

District Parent Council Minutes
April 15, 2024 12:00 – 2:30pm, Kinawa 5-6 School

Attendees: Karen Shapiro, John Hood, Steve Stierley, Shulawn Doxie, Katie Diehl, Sarah Allen, Tere Blanca, Kristin Hundt, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Thornburg, Tamara Marshall, Corinne Dyksen

Via Zoom: Jessica Savage, Mike Callahan, Katie Cavanaugh

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro*

Superintendent's Report - *John Hood*

- **Bond:** This summer every building is getting security upgrades, doors, cameras. OHS and Hiawatha getting secure vestibules.

Pool upgrades at OHS as well (ventilation and heating & cooling)

Chippewa new build starting June 6th! New carline. 2 years, then Cornell begins.

- **2nd Bond:** Sold \$77 million bonds (S&P AA rating), 39 investors; combined orders = \$539 million (lower yield 0.9) - lowers debt. Fantastic bond sales.
- **New:** "Prevent to Protect" threat assessment (high risk students - resources, support) through MSU Psychology - Alyse Ley
- Policy change - behavior threat assessment.
- Kinawa and other school had successful eclipse events.
- Twitter/X - @superokemos
- MSB - talk about best practices re: security
- Staffing for next year: Elementaries down 1-2 sections (as of now). 9 retirements, mostly at Chippewa.
- \$200K/year savings to prevent Covid funding cliff. We added so many resources that we do not want to lose.
- Budget is based on per pupil and enrollment
- Protocol from power outage: Was chaotic as the planning started at 7:20 am, 2 hours later than a normal call for no school.

Principal's Report - *Steve Stierley*

- Eclipse event: 570 kids, 750 people total went on the Toledo eclipse trip. They were on many news channels!
- MSTEP: 5th graders take all subjects Tuesday and Thursday. 6th graders just math and ELA.
- Science night: Kinawa and Chippewa did a combined event for the first time.
- 5/3 Entrepreneur Night & Art Show

- Archery team middle school & HS (5/8-11): Louisville, KY for nationals
- Kinawa planning: numbers are pretty stable for next year.
- 5/21 - 4th grade visit
- 5/29 Michigan adventure trip (6th graders)
- 5/30 Greenfield Village trip (5th grades)
- Question - Shulawn Doxie: Can we plan for parents a field trip list at the beginning of the year?
- Transition to “standards based grading” - reflects more of what they learned; Proficiency. Totally difference report cards. Behavior not part of grade/separate. K-4 already does this.

Board of Education Report - *Shulawn Doxie*

- Continuing to update Board policies, effective 7/1.
- Will study “Human Side of School Changes” (book by Robert Evans). About implementing change within a district.
- 6/12, 7 pm - Protect the Pack event - 3rd annual

Speaker - *Katie Diehl, Director of Safety and Security*

- Funded through Safety and Security grant
- Handout re: district security
- Retired from Lansing Police Department; was a gang resistance education instructor, was a trainer at Lansing PD, spoke at MSU
- 2022 OPS had district assessment, so following up with that.
- Will work with OPS Operations and do a lot this summer
- Helping with behavior threat assessment; work with SEC (Secure Environment Consultants)
- Create district standards so buildings are more similar/coordinated.
- Has good relationship with Meridian Township Police, FD
- Reunification and family assistance
- Site assessment; door numbering on all internal and external.
- Stop the bleed
- Technology safety
- Creating interior and exterior mapping - shared with all responders, township - micro and macro versions. There is security for these maps.
- Evacuation routes, where first aid is - in all classrooms.
- Lots of new technology: cameras, new lockdown system (better for building leaders), card readers
- Working to secure each school. Need to include after school activities, field day, events renting out school facilities.

School Reports

OHS – Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro

Chippewa –Tere Blanca

Kinawa – Liz Luyendyk, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush

Cornell – Corinne Dyksen

OPM – Sage Hales-Ho and Mike Callahan

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi

Hiawatha–Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith

Action Items

DPC positions for next year - President, Secretary and Reps: Karen Shapiro is asking to fill these positions for next year. She is hoping to complete this at the May meeting.

Other questions/Comments?

Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 20, 2024, 12-2:30pm, Administration Building @Central Elementary

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

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

Building Reports

Okemos High School

- SAT testing for Juniors on 4/15 and 4/17 in the morning. 9th, 10th and 12th graders do not arrive at school until 11:28 on both days.
- Post prom help is needed, info available on OHS parent group Facebook page.
- May 18, Prom and After Prom

Chippewa

Kinawa

- Kinawa/Chippewa Science Night - a great success.
- Entrepreneur Night planning underway and it will be combined with the revival of an art show under new format. The **Kinawa Art Show** will happen during Entrepreneur Night . Please come support our makers, crafters, bakers, and artists! Friday, May 3rd, 6-8 in the Kinawa gym. This event is open to the community! Please bring cash (small bills preferred).

Cornell Elementary

- Cornell has kicked off mileage club
- Science night is this week
- Restaurant Night at Culver's by 96 is tonight! Come eat or drive thru :)
- Kindergarten roundup this week
- PTO meeting 4/24 9:00 am

Hiawatha Elementary

- 4/12 was our STEAM Night. While it was a wonderful event it was much smaller than last year, we suspect due to the Glow Dance at Chippewa.
- Partnering with Playmakers has been a process but mileage club starts 4/15. We are hosting two family nights this year, one that coincides with a restaurant fundraiser in hopes that people will picnic during/after the family night at school.
- The PTO is in the beginning stages of an update to the Staff Lounge. We will need to work with the district to be sure the work we do is approved.
- Many parents are still interested in trying to help with the installation of a School Zone on Jolly in front of school to improve the safety conditions.

Bennett Woods Elementary

- The whole school watched the eclipse with glasses from the pta.

- We discussed the budget, science night and looking ahead to the science night budget but tabled that convo.
- Date for clean up day listed.
- Boys scouts and Girl Scout troops who meet at BW will be participating in clean up. Girl Scouts plan to make a free little library with a local woodworking shop.
- Still discussing ideas for special projects budget.
- Mileage club has begun.
- No other fundraisers planned for the year.
- Discussed staff appreciation plans for April, lunch provided on April 29, professional day. And May teacher appreciation month planning in the works. Something special each week for the month of May.
- Bolt officially “graduated” in April, and got his service dog vest. We will be celebrating Bolt’s birthday for our April PBIS event on April 19.

Okemos Public Montessori/Central Elementary