

District Parent Council

October 16, 2017

Meeting notes

Attendance: Suzie Jager, Amy Suhrheinrich, Anupama Atre, Erica Wolf, Sarah Finley, Lily Ortiz, Tere Blanca, Lynne Thatcher, Melissa Cochran, Karen Shapiro, Joanna Wangerin, Shruti Gross, Alena Zachery-Ross, Sarah Allen, Jody Noble, Andre Ridley, and John Hood

12:10 pm Meeting began

Introductions

Superintendent – Alena Zachery-Ross

- 100 day plan – fact finding days along with World Cafes throughout the district
- Just finished Homecoming week throughout the district
- National Merit Scholarships awarded
- Increase of 176 students, working with a projection company for short and long term needs
  - Asked Board of Education to consider two committees
    - Technology, capital outlay, and transportation committee
    - Facility committee
  - Recommendations for March 2018

Board of Education – Erica Wolf

- 176 students
- Concern about the Central Montessori enrollment rules for non-Okemos and Okemos residents was shared by a school representative and it was decided this would need to be discussed in a different setting where it could get the correct attention

Chippewa – Jody Noble, Principal and Andre Ridley, Vice Principal

- Andre has been pro-active
- Andre says behavior has been able to be handled within the building
- Andre's background
  - From Battle Creek
  - Background with Charter Schools
  - Assistant Principal and Counselor previously
  - Has four kids
- Chippewa has birds on walls for teachers working on Equity Plan talking about diversity
- Suicide prevention – Feb. 22 – presentation for parents – Josh Smith, parent; open to all ADULTS, no children

Special Education – Anupama Atre

- Upcoming events for students and families receiving special education services.
- Parent groups please spread the word by posting to your website/FB page/etc.
- Transition Fair - Saturday, Oct 28, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Free Admission; Wilson Talent Center (formerly Capital Area Career Center) 611 Hagadorn Road, Mason, MI 48854.
- Learn about transition services and community resources for students with disabilities transitioning (out of high school) to young adults.

OEF – Martha Hentz

- Okemos Education Foundation [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org)

- **2017 OEF Annual Awards.** The Okemos Education Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of this year’s awards for excellence:
  - **Commitment to Excellence Award (honoring educators)**
    - Nicole Langdon, Social Worker at Kinawa and Edgwood
    - Joel Schut, OHS Orchestra Director
    - Robb Shubel, Hiawatha 4th grade teacher
    - Mark Tomczak, Chippewa science teacher
    - Cindy Wolff, Kinawa math teacher
  - **Special Recognition Award (honoring support staff)**
    - Okemos Public Montessori at Central Learning Center Aides: Peggy Baldwin, Krista Grettenberger, Hei-Won Lee
    - Sue Tague, Food Services Administrative Assistant
    - Rhianna Walworth, Central Office Administrative Assistant
  - **Volunteer Service Award**
    - Ron Styka
  - **Distinguished Alumnus**
    - Joel Peterson, Class of 1965

These recipients will receive their award at the OEF’s annual banquet, held this year on **Thursday, November 16th** at MSU’s Kellogg Center. Our new superintendent, Alena Zachery-Ross, will provide the keynote address. Please join us to honor our award recipients and to celebrate all the educational excellence in Okemos Public Schools. Learn more about the OEF’s awards, the 2017 recipients, buy banquet tickets, and learn about sponsorship opportunities:

**www.oefsite.org/2017banquet.** Ticket sales available until Nov. 8.

- **Fall Grants.** The OEF board has already approved over \$59,000 in funding to Okemos Schools this year. In addition to our support of after-school clubs and several recurring educational programs, the board has funded 6 classroom micro grants requested by Okemos faculty. Some highlights:
  - RAZ-Kids Reading (online program) for all 1st grade Hiawatha students – \$450
  - Cooking supplies for hands-on projects involving ASD students and peers - Meredith Dwyer - OPM - \$240
  - Author Visit: Katie Slivensky (Okemos Alum) - Sandy Fields - OHS - \$250
  - Spelling City (online program) for all 3rd grade Bennett Woods students - \$250
  - Math intervention support materials - Lori Mazzullo - Chippewa - \$250

Check back next month for the list of larger grants that will be approved at the October OEF board meeting. Learn more about OEF grants at [www.oefsite.org/grants](http://www.oefsite.org/grants).

- **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](http://www.oefsite.org).
- Follow the OEF on **Facebook** to hear about the great things happening in our schools.

## State Testing Summary and Action Overview – John Hood

Some background

- Two views
  - Detailed view (color packet)
  - Bird’s eye view, with actions (black and white packet)
- A word about “high stakes” assessments
- Three years of testing, more changes coming
  - Apples and oranges
- Importance to have context, balance
  - Example: Technology impact at OHS (Sci, SS)

## Themes you will see in our data...

- Okemos continues to perform at a high level overall
- Demographic groups outperform peers across MI
- Achievement gap also exists here
  - Black or African American
  - Economically disadvantaged
  - Special education
- “We have not yet arrived...” (Growth mindset)

## Summary of Data

- MSTEP 2017
  - Language Arts
  - Math
  - SAT

## What actions are we taking?

- Implement a district wide data system (Illuminate Ed)
- Coordinate SMART Goals to target mathematics K-4
- Align curriculum and instruction to CCSS
- Analyze cognitive demand
- District-wide focus on learning for ALL

## Our Actions

- Implement a District wide Data System (Illuminate Ed)
  - System must include national, state and local assessments
  - Piloted local data 16-17 at schools, expand 17-18
  - Train teachers/coaches to develop and input assessments
  - Train core content teachers to deliver assessments
  - Integrate data to evolve practices, measure outcomes
    - Data days, problem solving meetings, interventions
- Coordinate SMART goals to target mathematics K-4
  - Implement evidence based mathematics strategies
    - John Hattie’s Visible Learning for Mathematics
    - IES Practice Guides
  - Utilize MTSS system to improve outcomes
    - Find our students
    - Activate a system to support
    - Coordinate our efforts
    - Evolve practices/Expect outcomes
- Align curriculum and instruction to CCSS
- Analyze cognitive demand (rigor)
  - Survey of Enacted Curriculum
  - Mathematics program review/adoption (K-4/5, 6-8)
  - Curriculum mapping
  - Next Generation Science meeting

## District-side focus on learning for ALL

- MTSS includes range of gifted learners to struggling learners
- Whole child – “achievement” measures
- Academic, behavioral/social, emotional
- Equity plan

## Summary

- Okemos continues to perform at a high level overall

- Demographic groups outperform peers across MI
- Achievement gap also exists here
- Data supports/reinforces we are doing the right work!

#### Topics for the year

- World Language
  - No budget for it
  - Michigan Virtual is an option (mostly high school)
  - After school MSU option, but is limited in scope, and tuition based
- Change from World Language topic to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention law
- Also invite someone to discuss the needs for Community Education to include options for special needs students

#### Building Reports

##### OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich and Stefanie Konrad

- Homecoming went well, the students had a lot of fun! Thank you to everybody who helped making the events possible and enjoyable!
- 10/11 - 10/27: All students in AP courses as well as any OHS students interested in taking any AP exams in 2018 need to register and pay for tests during that registration period. Please contact Cori Akers at cori.akers@okemosk12.net with any questions.
- 10/16 Okemos Athletic Boosters meeting at 7pm in Old Chicago Restaurant
- 10/17 College Financial Aid Advisors will present to interested students and parents as to the financial aid process, FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and paying for college at 6pm in the KIVA
- 10/19 Wilson Talent Center (formerly Capital Area Career Center) will visit interested 10th and 11th graders during FLEX. Interested students should sign-up in the Counseling Office, it is the first step of the application process.
- 10/19 6pm Choir concert in the Auditorium
- 10/24: Signs of Suicide presentation by Hedlun Walton at 6pm in the KIVA  
9th grade US History classrooms will be visited in the week of 11/6 to share the nationally recognized Signs of Suicide program and facilitate discussions with students.
- 10/28: ACT (Sign up by 10/27)
- 10/28: Taste of Okemos: From 2-4 pm at OHS
- 11/02, 11/06, 11/08 Scheduled Parent/Teacher conferences (sign up electronically)
- 11/13: 9th Grade Parent Growth Mindset Presentation at 6pm in the KIVA
- 11/15: College Major & Career Fair at 6pm in the Commons
- College visitis: Admission representatives from many colleges visit OHS during the first semester of each school year, please check the exact schedule on the OHS counseling website.
- Carline: Please drop off students only in the lot off of Hulett Road. Cars driving south on Hulett are to turn right into the stadium lot and follow the cones.
- Sandy Fields, LMC director at OHS, has been awarded the Ruby Brown for Individual Excellence award from the Michigan Association for Media in Education, congratulations!
- Dr. Joel Schut, OHS orchestra director, won the OEF Commitment to Excellence award, congratulations!
- Baccalaureate: In the past Baccalaureate was a religious ceremony. OHS holds Baccalaureate as a non-denominational celebration of the spirit of the senior year, organized and performed mainly by the students with invited guest speakers from different denominations. The district received a letter criticizing the previous practice to announce the Baccalaureate through School News and

collect donations in the Main Office, citing a violation of the separation of church and state. Therefore, OHS will no longer announce the event via the school newsletter and donations will be collected directly by the Parent Group outside of school grounds. At the end of the year this practice will be re-evaluated and the further course of action determined.

- Fundraising: Currently most of the money for the Parent Group is provided by the Senior year through Prom and Post-Prom revenues. The Parent Group is looking into other avenues of fundraising to be able to fund wish list items, a renovation of the courtyard, etc. Be on the lookout for emails / Facebook messages of how you can help OHS Parent Group.

#### Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Shruti Gross

- Thank You to all Chippewa's friends and families for your support! Chippewa's Walk/Run raised over \$11,000 during the fundraising period for the Walk/Run.
- HOMEWORK CLUB-Homework Club started September 18th. We will work on homework together with some help from our high school volunteers from 2:45 to 3:30 in the large group room on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, except early release days. If your student would like to join, contact Mrs. Evenson in the guidance office
- GARDENING COMMITTEE:-If you are interested in helping with a fall clean up and plant bulbs, please meet on Saturday, October 14 at the Main Entrance at 2:00 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday , October 15 at 2:00 p.m.)
- CODE IT, MAKE IT, BREAK IT CLUB-We are revising our Coding Club and giving it a new twist. In addition to coding we are going to utilize our Makerspace (with an art activity and a tech project), and Breakout boxes (like escape rooms but with a box we “break” into). In the Code it, Make it, Break it Club we will rotate through the 3 sessions each month. Starting in October we are meeting 2:45-3:45 in the library on regular Wednesdays (not early release days). Each month starts with a Code it day, followed by a Make it day and Break it day. Free to everyone at any time. The yearlong schedule is available in the library or on the CMS Library page under
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: With parent support, every year Chippewa keeps thousands of Styrofoam lunch trays out of our landfills. Styrofoam lunch tray recycling requires the assistance of parent volunteers every Friday to transport the bagged trays to the Dart Recycling Center in Holt, 2148 Depot Road, a 10 minute drive from Kinawa. Friday bagged lunch tray pick up is between 1:00 and 8:00 pm. If you are available to help recycle, please sign up at the Volunteerspot: <http://signup.com/go/WsAUqo>
  - There is interest to explore finding an effective and affordable recyclable alternative to the Styrofoam lunch trays. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact the Okemos Schools Recycling Coordinator, Julie LawtonEssa, at [jlawton@lawtongroup.com](mailto:jlawton@lawtongroup.com).ur School.
- Congratulations to Mark Tomczak, Chippewa science teacher for being an OEF Commitment to Excellence reward recipient!
- Next CPG Meeting: Oct. 20 at 8:45 a.m. in the new large group room. Join us!

#### Kinawa – Andi Pincheira and Sarah Finley

- KKM - We set a record and netted \$21,313 and had a great day despite high temperatures. 12 classrooms met their classroom goal and received a donut party. 2 classrooms won a pizza party and \$50 gift card and an all school party is coming up for meeting the audacious goal. The dunk tank was a hit, too!
- October 20th- Picture Retakes
- October 23rd- 6th Grade Choir Concert
- October 25th- World Cafe Tour - Kinawa @5:30pm
- October 31st- 3-Screens Assembly for students during 1st and 2nd hours. The Michigan State Police Department will be coming in and talking to our students about Cyber-Safety. There will be two different presentation. One for all fifth graders and one for all sixth graders

- Fall parent teacher conferences will be November 7, November 8, and November 9 Scheduling opened on Sunday, October 15

#### Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- As of Count day, Cornell has 437 students enrolled.
- Many fall field trips are occurring at Cornell. Some of the learning experiences students have or will be participating in soon: OHS stadium show, Dairy farm, Harris Nature Center, Fenner Nature Center, Barkham Creek farms, MSU Gardens, Impression 5, and the State Capital.
- Technology Club and Student Council have begun. Both of these after school groups are very popular with our students.
- Cornell began our Cougar of the Week Program again this year. The program acknowledges a student from each grade level for being a positive citizen at our school. The students pictures are displayed on our hallway tv; they may eat with a friend at a special lunch table; students receive a certificate; and a description of why the students were chosen is read on our morning announcements.
- Our annual Cornell Cougar Run is scheduled for 10/20 in the afternoon. Students will be given free Cornell t-shirts again for the run that can be reused for field trips and/or school functions!
- Picture Day is 10/18

#### OPM – Kristin Arnett and Heather Moeser

- The PTO is sponsoring a Family Fun Morning on Saturday November 18th at Spare Time from 9:00 – 11:00am. This will replace the carnival that we have had for the past few years.
- This year the PTO will be alternating evening/daytime meetings every month - the next PTO meeting is 10/16 9 am in the OPM library.
- 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 1st event was held at Chicago’s Pizza 9/27th. The next event will be Oct 21st at Cosmo’s Pizza - a portion of proceeds will be donated based on certain specialty drink sales (you need to indicate to the wait staff about OPM fundraiser).

#### Bennett Woods – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock

- Whole Foods fundraiser on Sep 20 resulted in \$2,800 for Bennett Woods. Funds will be used for outdoor benches and alternative seating.
- Edru skating night on Sep 29 a big success with record number of skaters - 90 skaters!!
- Fun Run on Oct 6 was a great success. \$17,494 raised compared to goal of \$12,500. Various classroom prizes were given out - gift cards for 100 percent registration, meeting classroom goal, highest donation classroom, etc in addition to extra recess, dance party, pajama day and Bubble Blast. Ice pop rewards for all participants were provided by Mathnasium this year.
- Culver’s fundraising night on evening of Oct 23. A percentage of all sales will go to Bennett Woods. Support BW by visiting the Culver’s location near Goldfish Swim School.
- Third grade to Potter Park Zoo on Oct 30, First grade to Dobie Rd Care Facility on Oct 31, Halloween party in school on Oct 31.
- Parent Teacher conferences on Nov 6, Nov 7 and Nov 9.
- Staff luncheon on Nov 7.
- Progress has been slow on the new main entrance sign because of the discovery of drain holes in the wall where it was intended to go above the doors

#### Hiawatha – Joanna Wangerin, Cathy Heath, Jen Nanzer

- Principal Gary Kinzer's last day will be this Friday, October 20th. We will be having a going away party for him Friday at 6 at Hiawatha cafeteria~ all are welcome. Interim principal will begin following Gary on Wednesday. The process for hiring a replacement has begun.
- Hawk Walk raised over \$11K
- PTO hosted a very successful Brainstormer session for the students last month
- Hiawatha Harvest will be October 27th
- Fundraising: Still selling Coupon Booklets thru October, Culver's night December 5th