

District Parent Council Minutes
January 22, 2024 12:00 – 2:30pm, Okemos High School, Library

Attendees: John Hood, Dan Kemsley, Karen Shapiro, Liz Luyendyk, Sarah Allen, Tamara Marshall, Pamela Jones, Stacey Smith, Dawn Crandell, Kristin Hundt, Carly Patel, Tere Blanca, Jayme Taylor, Jane Manfredi

Via Zoom: Leah Kwapis and Sage Hales-Ho

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro/Liz Luyendyk*

Principal's Report - *Daniel Kemsley*

- Successful first semester
- 9th graders - NWEA, 2nd round emailed out
- Winter dance is February 3rd at OHS
- School attendance has become a concern.
- **Scheduling** is beginning for next year. Testing out of classes has changed to right when school ends instead of right before school starts. There will be no more guided studies class. Drops/Add is also no longer happening. Scheduling changes will be made through counselors.
- Dan is getting many external emails saying how awesome OHS students are. Lots of positive feedback.
- All used caps and gowns are welcome for future use.
- OMP Spaghetti dinner is being planned
- There is no homework over winter break, however AP classes are exempt from this.
- Summer school question: math recovery - will have credit recovery. In person, but maybe online with the actual teacher. Stacey Bailey would know.
- Final grades dropoff issue: kids who do well all year, but very poorly on final exams. Teachers/staff use Illuminate/analysis insight into questions. Next year they will get rid of Scantron. It's more expensive.

Superintendent's Report- *John Hood*

- Thanks to Dan for his awesome leadership.
- Niche rating: OHS #1 in the Lansing area. All Okemos schools top 4. 4th best in the State.
- Start time email will go out to everyone soon. Barriers if flip schedule, or if we move everyone later, problems too. Would increase the number of bus drivers needed and busses to solve problems. \$135K per bus and current bus driver shortage barriers as well as with more drivers, would cut their hours. Will meet with the Board of Education on this tonight. Other barriers include increased pay for substitutes with more kids missing more classes due to athletics and having 18-20 teachers coach. \$2 million is best choice. Not sure it's worth it and how to find additional bus drivers. 1098 required hours/year and 176 days required.
Question - (Jane) How many kids affected by athletics. A: 245 in fall sports, 111 in winter sports, 228 in spring sports. That's 146 vs. 1400 total.

Jayme (BOE) - trying to talk with other districts.

- Montessori building testing for asbestos, lead, mold. Air and surface. Waiting on results.
- Hiawatha car line - Proposed changes have major loud opposition. Put in application for “school zone” designation.
- **Question** - Security for after school/evening events: Katherine Diehl, invite.
- **Question** - NWEA: What data can we get? More details, grade level breakouts. A: Ask Stacy Bailey for more details.

Board of Education Report - Jayme Taylor

- The policy committee is doing a lot of work to update.
- Concluded the Superintendent review
- Wage study - plan to do every year for competitive wages. Mario Lopez: more comprehensive now.
- Data presentations are ongoing.
- New courses proposed 5th-12th grades. World languages, music theory.
- Advocacy committee - meeting with Julie Brixie, Penelope, Sen. Stabenow, House Education Committee chair.
Question: Would you like parent involvement? A: Good idea. Maybe include HS students too.
Use MASB to get updates.

Guest Speaker - Emily Swirsky - Directory Food and Nutrition -

Did not attend. We went over the questions we sent to her and added more including:

- Is a “no thank you” table allowed? What are the rules for leftover/unused food?
- New schools to be built: reusable trays/silverware?

New Business / Follow up information -

Question: Staff retention (post-Covid) - What efforts are being made to keep teachers. (Brian Lieber). Additional support staff, increased pay, increased training opportunities. Results of requests are mostly done.

Admin - struggle hiring folks successfully here. Staff are successful elsewhere, but the standards are higher in Okemos. Problem: no assistance directors, except now in HR. Took a while to add a communications person.

Jayme: Compare with like districts.

Mikayla Temple - updating website shortly. Evaluations soon.

OPS Building Reports

OHS – Niki Robinson, Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro

- *March 8, 2024 Spaghetti dinner 4:30-7:30pm.*
- *Cap and gown donations being accepted to help other families who could benefit from a used set.*

- *Pizza/Pizzicato Orchestra Day has been moved to April 27, 2024. This is a giant celebration for the entire 5th-12th grade orchestra program.*
- *Staff appreciation potluck lunch facilitated by OHS Parent Group last Thursday, Jan 18th. It was successful but had trouble getting enough volunteers.*
- *Next parent group meeting 1/22, 6:30-6:45 to discuss Post-Prom at CADL - Okemos Library meeting room. Recruiting for the PPP (Post-Prom Planning Committee). Email ohsparentgroupinfo@gmail.com if interested. Additional meetings will be 2/12, 3/18, 4/15, 5/6.*

Chippewa –Tere Blanca, Carly Patel, Dawn Crandell

- *Before Winter Break CPG organized a gift card drive for staff. Families would purchase Amazon gift cards in \$10 increments for staff members of their choice. Gift cards were emailed to staff before break.*
- *7th Grade Camp will be February 6-9*
- *WILL (Women in Leadership and Legacy) is a high school club that will be meeting at CMS on January 26 to talk about healthy friendships*
- *CMS will be starting a Debate Club*
- *Ms. McKimmy and Ms. Cesar's classrooms are testing out new furniture in preparation for the new middle school.*

Kinawa – Liz Luyendyk, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush

- *We have four classrooms who are piloting new flexible furniture that we will be purchasing as part of the 2022 Bond. The pilot will last 6 weeks in each classroom to determine what furniture students and staff like best and which furniture helps with our move our teaching and learning practices forward.*
- *Our staff continue to move towards a Standards Based Grading format. Staff are currently collaborating within departments and as a building to determine common practices and experiences for all students. Areas we have discussed and are finalizing are common assessments, activities to assess power standards, retake policy, parent information guide, etc.*
- *Students will be rotating to their next 6-week rotation for their elective classes.*
- *We have started our planning for next school year. Our music staff will be working with elementary administrators to go to all elementary schools buildings and provide information about music classes at Kinawa. Our counselors, MTSS Coach, and administrators will be meeting with all elementary 4th grade teachers to gather information on our current 4th grade students to set them up for success for the transition to Kinawa. Kinawa administrators use this information to hand schedule every child into their classes.*
- *Spring Parent Teacher conference will be the week of March 11th. Additional information will be shared with Kinawa families in early February.*
- *Okemos Public Schools was rated as one of the top schools in the State of Michigan, #4 overall. We are very proud of our students and staff for the work they do. Additionally, we are thankful of our community and the continued support each member provides to help us achieve at a high level each year.*

Cornell – Corinne Dyksen, Kristin Hundt

- *December character trait was honesty*
- *short survey was sent out to families about PBIS school-wide systems*
- *Data meetings based on winter testing happening now (mid January)*
- *PTO will be working on winter whole-school positive behavior celebrations, Science Fair*
- *New students in kindergarten bring some kindergarten aids (none of the teachers had them to start this year for the first time in a long time because of smaller kindergarten class)*

OPM – Sage Hales-Ho and Mike Callahan

- *Eat Out Fundraisers have been going well, we have on Jan 24 at Buddy's Pizza and a launch trampoline park event on 2/7 and an event at Impressions 5 planned for March 7*
- *There is an OPM facility committee forming to follow-up on environmental testing. Committee made up of stakeholders to discuss next steps regarding the OPM facilities. First meeting on January 24.*
- *School conducting a winter donation drive that will go to the Dobie Road Ingham County Medical Care center*

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi

- *Multicultural night 1/26- there will be dragons! and our dragon team was asked to also help at the meridian mall celebration of the year of the dragon by performing our dragon dance*
- *Science night 2/21- 38 confirmed exhibitors, Tasty Twist donated 100 ice cream cones to all poster submittals, turning in your poster on time earns you a chance to "Pie the Principal", MSU Abrams Planetarium, Tinker, Potter Park Zoo and Meridian township also donated to prize baskets.*
- *Teacher Grants were given for fidget chairs and headphones.*
- *NWEA's done before break are allowing for data days now.*
- *50% of invited students are participating in Esser afterschool programming.*
- *New sandwich boards are helping us to get out the news of PTA meetings by a visual reminder to parents in carline.*
- *"Bracelets for Bolt" continue to raise money for Bolt's needs.*
- *2/15 6:30 PM in the BW library is the next meeting*

Hiawatha–Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith

- *Global Gathering (FKA Multicultural Night) is coming back on 2/9 from 6:30-8pm. The planning committee has been working hard to put together a wonderful event.*
- *STEAM Night (FKA Science Night) will be April 12th -Hiawatha Happening will be May 10th*
- *The committee for Mileage Club has concluded that the Playmakers program is the best fit for our school, so we will partner with them this year.*
- *Carline construction has been a hot topic within the school community.*

- *SSA and CRPIS committee put together a fun behavioral expectation review game for the students to work on after break. Feedback was positive*

Questions/Comments

Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 26, 2024 12-2:30pm, OPM

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

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