

District Parent Council
September 18, 2017
Meeting notes

Attendance: Alena Zachary-Ross, Lynne Thatcher, Suzie Jager, Stefanie Konrad, Vin Lyon-Callo, Joanna Wangerin, Karen Shapiro, Shruti Gross, Jen Nanzer, Jayne Lock, Andi Pincheira, Kristin Arnett, Sarah Allen

12:10 pm Meeting began

Introductions

World Café with the new Superintendent Alena Zachary-Ross

Celebrate

- What are you exceptionally proud of in Okemos Public Schools?
- What do we do very well in Okemos?
- Please describe what you see as the top 3 strengths of our district.

Reflect

- What areas of need exist?
- What opportunities for adjustment, improvement, or enhancement exist within our current service delivery to students, staff, families and community?

Dream

- When you dream for our children and the future they will experience, what are your hopes and dreams for the Okemos Public Schools?
- Where do you see your school or community in 5 years? Beyond?
- As you look to the future, for what do you want our school district and community to be known?

Getting to work, Setting Priorities

- What, in your opinion, are the most important next steps/immediate priorities for the Superintendent?
- Please list three top priorities you believe the Superintendent should attend to as soon as possible.

Topics to explore this year:

- December – Hear from Alena Zachary-Ross – extended State of the School report
- Approaching Bond proposal year
- Media update Bond proposal year
- Food rules have changed and how that will be impacted when nutrition as part of curriculum is added in; food production
- World Language
- M-Step
- Energy efficiency in buildings/recycling
- Parental education about social media/student coding/rules and crimes

Website

New emails are:

- KinawaPG@gmail.com
- ChippewaParentGroup@gmail.com
- HiawathaPG@gmail.com
- BennettWoodsFamCouncil@gmail.com

New website link go to

- Families

- District Parent Council

Board of Education

- Over capacity school wide
- +176 new students
- Redistrict certain neighborhood this year
 - How does school of choice play into the limit?
 - Superintendent decides the amount that are open in the Spring
- Long-term discussion needed
- All schools at really high capacity
- Bus capacity is being discussed

District Parent Council Building and Committee Reports

OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich

- **Parent Group Meeting** – The first Parent Group Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th at 9:00 AM, OHS Guidance Classroom 2nd floor. All high school parents are welcome.
- **OHS Choir Boosters Culver’s Night** – Come support the Choir program by eating at Culver’s on Okemos road Tuesday, September 19th 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- **Homecoming Activities and Themes**
 - Saturday, September 30 – Float Building, 10am -6 pm
 - Monday, October 2 – Powder Puff Game, 6pm
 - Wednesday, October 4 – Bonfire, 7-8:30 pm
 - Friday, October 6 – Parade 5:30pm, Football Game 7pm
 - Saturday, October 7 – Homecoming Dance, 8:30-11:30pm

This year’s Homecoming theme is **Greek Mythology** . Class themes are as follows:

 - Seniors: Zeus
 - Juniors: Poseidon
 - Sophomores: Hades
 - Freshmen: Hercules
- **Homecoming Tailgate Dinner** : The second annual Homecoming Tailgate dinner will be held on Friday, October 6 at the stadium, after the parade and before the game. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12. The inaugural 2016 event was a huge success and we hope you will join us this year. The Okemos Athletic Boosters are seeking volunteers and donations of water and soft drinks for this event. Questions, contact Event Chair, Michelle Mitchell @ jmmcmitchell@gmail.com . For volunteer sign up or beverage donations visit: <http://signup.com/go/WHMpdTz>
- **Name Change** : The Guidance Office has changed its name to the Counseling Office (in our attempt to join the 21st Century).
- **Athletic Booster Meeting** : Okemos Athletic Boosters monthly board meeting will be held Monday, September 18, 7pm at Old Chicago Restaurant. Corner of Grand River and Marsh Roads. Please join our awesome group and share your ideas! Questions, contact Karen Fraser, OAB President at okemosathleticboosters@gmail.com. **Volunteers Needed** : The Okemos Athletic Boosters have multiple openings for concession volunteers for the fall sports season. Please visit: <http://signup.com/go/OkHrzYr> to sign up today and join the fun in concessions! Many, many thanks to over 55 parents who have volunteered this season - your support is appreciated. Concession profits benefit our Student Athletes. When you sign up please REMEMBER to include in the COMMENTS field a sport that you would like to support; at the end of the year a percentage

of concessions profits will be shared by Okemos teams and allocated based on the level of volunteer support.

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro

- Curriculum night was Thursday, September 7. Parents enjoyed following their child's schedule and meeting with all of their teachers.
- Friday, September 15 – First CMS Parent Group Meeting, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- The Chippewa Walk/Run is a 3.8 mile route which all of the students and teachers participate in. It will take place on September 29th, beginning at 1:15pm. Delta Dental donated bottles of water for this event.
- The second of three donation collections takes place Friday, September 15th for the 2017 for the Chippewa Walk/Run. Our goal is to raise \$16,000 for Chippewa Middle School! This is the ONLY fundraiser the Chippewa Parent Group sponsors all year, and the funds raised pay for field trips, learning materials, classroom equipment, library books, school-wide events, teacher wish lists, and more. We are at about 20% of our goal as of the morning of 9/15. Classes who reach 85% class donations will receive a \$50 gift card. If the school reaches its goal there will be an ice cream party. Donations can be made online by clicking the "DONATE" button on our Chippewa Parent Group Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/chippewaparentgroup/>.
- Mrs. Evenson, school counselor, met with all 7th grade students to present a suicide prevention lesson.
- Chippewa Middle School is offering a debate club. Using the high school policy debate topic, Chippewa Middle School students will develop skills fundamental to understanding argumentation, debate, and public speaking. There is no cost to participate and meetings will be on Monday nights, from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Large Group Room.
- Homework Club starts Monday, September 18th. We will work on homework together with some help from our high school volunteers from 2:45 to 3:30 in the large group room on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, except early release days.

Kinawa – Andi Pincheira and Sarah Finley

- **Keep Kinawa Moving** This year's Keep Kinawa Moving event will be held on September 26th! This is Kinawa's primary fundraising event for the school year. It takes many volunteers to orchestrate such a large event. We will be sending out information on Wednesday about the event as well as information for anyone who may be willing to volunteer.
- **New faces around Kinawa this year** Kinawa is excited to welcome some new faces to our building. Please welcome Mr. Casey Bissot, Ms. Lauren Dombek, Mrs. Sheree Jungwirth, and Ms. Britney Page to the Kinawa family. Mr. Bissott will be teaching 6th grade Science and Social Studies. Ms. Dombek will be teaching 6th grade Math and Science. Mrs. Jungwirth will be teaching Exploratory and Physical Education. Ms. Page will be a new Special Education teacher for Kinawa. We are very excited about the experience and enthusiasm they bring to our building.
- **Clubs at Kinawa** Cross Country Club is up and running. Currently Kinawa has between 170 students participating in Cross Country Club. Cross Country Club meets every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm. Archery Club information will be sent out the week of September 18th, with the club beginning the first week in October.
- **PTO Meeting** Kinawa will be having its first PTO meeting on Wednesday September 20th at 7pm in the Kinawa library. The primary goal of the meeting will be to provide an overview of Google Classroom for parents. Google Classroom is a resource that all Kinawa teachers regularly use for their students. We would like to use this opportunity to help familiarize parents of this resource.

Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- Cornell's enrollment is 436, which is slightly higher than last year at this time. We have 19 classrooms (4 of every grade except 3 fourth grade classes.)
- We added a fourth school bus this year to accommodate the larger enrollments in busable areas. Cornell could benefit from having a bus driveway that is separate from the carline. Parents have been patient and carline is running as smoothly as possible given the large volume of cars and buses together.
- PTO will be having our annual Cougar Run fundraiser on Friday, October 20th.
- Cornell will have two clubs this year: Chieftain Champs (funded by OEF) and Tech Club (funded by PTO). We also have safety patrol and student council.

OPM – Kristin Arnett and Heather Moeser

- Last Spring, every child participated and painted part of the new murals that were installed just before school started. The artist who helped with the project was **Kelly Boyle**.
- Our annual Flash Dash fundraising fun run (last spring) raised over \$30,000 this year. The funds go towards extra teacher stipends, off sets the cost of field trips and clubs, purchase additional Montessori classroom materials, and one large school project. The current goal is to have a beautification of the school grounds including gardens and a walking/running track. This summer the front entrance was improved with landscaping. We are planning on additional improvements in phases for the other areas of the school grounds.
- Lockdown drills were completed this week.
- The PTO is sponsoring a Family Fun Morning on Saturday November 18th at Spare Time from 9:00 – 11:00. This will replace the carnival that we have had for the past few years.
- This year the PTO will be alternating evening/daytime meetings every month - the next PTO meeting is 9/18 6:30 PM in the OPM library.
- The OPM PTO sponsors “eat out” events in the area to provide an opportunity for to school community to get together and to help raise money for the school. The 1st event for this school year will be at Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom Sept. 27th.

Bennett Woods – Anu Atre, Jayne Locke

- We have 411 students this year - an addition of 36 over last year.
- Parent Family Council meets on second Thursday of each month. All parents are welcome. First meeting was last week and events/committees for the year were planned.
- Bennett Woods was selected to be the beneficiary for Whole Foods Community Give. 5% of sales on Wed, Sep 20 will go to Bennett Woods. Funds will be used for picnic tables in the playground and for flexible seating in the school. Please support BW by shopping at Whole Foods on Wednesday.
- Fun Run on Oct 6 before homecoming parade. Biggest fundraiser of the year. Principal Palasty will dye her hair (students choose color) if we meet school goal of 12,500\$.
- Other events planned for the year - Science Fair, Family Fun Fair, International Cafe, Mileage Club.
- Other sources of fundraising for the year - box tops, coke caps, shoparoo, Culver's nights and Schuyler Books.

Hiawatha – Joanna Wangerin, Cathy Heath, Jen Nanzer

- We now have over 500 students!
- Successful Ice Cream Social on August 30th; served over 800 bowls of ice cream
- Improved landscaping project completed. Great way to start the new school year!
- Continue to work on Jolly Road safety project. On hold due to the large construction project, taking place on Jolly Road.
- Looking to schedule Culvers fundraising evening. Made over \$700 in the prior year.

- Upcoming Events:
 - October 4th: Hawk Walk
 - October 17th: Hiawatha Harvest

OEF – Martha Hentz

- Okemos Education Foundation www.oefsite.org
- **2017 OEF Annual Awards.** The Okemos Education Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of this year’s awards for excellence:
 - **Commitment to Excellence Award (honoring educators)**
 - Nicole Langdon, Social Worker at Kinawa and Edgwood
 - Joel Schut, OHS Orchestra Director
 - Robb Shubel, Hiawatha 4th grade teacher
 - Mark Tomczak, Chippewa science teacher
 - Cindy Wolff, Kinawa math teacher
 - **Special Recognition Award (honoring support staff)**
 - Okemos Public Montessori at Central Learning Center Aides: Peggy Baldwin, Krista Grettenberger, Hei-Won Lee
 - Sue Tague, Food Services Administrative Assistant
 - Rhianna Walworth, Central Office Administrative Assistant
 - **Volunteer Service Award**
 - Ron Styka
- **Distinguished Alumnus**
 Joel Peterson, Class of 1965
 These recipients will receive their award at the OEF’s annual banquet, held this year on Thursday, November 16th at MSU’s Kellogg Center. Our new superintendent, Alena Zachery-Ross, will provide the keynote address. Please join us to honor our award recipients and to celebrate all the educational excellence in Okemos Public Schools. Learn more about the OEF’s awards, the 2017 recipients, buy banquet tickets, and learn about sponsorship opportunities: www.oefsite.org/2017banquet
- **New OEF Trustees.** The Okemos Education Foundation welcomed several new members to its board of trustees this year: Alena Zachery-Ross, Yitian (Tina) Zhuang, Joanna Wangerin, Shruti Nandani, and Matthew Koehler. Board and volunteer positions are still available. Find out more at oefsite.org/board.
- Follow the OEF on **Facebook** to hear about the great things happening in our schools.

Special Education – Anu Atre

- Upcoming events for students and families receiving special education services. Parent groups please spread the word by posting to your website/FB page/etc.
 - Fall Fun Festival - Sep 24, 2017
 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Free Admission - Free Parking
 Hawk Island Park, [1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing, MI 48910](http://www.okemos.k12.mi.us/1601-E-Cavanaugh-Road-Lansing-MI-48910)
 Families will have an opportunity to connect with a variety of community partners who provide support and resources to families with children with disabilities. A picnic lunch and give-aways will be provided.
 - Transition Fair - Saturday, Oct 28, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm , Free Admission. Wilson Talent Center (formerly Capital Area Career Center) [611 Hagadorn Road, Mason, MI 48854](http://www.wilsontalentcenter.com/611-Hagadorn-Road-Mason-MI-48854).
 - Learn about transition services and community resources for students with disabilities transitioning (out of high school) to young adults.