

District Parent Council Minutes
September 9, 2024 12:00 – 2:30pm, Administration Building

Attendees: Karen Shapiro, John Hood, Giselle Claux, Sarah Allen, Tom Buffett, Kristin Hundt, Liz Luyendyk

On Zoom: Stacey Smith, Mary Verhanovitz

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro*

Superintendent's Report - *John Hood*

- Off to a positive start, opening assembly for every employee in the district.
- Dr. Mark Largent, provost at MSU was keynote speaker.
 - Barriers in place in undergraduate education and how to remove them, how to look for that in K-12 education.
 - How data drives the outcomes
 - Talked about institutional racism
 - Taylor Swift theme an "Era's Tour" (new era, new schools)
- Wolf Pack 5K
 - District wide participation instead of individualized schools
 - Over 500 runners and gross \$30K in donations - money for Wolf suit
- Football Game - 9/7/2024
 - Packed game
 - Paint Party
 - Students followed expectations, great experience
- Secure Vestibules
 - Hiawatha and OHS are almost finished. Last few fixes finishing
- Operations
 - Summer cleaning - best cleaning in years
 - Three temp employees over the summer for outdoor grounds
- Chippewa
 - New car line was a big "what if" seems to be going well
 - Building schedule - right on "schedule"
 - Website will be adjusted to show exactly how school will be layouted
 - Timeline for the "big rocks"
- Athletic Fields - t-ball, rec field - town coordination
- Montessori
 - Where it is going, will it leave?

- This year forecasting for future building. It will be a new bond along with other district needs.
- Kinawa
 - Plans right now is Admin and Tech
 - Maybe a senior center?
- OHS Pipe Burst right before Labor Day
 - D Wing: Second floor pipe burst, remediations company
 - Moisture behind bathroom wall, mold found and taken care
 - Math hall. D wing bathrooms closed until renovated
 - Insurance claim and updated bathroom will be installed.
- Hiawatha Carline
 - Line out to Jolly
 - Maybe more parents using carline this year
- Kinawa
 - ERG company testing for mold around area
 - ERG has not told us to move students during their assessment
 - Director Lieber looking into it and remediations will take place
 - Two air handlers were not functioning correctly and have now been fixed
 - Ripping out carpet, ceiling tiles, replaced cupboard
 - Communications to staff and family will be out ASAP
 - Sinking Fund has been used for our emergency needs, BOE does not usually need to approve use of funds.
 - Tennis Courts: no funds to fix, need to clean up right now, weed.
- Enrollment
 - No foundational allowance increase this year. \$9800 per child for the 24/25 school year.
 - An increase of about 16 students
- Senior Center
 - Voted down for relocation to Meridian Mall
 - Seniors would like it to stay Okemos
 - Current center will be torn down in 4 years
 - Haslett will be brought into talks to incorporate all of Meridian Township
- New evaluation model for teachers/law change
 - Growth model - 20% student growth
- Security
 - Kinawa: drop off
 - Updated secure cameras at OHS, facial recognition.

- Not tracking students continuously.
 - Can go back and track
 - Secure Education Consultants/Katie Diehl
 - Risk assessment - risk is low
 - Question: Mary V. - What are staff doing re: student threats?
 - John: All staff are trained with behavioral threat assessment teams. There is also a new partnership with MSU (Prevent to Protect).
- Survey Tool
 - Panorama investigation, new
 - Cultural and climate survey for students, twice this year.
 - Parents/family and staff will be surveyed as well.
- Communications
- NWEA
 - Testing took place throughout the district last week even though NWEA was having connectivity issues.
- Cornell front office issues (Corinne) - 20 mins. Secretaries need to give insulin (no \$ for nurses to do it). Therefore, no one to let people in the building.

Board of Education Report - *Tom Buffett*

- Superintendent Evaluation: Tie goals to data
- Budget Concerns: Okemos budget set end of June before state budget finalized. We received \$1 million less than expected from the State due to no per pupil increase.
- Policy Work
 - ALMOST DONE
 - Touching policies every three years
- Setting priorities for BOE work
- NWEA data: connection of interventions to outcome (ROI)
- Board Retreat
 - End of September
 - Engagement of community
 - Board operating procedures need to be systematic
- Jamie and Melanie retiring

Community Forum

- Questions have been set for 9/16 @ 7:00 PM

Other comments

- Wondering if the district 5K could be done in the spring so it wouldn't come right before the many school fundraisers, often in September.

School Reports

- OHS
 - Homecoming game September 20th
 - Seniors painted parking spots
 - "Harvey" play – September 16 & 17 from 4:00-5:30 pm
 - National Honors Society meetings are happening.
 - Paint Party was a fun event
 - We won our first Varsity football game in years! A great moment for the Wolves!
 - Homecoming Week coming up – September 16-21
- Chippewa
 - Security presentation Safe Tech, Safe Kids September 26th, 6:30 PM with Natalie Moser
 - The kids have been fantastic . . . teachers report they have been very kind, helpful and respectful.
 - Fall field trips are being planned. We have one 8th grade team going to Spicers Apple Orchard and the other 2 teams are going to Howell Nature Center. The 7th graders will be taking a trip to Lake Lansing Park.
 - Walk/Run is happening with lots of fun on Friday, 9/13
 - Counselors have been to each class to introduce themselves and share how they can best support our students
 - NWEA testing will begin September 9.
 - Fall athletics are off to a good start - nearly 100 students are running cross country! Competitions for cross country, volleyball and football begin this week.
 - Parent drop off and pick up routine has been established and continues to improve each day.
- Kinawa
 - Mold issues
 - Concrete sidewalks at drop off/pick up
 - KKM 9/16
 - 6th grade canoe trip
- Cornell:
 - Cornell has had a great start

- We have no new teaching staff and only three sections of kindergarten which is a change.
- A few MSU interns this year
- our academic support staff hours have been cut this year
- currently finishing up NWEA testing
- new Cornell building planning meetings will conflict with some of our PTO meetings meaning principal won't be present with us... hoping we can get a little more staff participation in them this year
- our PTO is putting on mostly the same events and have a goal to get Cornell kids engaged in more volunteer opportunities
- using Zeffy for fall run fundraising and also switching to mostly whole school rewards instead of individual ones
- next Cornell PTO Meeting 9/18 6:30pm over Google Meet
- OPM:
 - Excited to have Sadie in the building, OPM's Woof Pack dog
 - Working on a float for the homecoming parade and gathering volunteers to help
 - Completed OPM spiritwear sale on Sept 4
 - Eat Out Fundraiser at Henry's Place and Asian Buffet on Wed, Sept 18 from 4p-8p
- Bennett Woods:
 - First PBIS celebration is Sep 20 (same day as Homecoming)
 - Fun Run fundraising will be starting soon and the fun run is on Oct 18 (same as bike to school)
 - NWEA testing is soon
 - Eric Zhang from OHS will be teaching a new group of kids to do the dragon dance
 - Homecoming float planning underway
 - Multicultural night planning is underway
 - Sept 18 6:30 next meeting
- Hiawatha:
 - The PTO completed a renovation of the teachers lounge over the summer, investing approximately \$10k in the school.
 - Carline started a little rocky this year with the construction for the vestibule, but seems to have settled a bit.
 - We currently have zero volunteers or edustaff employees to help with lunch. Wondering if the district has considered re-evaluating the situation?

Action Items

- Shannon Beczkiewicz - Community Partners: Many groups, including Girl Scouts

and Victory Martial Arts approach her for fundraising opportunities with the schools.

Adjourn - 2:25 pm

Next Meeting: Board of Education Forum - September 16, 2024, 7pm, Admin Building

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

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

Website: www.ok.emosk12.net – Families – District Parent Council