

District Parent Council  
November 20, 2017  
Meeting notes

Attendance: Jayne Lock, Anupama Atre, Sarah Wohlford, Karen Shapiro, Kristin Arnett, Martha Hentz, Sara Roland, Stefanie Konrad, Amy Suhrheinrich, Lynne Thatcher, Alena Zachary-Ross, Andi Pincheira, Sarah Allen, Sarah Finley, Melissa Cochran, Julie Lawton-Essa, Steve Lathrop

12:08 pm Meeting began

Superintendent – Alena Zachary-Ross

- Thank you, she's been reflective on what this district can be grateful for
- Parents have been so supportive, level of parent participation and the welcoming has been exceptional
- Support you've given the faculty with dinners, etc. at Conference nights is great; there are parents EVERYWHERE; level of engagement is great
- Please share this with your PTOs
- Hiawatha principal replacement discussion has started
  - Team input will happen
  - Hopefully by April we'll have a replacement
  - Dr. Peggy Baldwin-Interim principal – she's fantastic
- Capital outlay, Technology, Transportation committee & Facilities committee
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting tomorrow facilitated by Cathy Ash and Patty Trelstad
  - Facilities facilitated by Alena Zachary-Ross and Steve Lathrop
  - Committees may create sub-committees
  - Recommendations around March or April
- Police investigation
  - As information came in, she sent info out
  - She doesn't know any more information than she sent out
  - Okemos, his coworkers in St. Louis, MSU received postcards from this individual – it's a bigger investigation than just here

Board of Education – Sarah Wohlford

- Budget development process is starting
  - Surplus this year, some will go back into fund balance to get fund balance higher
  - Bond committees formed
  - Questions posed to Sarah
    - Community Education self-funded?
    - Math curriculum is under review (K-6) – Surplus may go toward this
      - Teachers on committee
      - Looking at vendors
      - Holes in curriculum
    - Science for middle grades
    - Social Science waiting for State standards to be set before spending money

Bennett Woods Principal Report – Sara Roland for Noelle Palasty

- Capacity – 412 students, increased from 380
  - 3 sections – for 1st, 2nd, and 4<sup>th</sup>; 4 sections – Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup>; and one basic classroom
  - Shifted a few things but it's been mostly an issue for After Care
- Whole Foods partnership – Grant

- Received 5% - \$2,800
  - Used for Picnic tables for playground
- Self-portraits on entry wall
  - Jen Baker worked with all students
  - Diverse materials
  - Individually unique
  - Every child is represented
  - Art instruction was incorporated
  - Students to celebrate each other as a collective group
  - Opportunity to focus on our Equity Plan

#### Energy Efficiency – Steve Lathrop

- Energy efficiency work has been going on for 20 years
- Started after High School opened
  - Boiler upgrades at all buildings. Boilers efficiency improved from approx. 70% to 90-95%
  - Chillers, pumps, VFD, unit vents, lighting to T8 from T12
  - Roofs (insulation, white)
  - Natural gas consumption reduced from 80,000 mcf annually in 2000 to 40,000 mcf in 2017. This saves \$240,000 annually
  - Electric consumption reduced from 10m kwh annually in 2000 to 6m kwh in 2017. This saves \$320,000 annually. TOTAL \$560,000
  - Payback is very quick on the savings
- A result of this energy conservation is that 4 of our 8 buildings are Energy Star certified. This means that these buildings energy use ratings perform in the top 25% of all schools throughout the country, and 3 of them operate in the top 10% (OHS, Bennett, Hiawatha).
- The OPS buildings that did not achieve this distinction are due to way they were constructed or age (Chippewa and Central are oldest, constructed different and varied use, Kinawa and Edgewood are closer). Goal is that all will be certified in the future
  - Chippewa
    - Is not energy efficient from its poor design built in the 1950s
    - Designed and built like schools in California with open hallways, etc.
    - Not quite sure why this ever happened
  - Central
    - Old so it will always be difficult
- Energy projects funded by sinking fund over the last 20 years
  - The sinking fund brings in about \$1.1m annually for capital improvement projects
  - Sinking fund mainly used for heating projects
  - Historically energy related projects were given the priority due to reduced costs resulting from them and at times we desperately needed them
  - Last few years we have been able to concentrate more on architectural upgrades
  - Sinking fund funded by millage and funded again – it's a wonderful fund which goes through 2021 so hopefully it will be funded again as well
- Consumers Energy approached us to partner to start energy projects for LED lighting
  - LED lighting project started at the high school
  - Hallways and cafeteria lights will be LED (good spec, good product – TLS rated and Energy Star efficient)
  - We're the pilot program for the state
  - Grant of \$25,000
  - Earlier this year the Board committed to establishing a Green Revolving Fund (GRF) for the LED project at OHS in partnership with Consumers Energy

- Requirement from Consumers Energy for the grant, was that 50% of energy savings (we expect approx. \$12,000) from this project would be deposited in the GRF to be used for future energy projects. Even though it is not required Steve Lathrop would recommend going forward that we continue to deposit a certain percentage of savings resulting from any future energy project
- Consumers is needing to lower their demand load
- Future projects will be LED lighting upgrade throughout the district, lighting controls, and EMS update. LED lighting upgrade for entire district will be in the \$350,000 range and will save approximately \$100,000 annually
- Solar project
  - Started by Earth Club at High School
  - 24kw system installed on the roof of the IMC at OHS
  - \$50,000 cost of the install, with all being paid by a grant
  - No OPS money was used for this project
  - Saves about \$1,500-2,000 annually, 25-30 year payback. 1% savings.
  - No expansion plans at this time because cost is an issue
  - May partner with a contractor in the future. Private corporations receive a 30% tax break at this time and we are not eligible for this
  - Payback on solar is long term at this time
  - Comparable cost LED project at OHS will reduce electrical cost by about \$16,000 annually with a 3 year payback
- Other energy efficient projects
  - Science wing at high school needs to be done
- Recycling
  - Majority of recycling is cardboard and office paper, some food containers and plastic bottles
  - 6 yard recycling dumpster at OHS, CMS, KMS, Cornell and Hiawatha - Mostly used for cardboard
  - Several 96 gallon carts for office paper and other items at all buildings
  - Each classroom has a bin, when filled it is then taken to the carts
  - Granger picks up weekly
- Food service
  - Food service containers for breakfast and lunch are recycled in some buildings but not all
  - Need to be cleaned of food debris before they can be recycled, not rinsed but big chunks of food need to be gone
  - Biggest obstacle to expanding recycling of food containers is staff to oversee/manage it
  - Dependent on volunteers to make it work
  - We need to get it started in elementary to get the students in the habit
  - His department and food department doesn't have person power to do the lunch program
- Waste – 176 yards of waste a week from all of the buildings
- Annual waste removal cost \$25,000
 

6 yard dumpster at 4 elementary buildings 2x week	– 48 yard/week
6 yard dumpster at Kinawa 3x week	– 18 yard/week
6 yard dumpster at Chippewa 5x week	– 30 yard/week
(2) 8 yard dumpster at OHS 5x week	– <u>80 yard/week</u>
	<b>TOTAL – 176 yard/week</b>

- Any hazardous waste is recycled through an approved environmental recycling contractor. This is mainly fluorescent lamps, some auto related fluids and on occasion science materials

## Building Reports

OHS – *Amy Suhrheinrich and Stefanie Konrad*

- OHS Press is self-funded and continues to publish a paper every month. Subscriptions are available to be mailed to any address for \$35, contact Maddie Suhrheinrich, Business Manager at mailto: suhrheinrichm18@okemosk12.net. Information about supporting with an advertisement can be found on their website at ohspress.net.
- Congratulations: The Okemos Computer Science Club competed in the Governor’s High School Cyber Challenge and earned first place!
- Athletics: The Chiefs had 6 out of 9 teams capture League titles
  - Boys Varsity Tennis team are 2017 Division 2 State Champions
  - Boys Water Polo team finished runner-up at State Competition
  - Boys Soccer won the league and CAAC Cup Championship for the first time since 2012. Their Compete for a Cause game had over 2,000 spectators.
  - Girl’s Golf finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the State and won the CAAC Blue for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive season.
  - Football finished the season with 5 wins and 4 losses.
  - Girl’s Cross Country finished second in League and fourth at the Regional meet and sent two girls to the state finals.
  - Boy’s Cross Country won the League championship for the fourth season in a row. They won the Regional Championships.
- Okemos Cares is creating a resource closet with toiletry items available to students in need.
- Nov 9: To experience the impact of distracted driving, a distracted driver simulator from the Peers Foundation was in the rubber gym. Supported by State Farm Insurance grant, organized by OHS Students Against Destructive Decisions and Health Classes.
- Nov 17: Mrs. Freeman’s Nonfiction class held a bake sale in conjunction with a local preschool and raised \$1,703.37 for social families in need.
- Fall Play “An Ideal Husband” was performed last week.
- Nov 20: Meet the Chiefs for Winter Season
- Last chance to sign up for 2018 Advanced Placement Testing, late registration through Nov 21
- Anxiety Management Support Group starts Nov 27 led by Mr. Walton and Mrs. Inglis
- Dec 04 at 7pm: World Café Tour with Superintendent Zachery-Ross at OHS
- Dec 07 Blue Lake Scholarship Audition Day (Band, Choir, Orchestra) during FLEX and possibly class time
- The Parent Group is looking for a few parents to serve on a fundraising committee. Please contact drchollenbeck@aol.com if you are interested.
- Parent Group signed up for Kroger Community Rewards (NOP number 16825, official name: Okemos High School Parent Group)
- Counseling department continues to hold college information sessions and scheduling of college visits to OHS. Information regarding upcoming SAT and ACT can be found on CollegeBoard.org.
- Recycling Information:
  - Main office offers recycling bins for
    - Cell phones
    - batteries
    - toner and printer cartridges
  - All throughout the building recycling bins for
    - plastics
    - paper
  - In the cafeteria

- aluminum (not very efficiently)
- cardboard/boxboard (in the kitchen)
- OHS composts
  - green waste from the kitchen
  - food scraps the students generate during their lunch.

Chippewa – *Karen Shapiro and Shruti Gross*

- The Chippewa Walk/Run raised \$8,649, about \$3,000 less than last year due to less corporate donations.
- There will be a few smaller fundraisers, including:
  - Shop 4 Schools in Old Town Lansing, 11/18
  - Panera Fundraiser, 12/7, 4-8 pm
- Kids at Chippewa will enjoy a holiday party in December before the break which includes a DJ, photo booth, movie and cookie decorating.
- The teacher luncheon on November 7<sup>th</sup> was a success.
- Homework Club: students work 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.
- Next Chippewa Parent Group Meeting 1/19, 8:45 am

Kinawa – *Andi Pincheira and Sarah Finley*

- Michigan State Police Department gave a presentation to 5th & 6th grades about Cyber-Safety on 11/13.
- 6th graders went to see Wonder on 11/17.
- KPG put on a luncheon for teachers during P/T Conference week.
- 5th grade strings program had their first performance last week. 6th grade orchestra concert will be on 12/7.
- Book fair will be held the week following Thanksgiving from Monday 11/27 through noon on Friday 12/1.
- December 5 Kinawa 6th grade Band Concert at 7pm.
- December 15 Kinawa Family Fun Night at Court One East from 6 - 8pm.

Cornell – *Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran*

- Annual Food Drive is November 20-December 8
- Hat & Mitten Tree coinciding with the Food Drive
- Square 1 Art fundraiser happening now
- Cougar Run raised \$17,900 which included corporate sponsors
- Scholastic Book Fair is December 4-8

OPM – *Kristin Arnett, Heather Moeser and Kally Etchebarne*

- Cosmic Pumpkin event in Old Town on October 22, 2017 from 1-4 p.m. The PTO participates in the activities and receives a donation from The Cosmos.
- Book Fair was from November 6-9<sup>th</sup>. We participated in a Round Up for Books program where rounding your purchase up to the next dollar. The money raised will be donated to a school in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico for books. This school was hit by a hurricane just after they had built a new library. Any government funding they receive will go toward rebuilding the building, however books are desperately needed. The money we send will go directly toward purchasing books.
- We are again the gift a book program where a child can make a donation toward a book (usually \$8.00) and get his or his photo with a book.

- Family Fun Morning on November 18, 2017 at Spare Time from 9-11 a.m. – this event replaced the Carnival that Central had hosted for the last several years.
- Holiday sing-a-long is coming up on December 22, 2017. This is a fun time for the kids and families. Families do participate in the singing!

Bennett Woods – *Anu Atre and Jayne Lock*

Hiawatha – *Joanna Wangerin, Cathy Heath, Jen Nanzer*

OEF – *Martha Hentz*

Okemos Education Foundation [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org)

- 2017 OEF Annual Awards Banquet 11/16. Thank you to those who attended this year’s event where we celebrated Okemos pride and honored 12 people with OEF Awards for their outstanding contributions to the Okemos school community. Nomination information for the 2018 awards is available now: [www.oefsite.org/awards](http://www.oefsite.org/awards).
- John Bjorkquist Alumni Science Fund. The OEF is pleased to announce the establishment of a new fund to benefit science education in our schools. The Okemos Alumni Association has generously committed \$10,000 as a leadership donation to establish this new fund, named in honor of former Okemos High School teacher John Bjorkquist. The John Bjorkquist Alumni Science Fund is now accepting donations, which will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 by the Alumni Association. These funds will be used to enhance science and technology education for all Okemos students. To make a donation, visit [www.oefsite.org/donate](http://www.oefsite.org/donate).
- OEF Grants Approved this year. So far this year, the OEF has approved funding for grants and programs totaling more than \$65,000. Recent grant approvals include: Human to Human Interface electrophysiology (OHS), Digital audiobooks to help ELL and special needs students (Chippewa), CPR equipment (Kinawa, in cooperation with the Kinawa Parent Group), Leveled Literacy Intervention and ELL Supplemental Materials (Hiawatha), materials for implementing the district’s equity plan: Culturally-Responsive Books, Books for Social Justice School-wide book club, ‘Reading Around the World,’ Learning from Indigenous Cultures in Michigan (OPM at Central), Art Memory Project: portraits of Syrian refugees (OHS), Mind Up Curriculum Materials (Kinawa), Kids Blog (Kinawa). See the full list of grants approved this year (and in previous years): [www.oefsite.org/grants](http://www.oefsite.org/grants)
- APPLE Awards for the holidays. OEF APPLE Awards make great year-end gifts for teachers, support staff, specials teachers ... for anyone who deserves a special “thank you” for a job well done. For a \$20 donation to the Okemos Education Foundation, a personalized 5x7 color certificate is sent to your honoree with the exact message that you want printed on the award. Learn more at [www.oefsite.org/apple](http://www.oefsite.org/apple). This gift gives a “pat on the back” to Okemos staff while also providing needed funding for OEF programs that support Okemos students.
- Annual Fund Drive. The 2017 annual fund drive is underway! Please consider making a donation to the Okemos Education Foundation. The OEF relies on our generous donors to help the OEF fund classroom grants, educational programs, and after-school clubs. Your donation matters! Learn more and donate online at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org).
- Follow the OEF on Facebook to hear about the great things happening in our schools.

Special Education – Anupama Atre

October 2017 meeting minutes approval

- Motion made by Karen Shapiro to approve
- 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Melissa Cochran

- Minutes approved by vote

Next meeting – December 18, 12-2:30 at Cornell Elementary