

District Parent Council

April 16, 2018

Meeting notes

Attendance: Lynne Thatcher, Sarah Finley, Andi Pincheira, Leeni Shrestha, Jen Nanzer, Katie Cavanaugh, Amy Suhrheinrich, Karen Shapiro, Melissa Cochran, Alena Zachery-Ross, Sarah Wohlford, Wei Wang, Ping Liu, Steve Stierley, Jayne Lock, Sarah Allen, Shruti Gross

12:03 pm Meeting began

Superintendent – Alena Zachery-Ross

- Hiawatha Principal
 - Finished interviewing four candidates (two external and two internal)
 - Hopefully taking to the Board for May 14 approval
- Begindergarten
 - May 2, 6pm, meeting for parents at Central Montessori to help educate them about the program
 - For 2018-2019
 - Tiered lottery to give Sept. 2 to Dec. 1 birthdays
 - This would prioritize the children
 - Then lottery for birthdays for next group
 - Apply by May 18
- Math committee
 - Elementary math curriculum
 - Committee will be presenting to the Board
- Buzzer door locks
 - 6-0 Board vote
 - Physical
 - Over Spring Break, wiring was installed around the front doors
 - Now on to the next pieces, hoping within 4-6 weeks
 - Procedural
 - Working to create an universal document for policies and procedures
 - Timeline for end of May, hopefully

Board of Education – Sarah Wohlford

- Budget
- Community Conversation – April 18, 2018
 - For funding needs
 - Along with security
 - Format is sitting at tables with committee members shifting from table to table
 - Chippewa, large group room, 7-9pm (gym entry)

Hiawatha – Steve Stierley – Principal

- 713 students currently
- Choir program singing National Anthem at Lugnuts, 7:05pm
- Archery program
 - Grown a lot
 - We have two students going to Nationals
- Science Olympiad is competing at States
- 6th graders, April 19-20, going to Science Center in Detroit

- M-STEP has started with 5th graders and 6th graders soon
- Entrepreneur Night, May 7th
- Kinawa Community Garden – plots available for rental
- Food for Friends – food pantry of snacks for certain students
 - Always looking for donations
- Two noon hour supervisors needed
- May 24, all 4th graders will be coming to visit, evening meeting for parents
- Morning network video

Assistant Chief Ken Plaga and Officer Brian LeRoy

- His schedule is Mon-Thurs 7-5
- Kinawa
 - DARE officer in the upper schools
 - DARE is focused on decisions
 - DARE program doesn't talk about certain drugs so they aren't the ones teaching them about drugs that they didn't know about
 - Positive decision making
 - 10 lesson program, Officer teaches 9 of them
 - Go out to the crosswalks to talk to the kids
 - Hang out with the kids
- TEAM training (Michigan State Police)
 - Freshman/Sophomore – teaching them about sexting
 - Want it done at Chippewa now too
- Pop into the elementary schools once in awhile
 - Wanting to build positive relationships with the students
- Partnership with school
 - Very positive
 - We are involved in all lockdown drills
 - Their role is to walk around and check doors and look for anything else that doesn't look okay
- Ingham County starting to implement what we've been doing for years
- Drugs
 - How do we look statistics wise with drug abuse
 - It's out there but I don't think it's a huge problem
 - "SMOkemos"
 - Okemos isn't any worse off, probably pretty typical
 - Kids talk, stories get exaggerated
 - K-9 sweeps at High School
 - By request at the high school
 - Chippewa only by request, not very often
 - Very rarely do we find drugs in the building
 - Staff and faculty report it
 - Individual drug issues
 - Why can't the parents know of information?
 - Individual information can't be released for liability and legal reasons
- Laws and Civil liability presentation
- School resource officer in both Haslett and Okemos because they see the benefit in it
- Spend a lot of time working with the school district
- Nextdoor.com

- Parent groups will ask to have the police give a presentation
 - Can call 911 if they had been drinking to call to help a friend

District Parent Council Building and Committee Reports

OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich and Stefanie Konrad

- Substance Abuse and Staying Informed: “New trends in vaping alarm educators and parents”
<http://www.theintell.com/news/20180319/new-trends-in-vaping-alarm-educators-and-parents>
- High school testing is now complete. PSAT10 for sophomores, SAT, ACT WorkKeys/M-Step for Juniors. Freshman and Seniors did not attend school during testing.
- Senior meetings are taking place to prepare for graduation including cap and gown pick up.
- Help is being requested from Parents/Guardians of Juniors to host the Senior Farewell at 7:30pm on Thursday, May 24 at St. Martha Parish. This is a non-denominational service for graduating seniors. Featured are student speakers, faculty speakers, orchestral and choral music, and ends with a blessing of the senior class. Following is a cookie and punch reception.
- Course registration has taken place.
- Twelve students were invited to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Honors Orchestra and nine invited to compete in the State Solo Competition. There were five ensembles invited to submit recordings.
- Two OHS students placed in the Capital Area Poetry Competition. The poetry reading will be held at Schuler Books and Music in Meridian Mall on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:00pm.
- Will Heininger, Mental Health Speaker and Advocate, spoke on Wednesday, April 11. His speech can be found on the website.
- Les Miserables is the High School Spring Musical and performances will be at 7:00pm on April 26, 27, 28 and May 3,4,5. Also, at 2:30pm on April 29 and May 6. Adult tickets are \$15.00 and Student and Senior Citizens are \$10.00.
- Career in Sports Night is April 18 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the OHS Kiva. It is a free opportunity for students to learn from and newton with sports industry professionals and representatives from sports-focused college majors.
- Okemos Lacrosse Mulch sale is underway. Please consider purchasing mulch as this is a self funded club. You can contact any lacrosse player or go online to the website: okemoslacrosse.com or directly to mulch sale at: okemoslacrosse.leagueapps.com

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Shruti Gross

Kinawa – Andi Pincheira and Sarah Finley

5th Grade - 331

6th Grade- 382

Total = 713

- Kinawa’s Choir Program will be signing the National Anthem at Lugnuts Stadium on Tuesday April 17.
- Congratulations to Daniel Kwon and Leah Elliot on qualifying for Nationals in Archery Club. They will compete in Louisville, Ky on May 10 - May 12.
- Kinawa’s Science Olympiad team qualified for the State Tournament on April 28. Our Science Olympiad team competes against all schools in the state grades 6-8.
- All 6th grade students will be traveling to the Michigan Science Center on April 19, 20, and May 11
- 5th Graders began M-Step testing on April 10th and will continue testing the week of April 16th. Our 6th Graders will test on May 1 and May 3
- Kinawa is proud to announce our data on MI School Data this year. Our overall Index rating was 88.71 with a School Quality and Student Success Overview component index rating of a 96.52.

- Entrepreneur Night will be held on Monday, May 7th from 6:00-8:00. Participation is \$3.00 which covers overhead including table space
- Applications are still being accepted for use of a garden plot in the Kinawa Community Garden
- Food 4 Friends” is an ongoing food share program which was started to combat food waste and to provide snacks for students. Non-perishable food items can be donated to the labeled box in front of the main office
- Kinawa is looking to hire 2 noon hour attendants to help with our lunches.
- Finally on May 24 we will be inviting all current fourth graders to visit Kinawa and hold a 4th grade parent night meeting in the evening from 6pm - 7pm.

Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- K Parent Information Night will be held in the library on April 19th from 6-7pm.
- OHS's SOMEKO will perform at a school-wide assembly on April 20th at 10:35am.
- Global Cornell - April 20th from 6:30-8pm
- K Round Up - April 30th
- Family Mileage Club and Silent Auction - May 18th from 6-7pm on our school's track.

OPM – Kristin Arnett, Heather Moeser, and Kally Etchebarne

Bennett Woods – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock

- Family Council meeting was the same evening as Kindergarten Roundup this month, so Principal Palasty was unable to be present, but BWFC President reported on her behalf that:
 - Pick-up and drop-off procedures will be changing in the near future.
 - Some teaching staff retirements are expected but will be announced at the next meeting.
- Board Members - Vote for next school year board member positions. It was suggested to have President: Stacy Herman Vice President: Lauren Kushion Treasurer: Katie Atkins Secretary: Beth Brauer-Delaney and Dani Morris is asking to have someone replace her co-secretary position next year.
- Teacher Grants requested and approved this month:
 - Floor seats (“Back Jack Seats”) for a 1st grade classroom.
- A card was made for Mr. John, the crossing guard, for all of his hard work keeping students safe. All BW students have signed it and it is ready for delivery.
- BWFC will be doing something for the staff every Monday in May for staff appreciation week.
- Jayne Lock talked about the need for more outward communication to BW parents about District Parent Council activities and the topics presented at meetings.
 - Jayne suggested sending a half-sheet flyer once a month, directly after each DPC meeting. The flyer would highlight topics discussed, highlight relevant community action/engagement points, provide links to more information, and provide dates of upcoming school-related meetings.
 - Jayne volunteered to develop the flyer and get a system up and running.
- Upcoming Events
 - Mileage Club is up and running, and very well attended as usual.
 - Parent week: April 23-27
 - Family Night: Friday May 11
 - Kindergarten Family Music Nights are this week, 17th and 18th April.
 - EDRU Fundraising Night 4/20
 - Family Fun Fair, our biggest fundraiser, is on the evening of Friday April 27th
 - Carnival games and prizes.
 - Pizza and other concessions.

- Raffle, including grade level theme baskets, many donated prizes, priceless teacher donations.
- 50/50 raffle
- Star Wars Characters will be in attendance again!
- MSTEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress):
 - 3rd Grade Schedule:
 - May 3 – ELA Computer Adaptive (9:10 & 1:00)
 - May 8 – Math Computer Adaptive (9:10 & 1:00)
 - 4th Grade Schedule:
 - May 1 – ELA Computer Adaptive (9:10 & 1:30)
 - May 9 – Math Computer Adaptive (9:10 & 1:30)
- Next BWFC Meeting - 5/10

Hiawatha – Joanna Wangerin, Cathy Heath, Jen Nanzer

OEF – Martha Hentz

- 2018 OEF Annual Awards. The Okemos Education Foundation is seeking nominations for its annual awards to honor excellence in our district. Award recipients and nominees will be recognized during the annual OEF Awards Banquet on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at MSU’s Kellogg Center.
 - Nominations are being accepted for all four OEF Awards:
 - Commitment to Excellence Award: educators and administrators
 - Special Recognition Award: support staff
 - Volunteer Service Award: individuals providing extraordinary volunteer service to the district
 - Nominations can be made by anyone: parents, students, alumni, school staff, community members. Please see the nomination forms, instructions, and criteria for each award at www.oefsite.org/awards. Consider nominating those you think deserve to be honored...but don’t delay: nomination packets must be received by Friday, June 15, 2018.
- APPLE Awards are perfect year-end gifts for any Okemos employee who deserve a public “thank you” for their hard work in educating our children. These awards, which are available for a \$20 tax-deductible donation to the OEF, allow you to personalize the award with the giver’s name, the recipient’s name, and the specific reason you wish to honor this person. The 5x7 color awards are then delivered to your recipient, and both the donor’s name and the staff member’s name are listed on the OEF website. Visit www.oefsite.org/apple for more information or to order an APPLE Award.
- OEF seeks new trustees for 2018-19. The OEF is governed by an all-volunteer board of trustees, people who come from all corners of our community and who share a passion for excellence in public school education. Board terms are 2 years and start in August. We need new people with fresh ideas and energy! Please browse www.oefsite.org/board to learn more and to download a short application.
 - Time commitment is approximately 5 hours per month. Contact Board Chair Martha Hentz (chair@oefsite.org / 517.512.5821) for more information.
- Grants. The OEF provides funding for after-school clubs, educational programs, and classroom grants in every building in our district. So far this year, more than \$70,000 has been approved. Here are a few:
 - Transportation for Chieftain Champs mentoring program (4 schools)
 - CPR equipment - Sheree Jungwirth- Kinawa
 - Speaker: Holocaust storyteller - Cyndi Webster – Chippewa

- Alternative seating for special education students - Rachel Baldwin – Kinawa
- Author Visit: Katie Slivensky (Okemos Alum) - Sandy Fields – OHS
- Math intervention support materials - Lori Mazzullo – Chippewa
- Digital audio books - Polly Alexander – Chippewa
- Mind-Up curriculum materials - Andrea Hallead – Kinawa
- Kids Blog (subscription for some LA classrooms) - Laura Kampf – Kinawa
- Speaker: Nature Discovery (Michigan-Native snakes) - David Pruden – Kinawa
- Science Fair support - 5 schools (\$350 per school)

**See the entire list of approved grants on our website: www.oefsite.org/grants.

None of these experiences would be possible without the financial support of the OEF's donors. Have you donated this year? www.oefsite.org/donate. THANK YOU!