

District Parent Council

December 18, 2017

Meeting notes

Attendance: Alena Zachary-Ross, Tara Fry, Shruti Gross, Martha Hentz, Karen Shapiro, Jayne Lock, Errin Chapman, Kristin Arnett, Steve Hefner, Stefanie Konrad, Joanna Wangerin, Sarah Finley, Lynne Thatcher, Melissa Cochran, Dean Bolton, Sarah Allen

12:05 pm Meeting began

Superintendent – Alena Zachary-Ross

- Be aware of the wonderful student events happening this week, there are a lot
- Committees (both should end around the same time) (different people are on the committees so we have different lens)
 - Facilities Study Committee – led by Alena Zachary-Ross and Steve Lathrop
 - Short and long term needs for capacity issues
 - Committee is to make recommendations for Alena to then send on to the Board
 - Last two meetings have been about learning, enrollment trends, etc.
 - Costs of long-term
 - Meridian Township input about growth
 - 300 home slots have been approved so have been looking at those
 - Apartments off of Jolly Rd for Jackson National employees
 - Powell Rd – 25 slots and 30 additional approved – new growth
 - Working with experts
 - Talking about all sorts of options (wings onto buildings, or new buildings, etc.??)
 - There has never been a committee about Growth since the 80s, just been committees about redistricting, etc.
 - Technology/Security, Capital Outlay, Transportation Study Committee – led by Patty Trelstad and Dr. Cathy Ash
 - Replacements for devices, etc.
 - Moving forward with technology
 - Security – doors open, buzzer, etc.; what does Okemos want??
 - Capital outlay – buildings have needs for updating, flexible seating, etc.
 - Transportation – bussing (new ones to replace but also to add on)
- Staffing update
 - Hiawatha Principal characteristics input from parents
 - Jan. 11, 2018 7pm – at Hiawatha

Board of Education – Dean Bolton

- Resolution passed – School Finance Research Collaborative
 - Find real cost to educate a student in Michigan
 - Study was a good starting point but it left out many things
 - Oakland has taken over to keep working on the study
 - Another group will come out to encourage legislative work
- Resolution passed to strongly oppose the conceal carry law
 - Want to add their Board “name” to the list of Boards who oppose it
 - Having ability to stand on legislative floor and say “I was contacted by x number of parents” helps to oppose even though Representative Hertel is opposed to this bill
- A lot is happening on the Board
 - The recommendations from the two committees will come to the Board

- New five year strategic plan for the district
 - Current expire in June
 - Planning will start in August 2018
- Two representatives from the high school usually, still looking for a 2nd student representative to sit on the School Board

Cornell Principal Report – Tara Fry

- Math instruction for Professional Development
 - At all elementary schools – All elementary teachers, principals, John Hood meet together
 - Wrote own growth goals for math
 - We know there are still students that are struggling that we don't think is acceptable
 - What are powerful practices to align with
 - Grant allowed for “Visible Learning for Mathematics” books by John Hattie
- Teachers Learning Together (TLT)
 - Helps teachers grow in their profession
 - Teachers are going into other teachers classrooms to be evaluated
 - Purposeful explicit feedback
 - Written feedback, action oriented
 - Growth from both viewpoints
 - Trust building, protocol and tools used that are objective
- At Cornell, all TLTs are scheduled during Math instruction
- When TLTs started four years ago they started it in baby steps to build trust amongst the staff
- Kinawa TLT exchange would be helpful to know how well prepared the students are after elementary schools

Errin Chapman – Technology/device report

- Technology devices purchased (some specifics identified for each device seen listed below)
 - Teacher devices
 - 360 degree opening
 - Bluetooth
 - Wi-Fi
 - Run Windows 8.1
 - Challenge was battery life was half a day but charge quickly
 - K-4 devices (three years old)
 - Fantastic battery life
 - 180 degree opening
 - slide into cart, for charging, no cables
 - Rubberized case for dropping
 - Simple to manage
 - Google Chrome
 - Can't run all applications, doesn't run Windows
 - 5-12 devices
 - Dell
 - Been more challenging to deal with
 - Windows takes more to manage (Chrome is less vulnerable)
 - Separate pieces
 - Both charge separately
 - Touch screen
 - Wi-Fi
 - Rear-facing camera

- Battery life was great
 - Problems with adaptor cords, etc.
 - Parts get backordered, great warranty but parts were a problem
 - Screen breakage, not rubberized so screen breaks easily
- Statistics
 - Great employee – Jonathan Green – does amazing work fixing the devices
 - 1340 repairs – which averages 19 repairs a day
 - 4,400 devices in all schools
- The librarians have taken on a lot of work to help with the devices
- Summers are very busy
 - Every single device is checked
 - Hire high schoolers to help check the devices
 - Image them all
- Positive impact in learning
- Firewall filter
 - Required filtering at homes as well
- Questions?
 - How many using in high school?
 - How to tell who is using them?
 - Personal ownership has helped keep the devices in better shape
 - How long do the devices last?
 - Software is driving it, the hardware is pretty good
 - Warranties
 - Were four year warranties
 - Will we have to start paying for them?
 - Errin is going to try to extend the warranties
 - There are rehab parts
 - Six years is usually an old machine
 - Errin says the machines are still good so he's comfortable with using them and so much is website driven
 - Dell funding arrangement
 - We became a Dell repair shop
 - Every time Jonathan repairs it we get \$45
 - It offsets Jonathan's salary
 - Other manufacturers have same deal where there are warranties so Jonathan's salary would be covered if they didn't buy new ones from Dell
 - Is there a vocational high school avenue at the high school
 - Errin would like to have a club for doing that with students
 - Do other schools around us have devices?
 - Yes
 - Our district did a great job in researching
 - Are teachers using electronic textbooks?
 - Yes
 - Device bags
 - During the summer they are gone through and cleaned and families are charged if they aren't clean enough
 - Broken parts
 - Judgment call on who has to pay for them
 - Assessment on the bags
 - How long has Kinawa been taking home their devices?

- Do they really need to be coming home? To warrant all the repairs?
- This is something to look into
- Charging stations, etc. would have to be created if they weren't taken home
- Software use in higher or lower grades? Or using web-based more?
 - Not quite sure
 - But even if it's just one program, it's worth it
- Thank you for the Board and the community for supporting the bonds that have allowed the devices to be purchased

Building Reports

OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich and Stefanie Konrad

- 12/18 Juniors: Grad Status Plans will be emailed out during this week, please review with your student
- 12/19 @7:30pm Orchestra Concert
- 12/20 @7:30pm Choir Concert
- 12/21 @7:30pm Band Concert
- 12/22 Dual Enrollment Forms for semester 3 due at the Counseling Office before winter break
- 12/31: Seniors: Preferred deadline for filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, required for most forms of college financial aid, see fafsa.ed.gov for more information
 - 01/17 & 01/19: Final Exams
 - 01/19: Applications for Wilson Talent Center are due, go to <http://www.inghamisd.org/wtc/> to apply; contact your counselor if you have not started the process

Counseling Office News:

- SAT Practice Awards: Recognition for students who increase their SAT scores through productive practice on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy.
- Parent survey by OHS Counseling Office: <https://goo.gl/forms/bDgblkn8mZLzfaZu1>
- School Counseling Advisory Committee: meets twice annually, provide input on service delivery, looking for interested parents and students, contact: Hedlun Walton at hedlun.walton@okemosk12.net

Parent Group News:

- Fundraising Committee met twice and brainstormed several ideas; direct request fundraiser brought in about \$750 so far; donations for Post Prom needed (money and goods)
- Post-Prom Committee will meet in January
- Helpers needed for Teacher Luncheon during Final Exam Days, watch for more info in the News&Notes
- Next Parent Group meeting 01/23 @9am

Athletic News:

- Winter Concessions Volunteer SignUp: <http://signup.com/go/oPSGkTU>
- Toast to the Chiefs on 03/24: Volunteers needed to help planning, contact Karen Fraser at - okemosathleticboosters@gmail.com or [517-930-6456](tel:517-930-6456)

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Shruti Gross

- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY DEC. 22nd! There are many ways to help with the Winter Wonderland Party this year! Sign-up for a volunteer spot or donate Kroger gift cards to defray the purchase of supplies at <http://signup.com/go/GexyQzQ>
- ARE TEACHER GIFTS ON YOUR TO-DO LIST? Check out some of our teachers' classroom wish lists curated by the CPG for your convenience. Go to <http://signup.com/go/fcqtptwn> and follow the directions to purchase an item or contribute to a classroom item to show teachers your appreciation.
- Easy Fundraising for CPG!
 - Box Tops: Those Box Top certificates on everyday household items are worth money to our school. Please bring your Box Tops to the main office.

- Amazon Smiles: Go to smile.amazon.com and choose "Chippewa Parent Group" as your charity. Remember, you must buy your qualifying Amazon products by starting at the Amazon Smile URL. CPG receives .5% of qualifying products.
- Kroger Rewards: Go to kroger.com and log in your rewards card # at "Kroger Community Rewards" at the bottom of the website. Search for "Chippewa M.S. Parent Group" and choose it as your charity of choice.

Calendar Dates

Dec. 18 Auditions for Shrek Jr. – CMS Auditorium 6:00-8:00PM

Dec. 19 Auditions for Shrek Jr. – CMS Auditorium 6:00-8:00PM

Dec. 20 Boys Basketball 7H/8A vs. Charlotte 4:30PM

Dec. 20 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert @ OHS 7:30PM

Dec. 22 "WINTER WONDERLAND" 1:30 – 2:45PMND" 1:30 – 2:45PM

Kinawa – Andi Pincheira and Sarah Finley

- Reproductive Health has been taught at Kinawa starting the week of November 27, 2017.
- Several years ago, Kinawa students voiced frustration with the amount of food being wasted in the cafeteria. This inspired them to begin a food share program called Food 4 Friends. Currently, non perishable food items are collected during the three lunch periods and made available to all students throughout the day.
- Kinawa Family Fun Night at Court One East was December 15th from 6-8pm. The Family Fun is a free event.
- Kinawa Book Fair was held from November 27 -30.
- **Kinawa Concerts:** On Tuesday December 5, our 6th grade Band students had their winter concert at Kinawa at 7pm. On Thursday December 7, our 6th grade Orchestra had their Winter Concert at Okemos High School at 7pm.
- Registration for Spring 2018 Archery was Dec 11-15. There were 200 applicants accepted and only 110 students will be randomly selected.

Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- MSU has generously offered us tickets to an MSU hockey game, women's basketball game, and gymnastics/wrestling meet.
- We also received tickets to a MSU soccer game in the fall and over 100 Cornell students/parents attended.

OPM – Kristin Arnett, Heather Moeser, and Kally Etchebarne

- The annual Holiday Sing A Long will be this Friday, Dec. 22nd in the gym at 2:45 pm.
- OPM held a book drive for an elementary school in Barcelonetta, Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria. The new hardcover books will be sent early next year.
- The OPM PTO sponsors "eat out" events in the area to provide an opportunity for to school community to get together and to help raise money for the school. The last Eat Out was at Zaytoon's last Wednesday, which will most likely be rescheduled due to the weather.

Bennett Woods – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock

- Bennett Woods is starting a new club to engage students with and without disabilities. The club will start running in January, has a faculty advisor and students are being recruited. The club aims to foster understanding, build authentic relationships and disability pride among students.
- With the support of the OEF and the BW Family Council, another great Bennett Woods Family Science Night is scheduled for February 22, 2018. After the success of last year we will again be doing the class-based "Science On A Plate" projects for K and 1st grades, so that every student in those lower grades will have something displayed at science night. Once again we have a wide

range of exhibitors lined up to provide a fun, hands-on science experience for our BW students and their families, including new additions like the CADL Library of Things, the ITEC bus and some great projects run by the Girl Scouts.

Hiawatha – Joanna Wangerin, Cathy Heath, Jen Nanzer

- Successful food drive
- Characteristics of Principal meeting planned

OEF – Martha Hentz

- Okemos Education Foundation www.oefsite.org
- **APPLE Awards for the holidays.** OEF APPLE Awards make great year-end gifts for teachers, support staff, specials teachers ... for anyone who deserves a special “thank you” for a job well done. For a \$20 donation to the Okemos Education Foundation, a personalized 5x7 color certificate is sent to your honoree with the exact message that you want printed on the award. Learn more at www.oefsite.org/apple. This gift gives a “pat on the back” to Okemos staff while also providing needed funding for OEF programs that support Okemos students. Orders received by Thursday, 12/21 will be delivered prior to winter break.
- **John Bjorkquist Alumni Science Fund.** The OEF is pleased to announce the establishment of a new fund to benefit science education in our schools. The Okemos Alumni Association has generously committed \$10,000 as a leadership donation to establish this new fund, named in honor of former Okemos High School teacher John Bjorkquist. The John Bjorkquist Alumni Science Fund is now accepting donations, which will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 by the Alumni Association. These funds will be used to enhance science and technology education for all Okemos students. To make a donation, visit www.oefsite.org/donate.
- **Science Fair Grant Applications due Feb 1.** The OEF offers up to \$350 to each school to help support their annual science fair events. The one-page application, available on the OEF’s website: <https://www.oefsite.org/science-fairs>, must be received by Feb 1. Please contact OEF Chair Martha Hentz with questions.
- **OEF Elementary Author Visit.** Each year, the OEF partners with Horizon Bank to fund the visit of an author to each Okemos elementary school. This year’s visiting author is Leslie Helakoski, who will visit in March. Learn more about this author: www.helakoskibooks.com
- **OEF volunteers needed.** The OEF board is seeking help on several committees. If you are passionate about high-quality public education and about Okemos students, and if you have 5 hours a month to share, please consider the OEF. Learn more www.oefsite.org/trustees.
- **Annual Fund Drive.** The 2017 annual fund drive is underway! Please consider making a donation to the Okemos Education Foundation. The OEF relies on our generous donors to help the OEF fund classroom grants, educational programs, and after-school clubs. Your donation matters! Learn more and donate online at www.oefsite.org.
- Follow the OEF on **Facebook** to hear about the great things happening in our schools.

Special Education – Anu Atre

New Minutes

- New schedule will be emailed

Minutes approval

- Palasty misspelled on November notes – Palasky instead

Next meeting – January 22, 2018 – Okemos High School