help children with time management. Children are taken out to recess when lunch timer is over

Carline pickup procedure has changed this year. Student names are now displayed in car window . Walkie talkies, megaphones, and colored cones are used to make picking up kids more efficient.

Announcements

- Help needed - Noon hour supervisors
- Meet the Master's program???