

District Parent Council Meeting - January 23, 2023, 12:00 – 2:30pm – Cornell Elementary

Welcome and Introductions - Karen Shapiro

Attendance:

In person: Melissa Samluck, John Hood, Jane Manfredi, Tom Buffett, Jennifer Eddy (Gifted & Talented), Karen Shapiro, Sarah Allen, Leah Kwapis, Sunny Han, Amanda Brush, Heather Pricco (Sp Ed), Stacey Smith, Carly Patel, Niki Robinson, Corinne Dykson, Liz Luyendyk, Tracy Ojerion, Stacey Bailey, Jessie Gillard, Lara Slee, Cece and Phoebe (Woof Pack Dogs)

Zoom: Katie Cavanaugh, Sage Hales-Ho (OPM rep), Jessica Savage

Principal's Report - Tracy Ojerion

- First Year at OPS, from 21 yrs education experience in Lansing (School Admin 6 years)
- Refresh of the library- student centered spaces created and no adult furniture
- New student support advisor (SSA: Mrs. Nikki Mann) "Caught being good" revamped, Wolf of the week program, recognizing students in every classroom per week, Assessed in Swiss system, decreased behavior intervention needs.
- Dr Slee- anti bias and anti racist study group, working on building personal awareness and understanding of culture. Working on the equity teams. Will start exploring stereotypes to be able to eliminate them.
- Letters training- teachers 13, 12 teachers work with Nicki for OG training
- 4th grade teachers: responsive classroom, bring positive culture into the classroom, morning and closing circles.
- Care Bear Project- supported 15 Cornell families during the holidays
- Field Trips- K go to Polka Patch, 4th to capitol, 3rd grade go to the Zoo
- Elementary Music- bringing back in person performance, 2 to happen in the spring (K-2 and 3-4) in May at the high school, 30 ukuleles sponsored and cabinet by the PTO (students also doing recorders)

Superintendent's Report John Hood

- District grant for nurses reviewing medication administration protocols, grant extended through 7/2024
- Grant to fund school resource officer at OHS, 3 years, 50% match from district, police hire and train them. Dr. Slee work with Jason Russell and Police Chief.
- Bond - owners rep (Veritas), very helpful to manage the bond
 - Summer projects: Secure vestibules BW, Edgewood, Central, Cornell
 - Refresh OPM (interior finishes - doors, trim, office)
 - Planning Chippewa and Kinawa, some Cornell
- Calendar 23/24 posted on website: PLC days are no more, full days of PD attached to a Monday or Friday to allow long weekends because early release was a hardship for families.
- Union - start and end dates to be announced this spring.
- Donations: Club donation (25K by a donor)

- Budget 9 HS clubs, 6 middle, 4 elementary school clubs, but actually many more clubs with just volunteer leaders.
- More clubs such as D and D, Robotics, Affinity Groups
- Credit rating upgraded- lower rates for when we borrow (low debt, stable enrollments, and good admin to thank) AA stable, and longer term AA- stable
- PD topics TBA
- Changes to kick start days (device lines too long, to be addressed)
- Good language OG and letters training
- After school programs in all schools (K-12, Esser \$, COVID money)

QUESTIONS for Mr. Hood

- Survey resent out to Chippewa regarding start of school time preferences (issue with announcement not getting to them originally), will be shared out in Feb, local sleep expert (parent) will talk to board and education
- School resource officer job: scope TBD, not uniformed, in the environment, armed, help deal with threats, not disciplinarians, will help with teaching how to interact with the police.
 - Concern: all think good and or marginalized populations think not a good idea. This is a budget add-on. Some districts are doing this. We need to come up with a process for discussion with parents and the community.
 - Question: PTAs role in school security? Jason Russell will come in next month to clarify security in the district. State level changes (for drills). Do we need a safety subcommittee at each school? How can the parent council be engaged?
 - Concern about each school having their own safety committees (one at Hiawatha currently, should others be doing this?), additional stuff done at one school and not another suggests some schools are safer than others inappropriately. Secure system being employed district wide soon.
- Percentage of Students involved in clubs? Getting that data.
 - Clubs? Can we add website similarities to find clubs at all levels? Mr Hood will look into this. Possibly new website- better interface district wide.

Invited Speaker Stacey Bailey, Heather Pricco - Special Education

- Overview: Stacey Bailey, MI Integrated Continuous Improvement Committee
- Continuous, whole child, systems (EQUITY)
- MTSS framework, multi-tiered systems of support (Heather Pricco), rubric being created to assess this.
- Creating action plans, differentiated classroom instruction, switch to NWEA based on the subgroup previously, positive behavioral support (PBIS), meet Friday to look at review response, shared at Board meeting (academics, learning, and assessment calendars to be posted there)
- MTSS Diamond Model Tier 3, tier 2, tier 1, enrichment (remediation to acceleration)
- Heather Pricco- specially designed instruction for students with disabilities
- 2019: 436 with IEPs, current number is 562, in fall 2021 - 9.8% of our K-12 have IEPs,
- Supports ages 3-26, includes St. Martha's and Radmoor
- Increasing severe to moderate - Autism, higher than anywhere else except Lansing.
- Social/Emotional concerns

- Full Spectrum- resource all buildings, speech and language therapy, social work, school psychologist, need to hire another Special Ed teacher.
- Early childhood Ed, ASD (OPM, K, OHS), Cognitive impairments (BW), emotional impairments (EI)
- Deaf, visually impaired ISD
- IEP Process: reviewed once a year, individualized plan, redetermine eligibility q 3 years, review data, new testing?
- Other things: awareness training for staff and students, present to classroom for student who is affected, staff at last PD day: autism presentation, Problem solving teams in every building, LINKS program OHS and Chippewa (2 class periods, elective class, one day a week in class with Special Ed learning about students with autism, and the second day they are in the gen ed supporting their peer with the disability)
- Special Ed Coach: OHS new this year, thanks to the Board
- One specialist 504 Plans, Other supports all building on a variety of things: behavior, self contained programs,
- Behavior K-8, psychologist and social worker, Gen ASD consultant.

Questions

- 504 students are outside of Special Ed (not specialized education, just accommodations).
- MTSS data- how do you get that data? Stacey Bailey has this data, all students,
- Hiawatha- complicated IEP, communication? Admin person? How to choose the school? Did we have access to that?

Review process, Parents are not represented in the MTSS process, coming soon

- NWEA data- family reports that went home, some got it some didn't. No clear communication trail, when collected and having parents receive that information. More clear and timely reporting is needed for parents to be full allies.
- 504 kids- have needs that affect staffing, are you getting resources that you need? Need more staff?
- Each building has a point person. Principals at the elementary level.

Jennifer Eddy - Gifted and Talented Program

- How identified? Fastbridge, NWEA, classroom performance (classroom proficiency, teacher-identified)
- FAdvocate for all, Consultant to all, PD to all, placement, academic programming, summer opportunities,
- 20-25% gifted/advanced. Website support materials for all teachers, extension, enrichment, and group projects. Eg. delve deeper of grade level vs pushing them ahead. 1.5 years ahead essentially.
- OPS summer school programs: Placement: math exit 3rd grade and literacy 4th graders
- Good fit and best fit groups.
- OSI (Okemos science institute) 2nd-4th graders, Not during COVID, PLC days gone, so no time, highschoolers can't come over, if it comes back it is for ALL kids, can we do this during the school day.

- After spring conferences, she gives info to teachers to give out to students at spring conferences.

Questions

- Twice Exceptional: presentations to elementary staff, what it looks like, when it occurs, built into the day.
- Suggestion: Diamond image- arrow built into the enrichment to and from tier 1,2,3 , since currently it doesn't account for inclusion of Twice Exceptional students
- 504- student input? Data/input gathered from middle schoolers up.
- Developing additional on-ramps for honors is great.
- Advanced math test- spring 4th grade - skip 5th grade math and moved to 6th grade

OPS Therapy Dog Presentation: Melissa Samluk, OHS teacher, Cece, 5.5 yr old golden retriever, Phoebe 1 yr old

- South Lyon therapy dog funded 4 dogs in schools there. Brighton also has therapy dogs.
- Cece is not a service dog. She is a therapy animal- trained in basic obedience, alliance for therapy dog certified.
- Therapy dog must be well tempered, well socialized, enjoy human touch, ten year working time.
- Lowers stress/anxiety and improves attendance.
- Goals: counseling center 1 hour, classroom visits
- Bring together different groups of kids.
- 23 districts in MI have therapy dogs.

Questions

- Pet insurance? PTA contribute to that vs. just 500 cash? Or in lieu of?
- Phoebe, Chip, and Willow, and Cece,- FB and instagram.
- Allergies: dog free spaces, no one said dogs can't be in the classroom where kids are in OHS, need to assess in middle school and lower school.
- Zen den, no dogs (Muslim students go there to pray).
- \$10,000 cost for a trained therapy dog (often covered by sponsorships)
- PTA- ask for \$5000, and \$250-500 per year for incidentals.
- \$400 welcome kit includes beds, bowls, leash, toys, stick vacuum
- Insurance info???
- \$500 a year. MEETING WITH JOHN? Re asks, insurance,
- Jackson National- 501 C3 donate to PTOs for this?
- Website, Okemos Woof Pack, can accept donations (levels present), logowear
- Teachers and students benefit, especially on testing days
- Handlers, current staff, ten year commitment, application, grooming bills (goldendoodle more), Who pays? District pays, golden doodles - Canine for Change take care of them and that place pays, now \$80 a visit
- Lottery for which elementary gets the dog next. 2 dogs for next year and 2 dogs for the year after.
- MSU Healthcare- interest, support from Mr Hood as it was similar to Sparrow, email the PTO presidents.

Board of Education: Tom Buffett

- ID'd officers for the current year.
- Only operate as a whole entity.
- People email the board about everything. Track at the HS are unlocked so people don't have to climb over it (NOT the board's job- he indicated who to contact- the Principal).
- One employee - Mr Hood.
- Action: Using 2019 bond money, 4 new school buses and flexible furniture.
- 2nd meeting of the calendar year is tonight in person and via Zoom.
- One policy up for review: gender equity language (shared Jan 9), decisions in Feb meeting.
- New course proposals for OHS - 2 science and pilot "Life" class (logic, Investing, financial, engineering) as a new math class.

Other Business New sponsor for Mileage Club - Jane M. MSU Healthcare

Woof Pack Other questions/Comments? PRIORITIZE emergency care vs SPONSOR A single dog (waive exam fee, half off meds)

Camp Feb 7-10 for Kinawa

Kinawa- Science Night and Entrepreneur night coming back.

SHARING DATES FOR FUNDRAISERS, AND EVENTS- Possible Shared DPC calendar.

OHS- March 9th, Thursday, 4:30 PM start, music students 5th-HS selling tickets, Spaghetti Dinner, Some volunteer opportunities. Okemos Music Patron website, Concerts, OMP supports K-12.

Niki selling tickets.

Reanna Walworth-meeting scheduling Samluk email

District Parent Council Building Reports - January 23, 2023

OHS – Niki Robinson and Sarah Allen

Principle Note:

- Second semester has begun!
- Graduation date: May 21 & Time/Location:TBD
- OHS Winterfest Week Feb 20 – Feb 25, 2023

School Note:

- Important Counseling: Application for all 2023-24 application-based classes, including Advanced Placement, Science Research, Journalism, and Yearbook will be available in Google Classroom beginning January 17 and due by 3:00 p.m. Friday, February 3.

- After School Library Closing Date: 2/7/23 and 2/22/23

Okemos High School Parent Group Meeting

- Presentation and review of proposed amendments to OHS Bylaw. Parents can review the new bylaws on the OHS newsletter and/or parent tab. Voting Date: April 14th meeting at 9 am.

- End of Fall semester Staff Luncheon took place on Friday, January 13, 2023 and was a success.

- Post Prom Planning Committee had their first meeting on Dec. 8th and Prom/Post Prom

date is May 13, 2023

- AmazonSmile coming to an end on February 20, 2023
- The Lanzetta Scholarship Award for Senior this year is \$200
- Next Parent Meeting is Friday, February 10, 2023 at 9

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Tere Blanca

- Winter Wonderland event went very well
- 7th grade camp update - 300 already signed up. CPG helps with scholarships.
- There will be a presentation to 7-12 grade parents on Sextortion (through Stacey Bailey) which is on the rise.
- Kids are loving the new library furniture. It will be moved to the new building when it is built.
- Next CPG meeting 2/14 at 1:30 pm.

Kinawa – Sunny Han

- Kinawa's Therapy Dog -Phoebe
- We will be piloting a new Science Curriculum in the Spring for grades 5-8
- Students have completed their Winter NWEA testing and staff are analyzing the data
- We have started the process of planning for next year
- As a building our staff is currently working on an eventual move towards Standards Based Grading.

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk and Corinne Dyksen

- NWEA testing completed last week
- Amazon Smile will be discontinued, one last 'average of earnings' donation coming
- PTO will add FourSquare squares when weather permits
- Science Night – March 20 – Nature Discovery confirmed, looking for a few more displays
- Restaurant Night – also March 20, so grab some Culver's that night!
- Global Cornell – moved to April 28, from February 8; looking for another chair and family volunteers; working to educate about this night because most families haven't experienced it yet!
- Reading Program – March 2023, PTO is purchasing 2 books this year; "Stella Diaz has Something to Say" by Angela Dominguez for K-2, and "Save me a Seat" Gita Varadarajan for 3&4. Also looking for someone to chair this program.
- Mileage Club – PTO to purchase, potential private donor?
- Student Directory form will go out in a few weeks, looking into combining with Mileage Club release form to increase participation

OPM – Niki Robinson and Sage Hales-Ho

- Eat Out fundraiser on Jan 25 at Buddy's Pizza
- Fundraiser at Launch on Thursday, Feb 9, 4-7:30p
- Fundraiser event for OPM families at Impressions 5 on Thursday, March 2, 5-7:30p
- Planning Flash Dash fundraiser for May
- Raised funds for student families who experienced the Knob Hill Fire and distributed

funds in mid-January

- Next Meeting scheduled for February 13 at 4:15 at OPM or via Zoom

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi

- We sponsored a lunch for the teachers last week
- Two teachers grants given out: books for exploratory and money towards bringing in an author illustrator to the elementary schools
- NWEA testing
- We voted to support half the cost of the possible Wolf pack dog
- We got an update on the PBIS program
- Science Night is 2/16, the Abram's Planetarium will come twice to set up the inflatable planetarium for all the students to be able to experience
- Spirit Week is Valentine's Week, will tie in the Science night theme one day
- Possible shared google calendar for events for PTA presidents? conflict with Hiawatha science night and our Multicultural night (concerns re table resources and if multiple children possibly having to choose)
- Mileage Club- we are looking for new sponsors now that Sparrow isn't sponsoring it
- Multicultural night on 3/10
- Playground- obtaining an accessible bucket swing, new climber
- Future meetings: 2/23 Mark Fargo, 3/16, 4/20

Hiawatha – Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith, Carly Patel and Joy Magyar

HiawathaPTO1900@gmail.com

- GoFundMe raised approximately \$16k for the 3 Hiawatha families affected by the Knob Hill fire.
- Sensory Hall has been completed--PTO purchased stickers and installed them on 1/17.
- Continued success with fundraising--Fabricated Customs, Jersey Mikes, Buff City, Buddy's Pizza, etc.
- Science Night is coming back to Hiawatha on 3/10
- School Safety continues to be a major theme with parents and staff alike. A school safety committee has been created and continues to work towards addressing and resolving these concerns. Additional support is needed from the district-level administrators and contracted experts.
- The lunchroom is still very short staffed. Our supervisor left the beginning of 2023 for OPM. Some volunteers are converting their work status to Edustaff to help with having trained staff with students at all times, but our SSA is still working lunch every day, taking her away from PBIS and student problem solving.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2023 - Okemos High School Library