

District Parent Council

February 26, 2018

Meeting notes

Attendance: Sarah Allen, Kristin Arnett, Stephanie Konrad, Jayne Lock, Andi Pincheira, Karen Shapiro, Amy Suhrheinrich, Lynne Thatcher, Alena Zachery-Ross, Vin Lyon-Callo, Lynna Hassenger, Jen Berman, Christine Parkhurst

12:05 pm Meeting began

Superintendent – Alena Zachery-Ross

- High school fire alarms going on, dust on lines, infrared was believing it was smoke
 - Question – is there a plan in place to keep the dust down?
 - There had been a plan but with less people from layoffs years ago it hasn't been sustained
 - It will be figured out how to manage it in the future
- Lockdown drills
 - Someone ran into huge electrical box near Central Montessori
 - Electrical surges caused Lockdown Drills at all the schools, at midnight
- Flooding
 - Meridian Township contacted for the road closings due to the flooding
 - Parents asked, why didn't you close school, many were glad the students weren't at home so they could deal with their homes without kids at home
 - Over 75% weren't impacted so it didn't warrant a school closing
- Committees will do report and recommendations to School Board
 - February 26 – one committee report presented
 - March 12 – short and long term recommendations will be given
 - April 18, 7pm, Senior Center – second committee report presented with an interactive feedback of Community engagement on both recommendations
- Safety
 - Faculty are discussing what steps they can take
 - High School Student supervisors have been placed at the front door, all day long to track who is coming in and out
 - Discussion about what we'll do
 - Infrastructure issues
 - Training
 - Revisited Crisis team in plan – totally needs to be updated
 - Safety team
 - Writing emails to Board are highly effective
- March 14 and April 20
 - High School walk out
 - Ms. Sermak is planning to listen to the students
 - Administration is asking the students questions
 - Small or something big walk-out?

Board of Education – Vin Lyon-Callo

- See above as it was all part of the discussion
- Prioritizing budget needs
- Statistics of mass shootings
 - We need to think more broadly because a lot of people and students are suffering

- How do we have life be better for people so people aren't suffering
- How to keep people well

Central Montessori Principal Report – Sue Hallman is absent

Director of Food Service – Lynna Hassenger and Christine Parkhurst

- HHFA 2010
 - Expected Results
 - Guidelines
- Breakfast Meal Pattern
- Lunch Meal Pattern
- Vegetarian meal option suggestions
 - Look for meatless entrée hot options
- Certain of our school kitchens aren't equipped to cook from scratch
- Competitive Foods “Smart Snacks”
 - Guidelines
 - All products sold
 - Entire school day
 - Entire school campus
 - NOT foods served
 - Not evenings, weekends, etc.
 - Food items include
 - Vending machines
 - Alliance for a Healthier Generation
 - School stores
 - Fundraising
 - Must determine if compliant or non compliant and record activity
 - As of July 1, 2015 2 exempt food fundraisers
 - A la carte
 - Snack carts
- Nutrition Standards for Beverages
- Sharing Tables are allowed
 - It's not regulated
 - Wrapped food
 - No hot food
- Procurement & Pricing
 - Procurement: All items must be bid
 - Buy USA Requirement
 - Waivers for non USA products 2017
 - Waivers for !% flavored milk 2017
 - Waivers for WG items 2017
 - Pricing
 - Meals: Paid Lunch Equity Tool
 - Can't increase more than 10 cents per year
 - Single Items: Must cover all cost for the item. USDA/MDE suggest at least a 38-40% food cost
- Clean label products
- Recycling
 - High School
 - Cardboard
 - Food Scraps for Biology Department

- Chippewa and Kinawa
 - Trays
 - Plastic
 - Foil
- Elementary Schools
 - Varies
- Exploring options and costs of biodegradable service ware
 - Estimated additional \$16,750 in costs for trays
 - Estimated additional \$14,100 in costs for service ware
 - Clubs could raise money in the community to cover the cost of using biodegradable trays
- Nutrislice
 - Online menus
 - Translatable menus into 50+ languages
- Meal account messages
 - 4 digit pin number
- Allergens
- Donated money is accepted
 - Kids eat from entrees but can't do from a la carte
- Revenue vs Expenditures
- Wellness Committee
 - OPS Policy on District Website
 - Policy Content
- Future....Changes
 - Child Nutrition Reauthorization on hold in Washington
 - All HHFA 2010 implementation changes on schedule
 - Buy American Provision
 - Safe Chicken and Meat for Children Act of 2017
 - Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meals Program – updated ADA
- Struggles are
 - Trying to find trained employees is very difficult
 - Lots of staff are retired (who don't have computer skills) because the pay rate is so low
- Athletic boosters are in desperate need of volunteers

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.
- **Elementary Author Visit.** The OEF partners with Horizon Bank each spring to bring an author to each of our elementary schools. This year's author is Leslie Helakoski (www.helakoskibooks.com), and she will visit our students during the following days:
 - March 7 – OPM
 - March 8 - Bennett Woods
 - March 14 – Cornell
 - March 15 – Hiawatha

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.

Building Reports

OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich and Stefanie Konrad

- 294 pairs of shoes were donated to the OHS Shoe Drive for Soles4Souls. They are distributed them to those living in poverty in 127 countries around the world.
- Touch of Class was held February 2 and served over 350 catered gourmet lunches for a \$7.00 donation. They are confident that close to \$3,000.00 was collected. (Final numbers have not yet been tabulated). Monies raised will be donated to Okemos Cares.
- Okemos Athletic Boosters- Spring Event Toast to the Chiefs has changed the date to April 14, 2018. A committee is needed to organize this - contact Julie Stakey if you can help, 517-202-6773. They are also in need of a Treasurer, Contact Karen Fraser if you have questions, 517-930-6456. A Concessions Buyer/Set Up is needed for next school year. Karen Cohn would love to help you learn this year! Contact Karen Fraser, 517-930-6456. They need people who are able to contribute to the Facebook, Twitter pages and someone to help with the webpage.
- Congratulations to the OHS Symphonic Wind Ensemble who were invited to perform in the 13th Annual Michigan Music Conference, an amazing all-state honor.
- Okemos High School Theatre Department proudly presented Thornton Wilder's OUR TOWN over the weekend of February 8-11.
- The College Board is launching the SAT Practice Award, a new recognition for students who increase their SAT scores through productive practice on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy®. Winning students are notified this and given a link to download a PDF of their award. Winners are selected by completing 10 or more hours of practice on Official SAT Practice, and if their SAT scores increased by 150 or more points from the PSAT/NMSQT® to the SAT, or 100 or more points from SAT to SAT. Students can mention the award on their college applications or résumés to showcase their hard work.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, March 6, Thursday, March 8 and Thursday, March 15 in the rubber gym. Schedule online.
- The Okemos Music Patrons 2018 Spaghetti Dinner is on March 9th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Okemos High School Cafeteria (Commons).
- 3/1 & 3/2 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Festival @OHS
- 3/14 @ 7pm Hawaii Travelers Meeting (Band trip)
- 3/17 8am - 5pm: Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association State Solo and Ensemble Festival @OHS

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Shruti Gross

- The Chippewa Parent Group met February 22nd. Jody talked about plans for filling in the pool. Quotes to do the work came back higher than what is affordable this year. The current plan is to save money and possibly fill the pool in 2019 or 2020. The Bond Committees are meeting February 26th evening to discuss possible initiatives for the 2018/2019 Bond. Chippewa held a school-wide assembly February 22nd to talk about being kind and taking care of ourselves, each other and our community.
- Josh Smith, a behavior therapist, presented to parents on suicide awareness February 22nd. He spoke in depth about the warning signs, risk factors and prevention factors as well as answered questions that were raised.

- The 7th Grade Camp went well. Campers had to come back one day early due to the heavy snow forecast for the next day.
- Shrek Jr. Performance was February 23 and 24th.
- 8th grade dance was scheduled for February 23rd.
- 8th grade is scheduled to visit the career center March 1st.
- Music Festival is March 1st.

Kinawa – Andi Pincheira and Sarah Finley

- Kinawa's Got Talent has been re-scheduled for Mon., March 19th - 6:30-8:30 with dress rehearsal Fri., March 16 - 3:45-6:00.
- Parent Teacher Conference Signup are open now and conferences will be held on March 13, 14 and 15.
- Kinawa performances at the Spaghetti Dinner (March 9) will be by 6th grade choir at 5:10, 5th grade vocal music at 5:40, and 6th grade orchestra at 6:30; all in the OHS auditorium.
- M-Step testing will take place on 4/10, 4/12, 4/17, and 4/19 for 5th graders and on 5/1, and 5/3 for 6th grade students.
- Okemos Lacrosse is open through March 15th www.okemoslax.com. Parent information meetings are on Feb. 22 (boys) and Feb 26 (girls).
- Strings Instrument Demo Night for 4th grade students:
- Wednesday, Feb. 28, Mrs. Fricano will be hosting an open house for current 4th grade students to try out string instruments to help them decide which instrument they may want to play next year. The open house is scheduled from 6:00-7:30pm in the Kinawa Auditorium.
- Kinawa Yearbooks can be ordered through 2-28-18. YBPAY.lifetouch.com - softcover is \$15.00 and upgrade to hardcover is an additional \$5.00. Enter yearbook CODE: 10858518. There are payment envelopes available on the table outside the Main Office. Checks should be made out to LIFETOUCH. You can order now but yearbooks will not be delivered to students until the last week of school in June. If you are not sure you ordered a yearbook for your child on-line, please go to this web site, include the yearbook ID code 10858518, and you can check to see if you placed that order.
- Kinawa Community Garden (KCG)

After a successful inaugural growing season, the Kinawa Community Garden (KCG) is getting organized for its second year in operation. We're seeking nominations for the Leadership Team. Gardening experience is not necessary, as Leadership Team members with other strengths and interests can also be helpful. Positions include: Director, Associate Director, Communications and Volunteer Manager, Facilities Manager, Finance Manager, and Fundraising Manager. Please submit your self-nominations via email to kinawagarden@gmail.com by 7pm on February 9th by indicating your: 1. Name 2. Affiliation with Okemos Public Schools 3. Position of interest (eg. Director, etc.) 4. Willingness to take on a different position, should a position remain unfilled. Current KCG members vote on the Leadership Team nominees, and you will be notified of the results by February 20th. If you're not interested in KCG Leadership Team but would like a plot, calls for plot applications will come out in a few weeks. Leadership Team members are given priority status for securing a plot via the application process. The gardens are located behind the tennis courts at Kinawa. If you have questions, please email the address listed. We look forward to hearing from you! Laura Freidhoff, Director, Kinawa Community Garden. kinawagarden@gmail.com

Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- Our 3rd graders went to the Michigan Historical Museum and celebrated Lumberjack Day February 22/23
- Our March is Reading Month theme is 'March Madness'. We are going to incorporate basketball in our opening assembly, ask high school players to come read to the students, and have a special end of the month assembly with James 'Basketball' Jones.

OPM – Kristin Arnett, Heather Moeser, and Kally Etchebarne

- ENROLLMENT INFORMATION for 2018-2019
Our enrollment link will open at 8am on March 2nd and close at 5pm on March 16th. Applications are ONLINE and will only be accepted during this time. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO USE THE 2018-2019 LINK WHEN REGISTERING. Registering does not guarantee a spot in the program but places you on the enrollment list. Please do not enroll on the Okemos Public School website for 2017-2018. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT enrollments done prior to the 2018-2019 Open Enrollment period.
- Please Note: At this time we anticipate the following openings for the 2018-2019 school year: 3 year old: 0, 4 year old: 4-5, Kindergarten: 20, 1st grade and 2nd grade: 0, 3rd grade: 1, 4th grade: 5
- New priority for the 2018-2019 Preschool Admission: In the recent past, preschool admission was based on a lottery system. This year, there will be preference given to applicants in following order:
 - In District students who also request enrichment / aftercare
 - Out of District Students who request enrichment / aftercare
 - In District students who do not need enrichment / aftercare
 - Out of District students who do not need enrichment / aftercare
- Order form for the visiting author, Leslie Helakoski, were sent out.
- Parent Teacher Conferences coming up March 12-15th.
- Family Science Night is April 24.
- Next PTO meeting March 19th 9AM OPM library.

Bennett Woods – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock

- BW Family Science Night took place on Thursday Feb. 22.
 - Great attendance.
 - Number of submitted project posters was up on previous years.
 - K and 1st grade Science On A Plate was a success (second year we've done it)
- *Music Program Practice*
- BW Music Concert (Gr. 2-4): March 1, 7pm @ Chippewa Middle School/Auditorium.
- Author Visit – Leslie Helakoski, March 8.
 - BW is happy to welcome Leslie Helakoski, author of Big Chickens and Woolbur, to our school for a visit and presentation, courtesy of the OEF and Horizon Bank.
- Next Family Council Meeting: March 8, 6:30p in library.
- Parent Teacher Conferences: March 12, 13 and 15.
- 4th grade visit to State Capitol: March 22 & 27.
- Kindergarten Parent Information Night 6:30pm, April 12.
- Kindergarten Round-up/Student Visit, May 2.
- Big annual fundraiser, the BW Family Fun Fair is 6-8pm April 27.
- NO LEFT TURNS allowed into the Bennett Woods parking lot when traveling east on Bennett Road between 8:30 – 9:00 & 3:30 – 4:00. Instead, proceed to the roundabout so that you may enter the parking lot from the right. Meridian Township will be adding signage regarding the No Left Turn. Violators may be ticketed by the Meridian Township Police Department.
- MILEAGE CLUB 2018
 - Registration runs Feb. 1 – March 5

- Takes place within lunch recess during school hours (M-W-F from April 9 to May 25).

Hiawatha – Joanna Wangerin, Cathy Heath, Jen Nanzer

- Entrepreneur Night and International Taste Potluck took place in 1/26/18 and was a big success
 - Over 80 students participated in making and selling their own products.
 - Several students wore traditional cultural clothing and many performed traditional dances for everyone
- Girls on the Run is looking for coaches to assist this year, the season goes from March 5th to May 20th
- PTO Used Book Sale took place on 2/23/18.
 - All books cost 25 cents.
 - Every child was able to pick a book even if they did not have money.
 - Many teachers and parents donated money so all kids could pick a book.
- Pancake breakfast fundraiser took place on 2/24
 - Teachers and staff cooked and served breakfast to students and their families at Applebees.
- Spring picture day is taking place on 2/27 and 4th graders will be taking a 4th grade class photo
- 3rd grade music performance is scheduled for March 1 at 1:50 and 7:00
- Next PTO meeting March 7th
- Science Fair is scheduled to take place on March 14th, 6:30-8:00
- Author visit is scheduled for March 15th, Leslie Helakoski
- Kindergarten Roundup for the 2018-2019 school year will be held on Thursday, April 26th