

District Parent Council Minutes

November 18, 2024 12:00 – 2:30pm, Bennett Woods Elementary Library

Attendees: Karen Shapiro, Stacey Bailey, Tom Buffett, Lauren Schefke, Jane Manfredi, Stacey Smith, Vanessa Grant, Katie Sachder, Corinne, Dyksen, Kristin Hundt, Tom Isom, Sarah Allen, Shannon Beczkiewicz, Tamara Marshall

Via Zoom: Liz Luyendyk, Pam Jones, Janelle

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro*

Superintendent's Report - *Stacey Bailey, Interim Superintendent*

- Had a safety and security meeting/event. Was recorded.
- Mental health emphasis at the high school with Woofpack after 2 deaths
- Schools need to send in Woofpack payments(if they have a dog)
- Stacey S - Fundhub is sharing students' names. Must exclude those who opt out of the directory. PTOs - written approval needed.
- Importance of directories for connecting parents. Google form, voluntary, from PTO. Opt-in vs. Opt -out.
- Discussion of cell phone usage. Varies between schools and teachers.

Board of Education Report - *Tom Buffett*

- Educational series 11/19 7-8 pm, Kinawa School - "Academics to Sports: The Importance of Children's Sleep"
- Will be talking to other Ingham County districts re: start times/sports
- Have any 3rd party looked at creative ways to do this?
- Janelle: Ann Arbor shifted times successfully. May look at as model.
- Board of Ed retreat and how we spend our time

Principal's Report - *Lauren Schefke, Bennett Woods Principal*

- Multicultural night last Friday for over 670 people. Half of the presentation were about cultures. College student participation as well.
- Invited families for coffee (Bigby is a school sponsor) to come and socialize. MTSS, literacy: 20-30 people. Will have more. Next- PBIS?. Hope to do 3-4x/year. OPM will do a coffee gathering soon as well.

Presentation - *Tom Isom - Director of Media & Technology*

- Arctic Wolf & Sentinel - big tech security to secure our network. Arctic wolf monitors our network (if someone is trying to hack in). Went in with Ingham ISD consortium. Implemented last year.
- Bond - new cameras, vestibules, access/doors on new system. It's more integrated with other systems. Easier for managing lockdowns, etc. One system to manage all.
- Cisco server (#1 for networking equipment). Best networking. Each room has access point/wi-fi
- Grades 5-12 received new devices. (Getting credit on only devices turned in).
- Chromebooks in elementary carts in classrooms are still good (2019).
- Should be replaced every 5 years, but really need every 3-4 years.
- New staff devices as well - only a handful of desktops left. Replaced almost 600.

- Password updates at HS level - given option to change.
- Updated interactive monitors
- 11 total employees in Technology. 2pp work with Powerschool, teacher apps, SIS (student information sessions), assessments. Work with Stacey for online assessments.
- Corrinne: Changed from Google apps to MS365? Use MS Directory? Just for authentication to get onto network.
- Other security technology upgrades (behind the scene)

New Business/Action Items/Other

- Thanking OHS Action volunteers (Jane). There are 3 captains per school. Rachel Baldwin Freeman. Liz: The high school takes care of action volunteers.
- OHS teacher luncheon Thursday as mental health thank you.
- PHASE application reviews - done by Stacey S & Karen S.
- Okemos Cares - sponsor family
- Toddler Day - 2 ½- 3 ½ yr olds - sign up. December 13th, Child Development Program. It's a preschool for the day. Lindsey Harrod reached out to principals.
- This Wednesday, OEF Banquet. Apple Awards coming soon. Jen Berman in charge.

School Reports

Okemos High School

- OHS had 2 difficult losses the past couple of weeks - a junior who took her own life, and Steve Finamore, teacher and coach. Students received an email with instructions on how to reach out for additional support. We asked teachers to let counselors know about students who appear to be struggling so a counselor can follow up with the students and their families. If you feel it would be beneficial for your student to speak with someone, please contact our Counseling Office at 517-706-4920 so we may reach out to your student.
- Final exams Jan 15-17
- Okemos Cares Gift Drive is up and running. Flyers were sent out to families requesting donations.
- Toddler Day Friday December 13th, anyone interested in having their toddler participate must fill out forms.

Chippewa 7-8

- Chippewa Athletic Director Andre Ridley, district counselors, and Woofpack facility dogs helped support the members of the 8th grade boys basketball team after the passing of Coach Finamore
- Planning underway for a dining fundraiser
- Planning for "stock the lounge" and holiday gifting
- Working on science night plan, possible help from OHS students
- 7th grade camp meeting went well! Excited for our 7th graders
- Winter Wonderland day before winter break for the students

Kinawa 5-6

- November 21st 6th grade band concert
- Start of trimester 2 is November 18th
- Bikes for Books Nov 18th - May 15th
- Musical theatre workshop, Mrs. Bellamy
- Reminder that handicap parking spaces during pick up and drop off need to be only used by properly marked cars

Cornell Elementary

- Global Cornell happened - such a diverse group of countries represented this year from Spain to Lebanon, to Ecuador to India. Great turnout with collaboration from MSU. Just also a shoutout to the OHS Action group who had their first big event without Auden. They were amazing.
- Doing a spirit sale and gift card sale for holidays
- Had Buddies pizza and Edru skating fundraisers
- Book fair through Literati

OPM

- Held OPM's first Global Gathering on Nov 8 in the evening and it went well
- Thursday, Dec 12 from 5-7 holding a parents night out
- Students voted on the flash dash (annual fundraiser) theme on November 5 as an exercise to learn about the voting process

Bennett Woods

- Thankful November- we are giving away small prizes to our teachers and staff each day.
- Fun run a success- \$23,900 raised Principal Schefke will dress up in an inflatable and we had a spirit day and a staff dress up day
- Staff and teachers are doing professional development on literacy, learning about mental health support for kids, special education and DEI issues (with the help Justice Leaders Collaborative group).
- Multicultural night Nov 15 - 673 attendees, 12 performances, kid groups and high school, MSU, community members. Dragon dance.
- We are supporting BW families with Meijer gift cards for the holidays.
- PBIS celebration was this Friday with Victory Martial Arts - 80 kids.
- We funded a staff grant for a bookshelf.
- We appreciate the added police support to keep our kids safe while walking to school through the roundabout..
- We have started using Zeffe to avoid fees.
- Next meeting at Bit of Wood Dec 11 - classes: carving, art bar

Hiawatha

- Front office/secure vestibule is complete and staff have moved in. Kids had a tour with the Okemos Wolf.

- Very successful fall fundraiser—the Wolf Walk—surpassed our goal of \$15k with a total raised of about \$16.5k
- PTO continues to hold passive fundraisers throughout the winter months leading up to spring event, including Henry’s place.
- Doing parent dinner at Red Haven.
- Using Slack - app that houses communications with different channels.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday, December 16th, 12-2:30, Cornell Elementary

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

Website: www.okemosk12.net – Families – District Parent Council