

**District Parent Council Minutes**  
February 24, 2025 12:00 – 2:30pm  
OPM/Central Elementary Library

Attendees: Karen Shapiro, John Hood, Stacy Bailey, Sarah Allen, Kristin Hundt, Vanessa Grant, Sage Hales-Ho, Jillian Winn, Kelly Sundeen, Corinne Dyksen, Jane Manfredo, Tamara Marshall

Via Zoom: Katie Cavanaugh, Pam Jones

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro*

Principal's Report - *Kelly Sundeen, OPM/Central Elementary Principal*

- Enrollment lottery opened today. There are few openings. Kindergarten and one 4th grade opening. Siblings have preference.
- LEGO Wolf
- Parent Meetings

Superintendent's Report - *John Hood, Superintendent*

- HR Director Position Open (Mario left, need to fill)
- Question about exit interviews: We do not do them
- We have done lots of hiring recently, many stay. Okemos is an intense place to work with high expectations.
- Policies: were redone as of 7/1.
- LSJ did a story regarding Immigration policies. We did not redo these policies because we are already in a good place.
- Hard to find on website
- Communication going out about updated policies.
- Strategic planning
- Early childcare - community ed. Will present plan at tonight's Board of Ed meeting.
  - More GSRP offerings (free pre-school).
  - Increased costs (employment/salaries)
  - Management not meeting expectations
  - Before and aftercare enrollment down
  - Ratings went down from 4 star to 1 star
- District mission: K-12. Maybe we want to enhance/focus on pre-K. Proposal: sunset infant 1& 2 yr old rooms, increase preschool, 3 & 4s.
- Trying to increase sales for Wolf gear. Seven Brew, no Meijer, others in the works. Yearly renewal (over 3 years) so don't need to stay with Fabricated Customs. Want to keep control of trademarked logo and maximize profits for the district.
- School cancellations - Text and/or call notifications are coming next school year.
- Closings: Bennett Woods - 3 extra days (power outage, gas leak, motor burnout/smoke)
  - High School - 5 days
  - Rest - 4 days
- 3 accidents by Bennett Woods this school year. (Ingham County Road Commission). Katie Diehl security assessments on-site.

## Board of Education Report - *Jillian Winn*

- Background in tech and education, ASL and business. (Taught web development and design at MSU)
- Orientation, webinars,
- Three of our lawyers came to talk about protecting students
- Must have warrant/parent present
- Sec. e - taking students into custody - need parent consent or warrant or court order, etc. Exceptions: hot pursuit (weapons)
- We will reach out to our legal team if something happens (schools no longer protected zones)
- Webinar: Navigating Executive Orders (MASB) - student records , confidentiality. PTO piece - keeping data safe.
- School staff have scripts established and printed out so people know what to say. Pushes up to John or Stacy or principal.
- Raising Resilient Wolves presentations - wellness series
- Strategic planning: 3-5 years. February 2020 was our last one.
- Strategic plan - working with MASB
- Short survey link on OPS site: [okemosk12.net](http://okemosk12.net)

## Presentation - *Stacey Bailey - Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*

### Curriculum:

- K-8, 5-8 purchase rotations
- High School: Each course has its own calendar for purchasing.
- \$100k spent annually for updated curriculum/courses. Try to spread out purchases so we don't need the big ones at the same time.
- There is a committee for renewals (teachers of all voices included). 6-9 months for recommendations. District Advisory Council looks at recommendations; presentation to the Board of Education; parents then notified.
- Never unilateral curriculum selections.
- Teachers get training needed for updates.
- Course offerings are on the district website: Academics.
- Question on going in and out of honors classes
- 4th and 7th grades math testing, not 5th and 6th as well.
- There is now an appeals process for testing
- Question about having only 6 class periods per day at the high school. Not enough room for required courses plus electives. Forces kids to quit arts or make tough choices. (Versus having shorter classes with an additional one or 2 periods). Help with being competitive with other states for higher ed admissions.
- Scheduling information - all online. Course guide. Group comments about wishing parents could be more involved with scheduling (or notified earlier so can better discuss options with children).

### New Business/Action Items

- Question: Can we opt for texts vs voice calls for school closings? Yes! Happening soon.
- **Okemos strategic planning process** - The district is working in conjunction with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) to hold listening sessions that will inform the new strategic plan. We would like members of the District Parent Council to participate in a dedicated session for that group. We are hoping to

conduct the session during your regularly scheduled meeting on March 17. It is expected to take about an hour and would happen via a Zoom link from the MASB.

- Questions for next month: Chief Grillo & Officer Short
- Secretary position/President position 2025-26 (Corrinne has agreed to become president)
- Other items?

#### School Reports

*OHS – Liz Luyendyk, Sarah Allen, Tere Blanca, Karen Shapiro*

*Chippewa – Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush, Giselle Claux*

*Kinawa – Liz Luyendyk, Tamara Marshall*

*Cornell – Corinne Dyksen and Kristin Hundt*

*OPM – Sage Hales-Ho and Mary Verhanovitz*

*Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi, Tamara Marshall, Vanessa Grant*

*Hiawatha – Stacey Smith and Pam Jones*

#### Adjourn

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 17th, 12-2:30, Hiawatha Elementary School

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

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

# OPS Building Reports

February 25, 2025

## Okemos High School

- Conferences March 11-13th
- Spring Musical: The Drowsy Chaperone casting has completed. Show dates are not published yet.
- Scheduling presentations have been seen by all students for the 25/26 school year
- Counselors will meet with students to finalize schedule Feb 24-March 14

## Chippewa 7-8

- Planning conferences meal for staff
- A celebration for 8th grade being planned for end of year
- A “end-of-testing” celebration for 7th and 8th also being planned

## Kinawa 5-6

- Science Night was a huge success! Officially 733 attendees, including 118 students.
  - 84 student posters created
  - 45 exhibitors
  - Lots of community donations, raffle baskets, and teachers “pied in the face”
- Parent teacher conferences will be on March 12 and 13.
- Book fair is scheduled for the week of March 22. Schuler Books is the sponsor. 20% off sales using code KINAWAPG between March 16-22nd
- There are two upcoming vacancies on the KPG Board. Deadline to apply is March 29th.
- Entrepreneur Night is Friday May 2nd. Will inquire about co-coordinators and/or a planning committee really soon.
- Mold remediation continues with the library currently being renovated. Each room/area will receive new ceiling tiles, and carpet will be replaced with tile or water resistant flooring.
- MStep and NWEA testing coming this spring.
- Standards based grading to be implemented building wide this fall.

## Cornell Elementary

- Science night is this Friday
- Family/school read for 'March is Reading Month' starts March 3rd
- We'll provide a potluck lunch for teachers during conference week
- Mileage club starts Monday after spring break
- All year students have the opportunity to win positive behavior supports rewards as a class or grade level. A maker space is coming up in April for one of the rewards!
- Our crossing guard (at corner of Hatch and Cornell Rd.) has been out quite a bit this winter and we've had varying degree of consistency from police officer there to help with that busy crosswalk.

## OPM

### Upcoming PTO Events

- Thurs, Feb 6, 6pm to 8pm - Science Night
- Okemos High School Action Kids will appear twice.
- Bricks and Minifigs has generously volunteered to be a free exhibitor. They have offered to create a Lego Okemos Wolf at cost. The small version measures 3x3 and costs \$125, while the large

version measures 5x5 and costs \$475. The school will get to keep whichever model is chosen.  
This offer is available for all Okemos Public Schools.

- Thurs, Feb 27, time TBD - Impression 5

#### Past PTO Fundraisers

- December: Buff City, raised \$153.00
- January: Launch, raised \$TBD (PTO meeting held before fundraiser)
  
- Call for Volunteers for 2025-26
- Social media poster
- Flyer creator (templates available for future use)
- Newsletter (templates available for future use)

#### **Bennett Woods**

- Preparing for science night on 2/26- over 40 exhibitors and 100 posters! Over 40 donated prizes.
- Brought in snacks for the teachers after their help with the fire dismissal/evacuation.
- Had a 7brew coffee break for teachers.
- Had a PBIS celebration and a Launch fundraiser.

#### **Hiawatha**

- Global Gathering was held on 2/20—excellent turnout from the community
- \$6k donation from the Kibble Foundation being used in the library by Mrs. DeKatch
- New fundraiser—Hiawatha Night Out. A prix fix dinner at Red Haven on 3/6
- STEAM night is 4/17