

## District Parent Council Minutes

October 21, 2024 12:00 – 2:30pm, Chippewa 7-8 School

Attendees: Karen Shapiro, John Hood, Katie Diehl, Shannon Beczkiewicz, Giselle Claux, Katie Cavanaugh, Kristin Hundt, Tamara Marshall, Carly Patel, Sarah Allen, Amanda Thornburg, Leah Kwapis, Sage Hales-Ho, Vanessa Grant, Jamie Godwin

Zoom attendees: Liz Luyendyk, Corrinne Dyksen, Candice Bouknight, Francesca Buskulic, Mike Callahan, Jen Castner, Courtney Isanhart, Danielle Jenkins, Ben Jennings, Valerie Levitt, Candice Martin, Brittany Martinez, Patrick Murphy, LaRay Nagele, Lisa Nowak, Andy Phelps, Katie Piercefield, Joanna Purkiss, Megan Richberger, Nancy Arredondo Rodriguez, Rachel Rutledge, Ninah Sasy, Stacey Smith, Andrea Stay, Cassandra Weiner, Ann, Bethany, Brittany, Kelsey, Nikki, Nikki E, Rachel, Stone, Vikram

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro*

Superintendent's Report - *John Hood*

- Stress-management/sleep/device use presentation part of the "Student Wellness Series". Dr. Hannah Hoffman, MSU re: Sleep/wellness. January 23: Sleep/school start time conversation with the rest of the county/MASB
- We have been invited by a State organization (MASB) to present on security.
- Energy Savings Bond - will be brought to the Board of Education in the next few months. Saving money on energy costs will help stretch the bond \$ further.
- Bond updates on the new website. <https://www.okemosbond.net/>
- OHS is switching to 3 lunch periods to alleviate overcrowding, especially with colder weather coming. This existed in the past as well, so not a new thing.
- Community Education structure changes - Split childcare with sports/rec/community activities.
- Brian Kremkow - new food services director
- Katie Diehl (present) with John Hood and security participate in behavioral threat assessment work behind the scenes.
- Mr. Hood will be out in November (medical). Stacey Bailey will be acting Superintendent.
- Discussions re: Board roles vs. Superintendent roles. Better practices for the future.
  
- Kinawa Update
  - We are intentional on safety and security for district
  - Jason Russell, SEC - Secure Environmental Consultants, is our security consultant. Worked on hardening schools; pro-active for a good environment; Threat assessments.
  - Dr. Margaret Coggins (VA/DC) trained the Okemos team to assess threats.
    - The process occurs regularly and successfully - Use a behavioral threat assessment process.
    - Use best practices from national organizations.
  - Trying to educate the community on our processes.
    - 1. Remove from building/school
    - 2. Check lockers and backpacks
    - 3. Police complete home visit (see if firearms in home/accessible)
    - 4. Keep kid home if necessary (sometimes can't due to IEP protections)
    - 5. Cannot share all details with the community - protected by law.
  - Use MSU experts to help families.
  - OPS does expel kids when necessary.

- *Comment:* Social media response happened as a response to lack of communication. *John/response:* If after hours, call Meridian Township Police who will call John.
- *Question:* Why are there no adults present to get into the school in the mornings before the door locks? John and Katie responded that they will look into this. Adults are present a bit further into the building.
- Will communicate safety processes to the District.
- Applied for after-hours grants
- Leah Kwapis noted that there is a Kinawa-only FB page.
- Katie Diehl answered many security-specific questions.
- *Comment:* Maybe teachers can address kids' concerns to squash rumors.
- Urge parents to talk to the principal, Katie Diehl, or Mr. Hood before others.

#### Board of Education Report - *Jamye Taylor*

- Just had our first Board retreat.
- Want the community to understand the role of the board:
  - 1 employee - the Superintendent
  - Vote on budget and policy
  - Understanding board priorities:
    - security, social workers/counselors, etc.
    - Bond updates to Board
    - Start times and wellness
- MASB annual leadership conference. Giving presentation on safety and security measures.
- Updating policies.
- Next Board of Ed meeting is Monday, October 28, 7 pm.

#### *Principal's Report - Jody Noble*

- Seeing progress in the new building. (She was going to give the group a look at the new building but no time)
- Had a sextortion presentation for parents. Will present to kids (FBI) in March?
- 4 Classrooms are piloting flex furniture
- Staffing: Data days (looking at state assessments)
- October - partnered with Michigan Virtual on AI use - what's appropriate
- Nov 1 - Staff PD - vertical alignment: Kinawa, Chippewa, HS

*Question:* Cell phone usage policy.

*Answer:* Policies at every level. Elementary - in lockers, Kinawa in lockers, Chippewa can carry them, but not use them all day. High school - teacher discretion. Nice to have in case of emergency (swatting eg).

#### *Presentation - Shannon Beczkiewicz - Communications Coordinator*

- Mikayla resigned
- New website with better calendars
- Love "points of pride". Parents send to her
- Worked with Pam Jones - better alignment in newsletters so they will have a more similar look and feel. *Comment:* Like that different schools look different to differentiate, especially with kids in more than one school.
- Presentation - who owns safety and security in district

## New Business/Action Items

- Social media photo usage from day vs evening events (Jane). There is no expectation of privacy at public events such as music concerts, athletics, but in-school private events take into account "Do not Photograph" requests. Outdoor explorer class at Kinawa (instagram) OKEMOS outdoors (Jane). This should be protected as photograph permission should be in place.
- Traffic getting worse around Bennett Woods. Ingham County Road Commission is the responsible party. Circle was put into place before many neighborhoods were built.
- Thanking OHS Action volunteers (Jane) - Did not get to

## **School Reports** (Due to time constraints, did not discuss in the meeting.)

### **Okemos High School**

- The high school will transition to three lunch periods starting October 28th. Lunch times will not shift earlier or later; we are adding a lunch period between the current ones, dividing 4th hour. The duration of each lunch period will remain the same.
- There will be a Zoom presentation on Suicide Awareness and Prevention for Caregivers and Communities. The free presentation will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, October 23 starting at 5:30 p.m.
- Time to order senior's cap & gown, as well as graduation announcements. Herff Jones is our official school provider, and orders can be placed online at [www.miherffjones.com](http://www.miherffjones.com)
- The Solar Racing Team is helping families with fall cleanup as a fundraiser.
- OHS teacher, Karen Sanders, will be honored at the OEF banquet. OHS Parent Group has paid for a table for her and her family.

### **Chippewa 7-8**

- We had a great Walk/Run with more than double last years earnings
- Our Safe Tech, Safe Kids talk was successful and we would like to continue this conversation. Thank you, Dr Natalie!
- We provided pizza for conferences and had parent donations of many snacks, drinks, and goodies! Thank you CMS!
- We are working to plan dining fundraisers as well as Science Night as we head into winter

### **Kinawa 5-6**

- Security situation with a student in 6th grade has been ongoing this past week. Police presence at the school 10/21 as an abundance of caution.
- 10/27 Trunk O'Treat.
- Socktober: Sock collection from 10/21-10/25. Also accepted hats, scarves, and gloves. Items will be donated to Child and Family Charities.
- Music Theatre Workshop offered by Mrs. Bellamy.
- Newly access to prayer spaces offered.
- Reproductive Health will start and the curriculum has been posted in the newsletter for parents to see

### **Cornell Elementary**

- We had a great Wolfpack Run on 9/27... we used zeffy and that seemed to work well! Changed from individual to whole school rewards

- Teachers got a lunch for conferences
- Next big PTO item is Global Cornell in November
- Meetings this year with principal and other district leaders, etc planning New Cornell

## **OPM**

- Teacher Appreciation Lunch was on September 23.
- PTO September fundraiser was Eat Out at Henry's Place and Asian Buffet on September 17.
- PTO October Fundraiser was October 4.
- Global Gathering is scheduled for November 8.
- Spirit Wear is tentatively scheduled for November 18 to December
- Parents Night Out is tentatively scheduled for December 12 from 5 to 7pm.
- Science Night is tentatively scheduled for February 6.

## **Bennett Woods**

- We are sharing that parents can email the meridian police and nghan county road commission regarding placing crossing lights at our roundabout since two kids have nearly been hit in the past month.
- We are starting Coffee with the Principal 11/9 at 9 am which will be a town hall for parents to talk with Dr Schefke re topics of their interest
- Staff grants for an elevated desk, a Scholastic newsletter and reading materials were funded
- Bike and roll day was 10/18 and kids followed a bicycle cop into school to the balloon arch.
- Fun Run was Friday 10/18, and over \$19,000 was raised for parent council and the school.
- The roller skating fundraiser was fun and well attended.
- Community trunk or treat is 10/27 and we have a fun monster car planned
- Fall grounds clean up was 10/19 and weeding Wednesdays happen weekly
- Multicultural night is 11/15
- Family game night 12/2
- We are looking for parent volunteers to help prep things for classes or help with one on one classroom needs

## **Hiawatha**

- construction is almost complete for the secure vestibule. Possible move-in this week.
- Wolf Walk was friday 10/18—fundraising will stay open until 10/25, but we have met our goal of \$15k
- Staff lounge update should finally be wrapped up late october/early november. There was a delay in the delivery of a countertop that had to be re-made.
- A lunch time supervisor has been hired!

Adjourn

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 18th, 12-2:30, Bennett Woods Elementary

Email: [Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com](mailto:Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com)

Website: [www.okemosk12.net](http://www.okemosk12.net) – Families – District Parent Council