

District Parent Council

March 19, 2018

Meeting notes

Attendance: Peggy Baldwin, Jen Nanzer, Joanna Wangerin, Andi Pincheira, Karen Shapiro, Anupama Atre, Lynne Thatcher, Amy Crites, Ryan Volz, Katie Cavanagh, Alena Zachary-Ross, Sarah Allen, Melissa Cochran, Martha Hentz, Jayne Lock, Heather Moeser

12:00 pm Meeting began

Superintendent – Alena Zachery-Ross

- See the 1:00pm portion of the meeting

Board of Education – Amy Crites

- Really busy with increased security discussion
 - Locked doors and buzzer systems will cost about \$25,000
 - We can do it in this budget year because of surplus in budget
 - Buzzer system will be school hours only
 - Other additional systems would have to be part of a bond issue in which money wouldn't be ready until 2020
- Full reports are online
 - District tab
 - Superintendent committee reports
 - Watch the Board of Education – Okemos Channel – February 26, 2018
 - March 12, 2018 Facilities report
 - April 18, 2018 Community Input
 - Asked how information gets out to schools
 - Possible federal grants for security upgrades
 - What is district doing to help the Special Education students for drills?
 - They are aware of sensory issues
 - Local enforcement have their own protocol
 - Required to come and go through the building
 - Officer Leroy is in the schools, his full-time job is to know what is happening in the schools
 - He knows what happens when a child has an issue outside or inside school
 - Alena has had FEMA training, twice and says it changes constantly from one training to the next
 - Question regarding sheriff at outskirts of town, in the county, and his protocol and what he's doing that is different than in our town
 - Last bond was already focused on security
- Asked about School of Choice
 - 10% district is school of choice
- Budget
 - Board asked to prioritize items
 - Has to be finalized by June
 - Always very conservative in our enrollment numbers and so we have extra money because our enrollments are going up, fast
- Physical buildings are a major issue that needs to be figured out

Hiawatha – Peggy Baldwin – Interim Principal

- Interim as of October 23, 2018
- Previous principal took an Asst. Superintendent job in Novi

Superintendent – Alena Zachery-Ross

- Her entire presentation is available upon request

Building and Committee Reports

OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich and Stefanie Konrad

- 03/01 - 03/02: MSBOA Festival took place at OHS. All our Orchestras and Bands received a rating of 1, congratulations.
- 03/06, 03/08, 03/15: Parent Teacher conferences took place, ran smoothly.
- 03/06 - 03/15: Scheduling Meetings for next school year with Freshmen, Sophomore and Juniors
- 03/07 Suicide awareness assembly: Will Heininger spoke to the students in a school-wide assembly, will be giving a presentation to all interested parents on 04/11
- 03/09 Spaghetti dinner benefitted heavily from High School students willing to help. Thank you to all parents, especially the ones in the kitchen, who stayed much longer at their station than they had signed up for.
- 03/14: Leroy Campbell, artist, mentor, teacher, Gullah ambassador, motivational speaker and cultural attached visited OHS, and spoke with different groups of students during the day.
- 03/14: School walk-out in support of the school safety and common sense gun laws.
- 03/17-03/18: Band State and Solo Ensemble took place.
- 03/19 Meet the Chiefs for Spring sports
- 03/22: Juniors and eligible senior will register for Michigan Merit Examination during FLEX, tests will take place 04/10 and 04/11
- 03/19-03/23 7:30pm @OHS Auditorium: Fine Arts Festival (19th Wooster Chorus Concert, 20th Choir Cabaret, 21th Festival Jazz Night, 22th Chippewa Night, 23th Orchestra Concerto Concert, 24th Collage Concert)
- 03/22: 2019 Spanish Trip Meeting
- 04/10: SAT (11th graders) and PSAT (10th graders), no school grade 9 and 12
- 04/11: Work Keys/M-Step (11th graders), no school grade 9, 10 and 12
- 04/11 7pm @OHS Auditorium
- 04/18 7pm @KIVA: Career in sports night, opportunity for students to explore different jobs in the sport industry, please RSVP to ira.childress@okemosk12.net if possible.
- March is reading month is celebrated with different activities each week where the students can earn prizes, e.g. choose a book in the library, creating words with giant Scrabble pieces, etc.
- Parent group discussed Walk out and Post-Prom; Post prom organization team is working hard.
 - Parents can sign up to cover the cost of one part of the event via Sign Up.
- Swim "night" out: During April the swim teams are planning to host a fundraising event at the OHS pool, where 3-6 graders can sign up to spend 3-4 hours with the swim teams in and around the pool with different activities, and their parents are free to leave and have lunch, go to a movie, more details coming soon.
- Euchre tournament: Organized by the OHS parent group as a fundraiser for Post Prom, all adults are invited to attend, more details coming soon

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Shruti Gross

- The last Chippewa Parent Group meeting was on 3/16/18.
- Parent teacher conferences took place last week, including a teacher luncheon.

- Schuler Book Days will take place March 18-24. Stop into the Okemos location 3/18-3/24 and mention "Chippewa MS" at checkout and CMS will receive 20% of the sale of eligible merchandise (excludes gift card and Cafe purchases). If you make your purchases online during the same time period use the code CHIEFS at checkout.
- CMS Track practice begins on 3/20. All students who want to participate must have a current physical on file.
- Shrek Jr. was a success!

Kinawa – Andi Pincheira and Sarah Finley

- Conferences and teacher appreciation luncheon were held last week
- Current 6th grade parent orientation for Chippewa will be held March 20th & 21st from 5:30-6:30 at CMS
- Kinawa's Got Talent Makeup is March 19th from 6:30-8:30 in the KMS auditorium

Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- March 23rd AM - We are looking forward to our annual visit from the Chippewa Jazz Band.
- March 27th 6:30pm at Chippewa - 3/4 Grade Spring Music Program
- April 20th AM - We are looking forward to our annual SOMEKO performance.
- April 20th evening - Global Cornell
- April 19th at 6pm - K Parent Info Night
- April 30 - K Round Up

OPM – Kristin Arnett, Heather Moeser, and Kally Etchebarne

- Family Science Night is April 24.
- Enrollment Applications Closed March 16 4PM
- OPM families have 1st priority for the Kinawa Community Garden's - application process has started.
- Mileage club begins after spring break and runs through May 25th
- 3rd annual Flash Dash Fun Run is scheduled for May 11 - community sponsorship for this fun run will soon be available. This fundraiser has successfully allowed OPM to suspend direct fundraising from OPM families.
- Next PTO meeting March 19th 9AM OPM library.

Bennett Woods – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock

- Science Fair was held on Feb 22. There was a lot of participation and positive feedback.
- March is Reading month activities include - visiting author on Mar 08, book fair from Mar 12 - Mar 16 and parent/family guest readers throughout the month. Students are going for gold with their reading minutes logged.
- Fine arts festival is on going with art displayed at OHS till end of March.
- Successful teacher luncheon on Mar 13 during parent teacher conferences week (Mar 12 to Mar 15).
- Spring Picture day is Mar 19.
- Music share days on Mar 20, Mar 22 and Mar 23. Students can share a musical piece/act with their class.
- 4th graders visit the State Capitol on Mar 22 and Mar 27.
- Kindergarten parent Information night on Apr 12 at 6.30 pm. Kindergarten round up and student visit is May 02.
- Last fundraising night at EDRU skate on Apr 20.
- Family Fun Fair is on Apr 27 from 6 to 8 pm and preparations are in full swing.

- School is working on having signage installed for no left turn into Bennett Woods parking lot from Bennett road during drop off and pick up times. Also extra car line being added to prevent back up on Bennett Road.
- Next BW family council meeting is on Apr 12 from 6.30 to 7.30 pm.

Hiawatha – Joanna Wangerin, Cathy Heath, Jen Nanzer

- Science Fair held on March 14th. A successful event with many presenters. Thanks to the OEF for their support!
- Pancake Breakfast held in late February. Teachers and staff volunteer as servers. Fun was had by all!
- Search still continues for Principal.
- Upcoming events:
- March 20th 3rd-grade field trip to Ingham County Fairgrounds
- March 21st Chippewa Band performance
- March 23rd 2nd-grade field trip to Wharton Center

OEF – Martha Hentz

- Okemos Education Foundation www.oefsite.org
- Distinguished Alumni Award. Do you know an Okemos alumnus who has accomplished amazing things and worked to improve their community? The OEF has partnered with the Okemos Alumni Association (OAA) to facilitate the selection process of the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award and they are in the process of reviewing nominations now. Learn more about all the OEF awards for excellence at www.oefsite.org/awards.
- Nomination deadline is April 1, 2018 for the Distinguished Alumni Award.
- Elementary Author Visit. The OEF partners with Horizon Bank annually to bring an author to each of our elementary schools. This year's author is Leslie Helakoski (www.helakoskibooks.com), and she visited our schools earlier this month. Ms. Helakoski, a Kalamazoo resident, has had 10 of her books published, with two more on the way. She is also an artist whose illustrations are found in two of her titles. Ms. Helakoski explained how she approaches the writing process, what readers can learn from a book's illustrations, and about the power a writer holds when creating original stories.
- Thank you, Horizon Bank, for supporting the OEF's beloved Visiting Author program since 2009. OEF support to Okemos Public Schools. The OEF board of trustees has approved more than \$70,000 in financial support to Okemos schools this academic year. View the full list of classroom grants, programs, clubs, and projects on our website: www.oefsite.org/grants. This support is made possible by our donors, whose generous contributions provide the OEF's revenue each year. If you share our mission of promoting innovation in our schools, please consider making a donation: www.oefsite.org/donate.
- OEF seeks new trustees. 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. If interested, please browse oefsite.org/board to learn more and to download a short application. We are especially in need of people who have extra time to spare (2-5 hours/month), and those with experience in development/fundraising, event planning, social media, and education.

New Business

- New reps if you are moving on
- Which school you're willing to commit to
- Need High school rep

- Need Chippewa rep
- Need Secretary
- Need VP

- A parent wants these meetings in evenings
 - The problem would be the School representatives wouldn't be available

Next meeting: April 16, 2018 Kinawa on Community Education