

## Meeting notes from the District Parent Council meeting on October 15, 2018

### John Hood report:

1. Monitoring overcrowding on busses. At this time, it is believed that there is not overcrowding, however, the situation will continue to be monitored. If additional busses become necessary the administration will look into leasing busses or other options.
2. Nice article in the Lansing State Journal about Ira, who is involved with Okemos Athletics. Ira talks about athletics being more of a lifestyle than a job.
3. Dawn Reed received an award for outstanding educator – recognizes both local and state level leadership. An awards banquet will be held on October 19, 2018.
4. Be Excellent day was at the high school last week. The topic was Health and Addiction and how to make healthy choices. Some of the speakers included recovering students, and speakers about the importance of connecting to other students through belonging, and messages of hope, joy and impacting lives.
5. There was a problem with the math scores of 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2017-2018 school year that is being corrected. New scores will be mailed out to those affected. It is not anticipated that the corrections will make much of a difference on scores.
6. Achievement data: SAT: Okemos scored 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the state (Novi and Northville were higher), but Okemos scored 3<sup>rd</sup> with 19% poverty, while Novi has about 6% poverty and Northville has about 9% poverty; In comparison to all other states, Okemos scored 17<sup>th</sup> (and this was with 100% participation – other schools had much less participation)

### Dean Bolton:

1. The search for a new Superintendent continues – there are currently three (3) remaining candidates. October 24<sup>th</sup> will be a next set of interviews at 6pm. The interviews will last one (1) hour with each candidate. Audience feedback forms will be available for those attending to watch. A copy will be posted as well.
2. A discussion was had about how to best get concerns to the school board. This is an ongoing challenge because it is important that the school board meetings operate to accomplish the board's agenda, but it is also important that concerns of parents and others, be addressed. Dean indicated that copies of the e-mailed concerns are given to all board members, superintendent and assistant superintendent and then a board member has to bring it up as an item for the meeting. He also indicated that he intends on looking into other ways of having dialogue with community and parents and the schools.
3. The bond/millage proposal for facilities committee will be discussed at the board meeting tonight. On October 22, 2018 they will have a work session, using King Scott Audit suggestions, to discuss the proposal. The discussion will be continued at the meeting on November 12, 2018 and the final language for the proposal will be decided at the meeting on November 26, 2018. This proposal will be ready for the vote on May 7, 2019.

**Building reports** were given. One note, one of the schools uses runsignup.com for taking donations. The fee for each donation was very small.

### OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich, Lynne Thatcher, and Suzi Yunker

- High School Football Game Student Expectations: In an effort to maintain a SAFE and orderly environment at our sporting events, so that ALL fans can enjoy the games, we are asking parents/guardians to please help us in our effort by reviewing these expectations with their students before they attend a game.
  - All students through 8th grade are encouraged to attend the game with an adult.
  - Students are expected to stay within the event boundaries. At high school football games students must stay within the event boundaries defined by fences. Specifically, students are not permitted to jump fences to access the soccer field, be under the bleachers or enter Hartrick Park.
  - Always exhibit good sportsmanship:
    - Be respectful during the National Anthem, school songs, and player introductions.

- Never boo or yell at officials or opposing players.
  - Cheer for your team’s players.
  - Represent your school in a positive manner.
  - Be respectful of other students and adults attending the game.
- Please be reminded that behaviors at all Okemos School events will be addressed through the student code of conduct.
- Home Football Game Parking: Due to traffic congestion, parking in The Meadows subdivision (across the street from the OHS football field) will be restricted for each home Okemos football game. Parking will only be permitted on one side of each street, and “No Parking by Order of the Chief of Police” signs will be visible throughout the subdivision streets. The Meridian Township Police Department will be closely monitoring parking violations. For the safety of the residents and all guests, we ask that you please abide by these parking rules and use the OHS student lot for home football game parking. Thank you!
- Sports schedule link: <https://okemosathletics.net/>
- FREE performance: October 26<sup>th</sup> Purdue marching band will be providing a FREE performance along with OHS marching band at 7 pm at the OHS football field. Purdue’s band is almost 400 students and the OHS marching band is its largest ever at 205!! Purdue will be bringing “the world’s largest drum”, the “Golden Girl” and the “Silver Twins”!
- Taste of Okemos is November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm – 4pm at OHS. This is a huge fundraiser for Chippewa and OHS choir. Cost is \$15 (11 and up), \$10 (Senior Citizens and 6-10), \$5 (5 and under). Many are restaurants will be represented.
- Be Excellent Day was October 10, 2018. This is a program put on by staff during which guest speakers are brought in to talk to the student body. The theme for this year’s *Be Excellent Day* program is “**Make a Difference!**” An emphasis for the program will focus on how students can make a difference in their school, their community and the world by taking a closer look at the journey of each speaker. In brief, Alexa Score motivated students to be change agents, Phil Pavona shared his son’s battle with addiction and opiates, and Jackson Kaguri empowered students through his story of becoming a 2012 CNN Hero through his work with AIDS orphans in Uganda. Their speeches will be available through the OHS website soon.
- **SAT - Comparison of Top Ten SAT Composite Scores in Michigan:** Okemos ranks #3 overall in the state of Michigan for the highest composite score on the 2017-18 SAT. Free and reduced lunch status is often an indicator of lower academic achievement, and of the ten highest scoring schools, Okemos had the third highest free and reduced lunch percentage at 19.2%.

District Name	2018 SAT Composite Score	2018 % Free and Reduced Lunch	Students Tested
Northville	1206	6.6%	581
Novi Schools	1205	9.1%	532
<b>Okemos</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>329</b>
Washtenaw Tech Middle College	1185	22.3%	178
East Grand Rapids	1169	6.7%	231
Ann Arbor Public	1169	25.6%	1324

Troy	1168	14.4%	873
Rochester	1159	11.6%	1243
Birmingham	1151	8.3%	569
Forest Hills	1148	11%	763

- **National Merit Semi-Finalists:** I want to extend my congratulations to the twelve OHS students who have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program: Jeffrey Brill, James Brynn, Daniel Gorelik, Ashley Hwang, Jinwook Lee, Eric Q Li, Richard Liu, Linh Phan, Marini Qian, Christopher Thomas, and Emma Thronson.
- **OHS Clubs and Groups:** Our first Club/Group Student Fair was held during both lunch hours on Thursday and it was a huge success. With 29 clubs and groups offered at OHS, there are a lot of opportunities for students to get involved. Learn more: <https://www.okemosk12.net/domain/475>

**Chippewa – Karen Shapiro, Andi Pincheira and Sibylle Thornton**

**Kinawa –Sarah Finley and Niki Robinson**

**Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran**

We had our Mustache Dash on Friday. We switched it up from the Cougar Run to create a different and new aspect. The students and teachers wore mustaches. It was fun.

**OPM – Kristin Arnett and Katie Cavanaugh**

- We are still in need of at least one lunch supervisor and ideally two. If you can help out for even a day or two that would be very helpful. Please contact Sue Hallman or Mrs. Tammy in the main office at Central.
- Central’s PTO is a part of the Amazon Smiles program. For any purchase made on Amazon with Central listed as the organization chosen as the beneficiary, Central will get a 0.5% contribution to our PTO.
- Central has partnered with Kroger’s Community Rewards Program. Kroger will donate a portion of a purchaser’s grocery and gas purchases to the selected school. The purchaser simply logs into his or her [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com) account, link the Kroger Plus Card to his or her account, and, choose the name of the school’s PTO as the organization to receive the benefit.
- Central’s Gift – A – Book program is now going on. Through this program, a student gifts \$8.00 to the library and they get a picture with a book of their selecting on a laminated book mark. Last year 168 books were gifted which means approximately 70 new books were able to be purchased for the library.

**Bennett Woods – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock**

**Next BW Family Council meeting is Thursday, October 18, 6:30PM in the BW library.**

- **The Annual Fun Run** took place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October, after being postponed from the previous week. It was cold but dry, and a great success! Our schoolwide goal was \$13,500 (up \$1000 from previous years, to reflect increased student numbers), and we are thrilled to report earnings of **over \$19,000** for the school.
  - BW Family Council runs the event themselves, with the help of parent volunteers.
  - We use The Original Get Movin’ Crew website facilities (thegetmovincrew.com):
    - allows us to provide an easy, online donation option;

- notifies each student individually when someone has donated in their name;
- facilitates the exchange of notes of encouragement from donors and the sending of thank you messages from students/BW families; and
- The online donation system is used by the vast majority of donors, but cash and checks are, of course, also accepted.
- The students run in separate grade level groups, so the entire fun run event takes all afternoon, 12:15PM-3:30PM, but with each grade only being out for around 30 minutes.
- *Mathnasium* provided popsicles for each student after their fun run was complete.

#### **In other fundraiser news:**

- No longer doing Little Caesars pizza kit fundraiser;
- An extra Culver's Night fundraiser is being added; and
- The current Box Top competition is underway, with a free Slurpee up for grabs for each student in the grade level that collects the most.
- The **Meet the Masters** Program is close to being back up and running, thanks to the efforts of Stacy Herman. Coordinators have been identified for Central and BW. Hiawatha has a potential coordinator. Cornell does not yet have a coordinator. All the prints have been sorted and divided evenly between the schools, and we now have an actual list of the prints we own.
- The **District Digest** went out late this month (due to sickness) but was made available on the BW Family Council Facebook page, and is also emailed to all families via the BW Weekly Updates. It was well received and generally viewed as a helpful communication tool. We plan to continue this on a monthly basis after each DPC meeting.
- Upcoming October events:
  - 15<sup>th</sup> – Culver's Night (Okemos/Jolly Rd), 5-10PM
  - 17<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – DNR Owl Presentation
  - 18<sup>th</sup> – Family Council Meeting @ 6:30PM
  - 18th - Ms. Steinhaus' class going bowling
  - 26th - Purdue/Okemos Marching Bands, 7PM @ Okemos Field
  - 29th - 3rd Grade to Potter Park Zoo
  - 31st - 1st Grade to Medical Care Facility (Halloween costumes, sing songs and trick or treat with the residents)

#### **Hiawatha –Jen Nanzer**

- Announcements & Updates
  - Hawk Walk fundraiser raised over \$10,000, deposit a gift web site was used for online donations, over half of the donations were given online
  - Hiring playground and Lunch supervisors, hours 11:25am - 1:30pm
  - Hiring part time and substitute food service positions, hours 10:15am - 1:15pm
  - New 3rd grade teacher, April Boak, was hired and began working.
  - Last PTO meeting was held on 10/11. PTO is alternating between morning and evening meetings this year in hopes that more parents will be able to attend.
  - Still trying to organize the Meet the Master's program, our art teacher and librarian have volunteered to help with this
  - Coupon Books \$25 for sale until October 26, this is a PTO fundraiser
  - Social worker interviews have been completed and a final decision will be announced
- Upcoming Events
  - October 17th - K - Abrams Planetarium & MSU Dairy Store 9-12
  - October 18th 3 rd Grade to Potter Park Zoo – 9-2
  - October 18th 4 th Grade Seeds of Science @ MSU 9 – 2:20
  - October 26th Annual PTO Hiawatha Harvest
  - October 31st 4 th Grade Haunted Music Room 10:30 a.m.
- **New business:** the calendar is done except for the last meeting. This will be left open until a good topic is decided upon. Next meeting is at Chippewa. The board member candidates' questions will follow this meeting. Meeting is adjourned.