

District Parent Council  
March 18, 2019  
Okemos Public Montessori

**Attendance-** John Hood, Lynne Thatcher, Mary Gebara, Sarah Allen, Kristin Arnett, Katie Cavanaugh, Carly Patel, Janet Philips, Johnathan Pickett, Niki Robinson, Karen Shapiro, Tere Blanca, Steve Lathrop, Errin Chapman, Cheri Meier

**Welcome and Introductions-** Lynne Thatcher

**Superintendent's Report-** John Hood

- Review of District security plans
  - Security grant applied for(50k) to do outside security including vehicle barriers
- District Strategic Plan
  - They voted to extend plan 1 more year to '19-'20
  - Renewal is next year (happens every 5 years)
  - What are the critical needs now?
  - Do we rework the Mission Statement? Vision? Outcomes?
  - Student Wellness, Curriculum and Instruction, Finance and Facilities involved as well
  - Parents vs Voters and discussion of community forums
- It is Hiring Season (teacher shortage)
  - We are hiring an A.D., Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and teachers
- Bond, May 7<sup>th</sup> vote

**School Board Member Report-** Mary Gebera

- Excited about Governor's budget as proposed
  - Would mean an increase in funding of 700k to district
- Bond, vote yes there is no increase in millage

**General Discussion by Committee-**

- Snow Day Update
  - Snow Day Bill has not passed yet due to an amendment to pay hourly workers for unworked hours.
  - 3 days unforgiven for all schools and 4 days for HS
  - 3 days will be forgiven by MDE when we apply but waiting on outcome of bill
- District Calendar
  - Monday night closed session per collective bargaining rules
  - Hoping for a tentative calendar soon, Spring break and Fall break already set

- Kinawa Food 4 Friends
  - Leftover (sealed) food donated @ Kinawa
  - How can we get community involved in this?
  - Food Movers?

#### **Agenda item for next meeting-**

- Officers and New Members need to be appointed

#### **Bond Presentation-** John Hood, Steve Lathrop, Errin Chapman

- Video and Narration by John Hood
- Vote May 7<sup>th</sup> 7am to 8pm
- Michigan.gov/vote for info
- [-Bond@okemosk12.net](mailto:-Bond@okemosk12.net) for FAQ
- Devices: 5-12 replaced in 1<sup>st</sup> year K-4 in 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  - Old devices recycled or donated
  - Maybe sinking fund can cover tech if not approved?
  - Device will be one piece for sure, model not decided yet
- Bennett Woods Redistricting
  - Targeted Redistricting has been occurring and will continue
  - Construction of new classrooms at BW will occur next winter at earliest
  - Hoping for fall 2020 open
- Air Conditioning for all buildings and rooms without Fall 2020

#### **School Reports-** See attached

#### **Cheri Meier,** Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

- See attached handouts
- Discussed necessary qualities for Assistant Superintendent New hire

#### **Building Reports-**

#### OHS – Niki Robinson and Suzi Yunker

- POST PROM 2019: Post prom offers a fun, safe option for enjoying the hours after prom ends. School employees and parent volunteers provide supervision for this event. It is May 18th. To help make this event possible, please consider making a donation or sponsoring part of the event via the WePay link below. Please contact Parent Group President Cindy Hollenbeck with any questions (drchollenbeck@aol.com OR 517-202-6540). All donations are tax deductible. Click on the link to donate: [Donations for Okemos Parent Group](#)

- The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Touch of Class happened in February to raise money for Okemos Cares. Olive Garden sponsored the event. Students buy tickets for the event and senior serve it. They raised \$3200.
- Lots of Culver's nights: 3/26 5pm – 10pm for OHS Parent/Guardian Group, 4/8 5pm – 10pm for OHS Girls Water Polo Team, and 4/15 5pm – 10pm for OHS Choir Boosters.
- PSAT and SAT schedule for 4/9 and 4/10

#### Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Sibylle Thornton

- Teacher conferences went smoothly last week.
- On Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> there was an 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition meeting at OHS in the evening. An OHS Counselor also met with outgoing 8<sup>th</sup> graders to discuss the transition, requirements, and options.
- The last CPG meeting was last Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The parent group approved more teacher wish list items, such as portable small white boards for group work and more flex seating.
- The CPG used some of its fundraising dollars on new furniture for common areas at CMS. Items bought and installed are cushioned benches located in the hallway at the main school entrance and outside the cafeteria. There are also new standup tables for gathering around as well. The kids love it!
- The next Chippewa Parent Group meeting is this Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 am.

#### Kinawa –Sarah Finley and Niki Robinson

- Kinawa students walked to Chippewa to watch Chippewa's Production of The Little Mermaid on March 1.
- Kinawa Staff Luncheon: Parent Teacher Conferences and Kinawa Parent Group provided a luncheon to all Kinawa staff during the full day of conferences on March 12th, 2019 to show Kinawa teachers and staff our appreciation for the great job they do with our kids.
  - Upcoming Important Dates
    - March 20- Auditions for Kinawa's Got Talent at 1:45pm in Kinawa Auditorium
    - March 20- 7th Grade Parent Orientation for all current 6th Graders 6pm @Chippewa
    - March 22- Kinawa Science Night from 6:30pm - 8pm
    - March 26- Choir Club Concert at Kinawa @7pm
    - March 27- Kinawa's Rock and Read Event during school
    - March 28- April 5 SPRING BREAK
    - April 9- 5th Grade M-Step Testing Begins
    - April 15- Dress Rehearsal for Kinawa's Got Talent Show at 3:45pm in the Kinawa Auditorium
    - April 17- Kinawa's Got Talent Show Performance on Wed., April 17th from 6-8pm in the Kinawa Auditorium
    - May 6- Entrepreneur Night at 6pm

- May 9- Teacher Luncheon
- More Information on Upcoming Events
  - Kinawa's Got Talent Information: Registration Form: Due March 19th.
  - Audition Date: Wednesday, March 20th, 2019 (EARLY RELEASE DAY) at 1:45pm in the Kinawa Auditorium
  - Line-Up Announcement: Posted on the bulletin board outside the Main Office on Monday, April 8th, 2019
  - Dress Rehearsal: Monday, April 15th, 2019 at 3:45pm in the Kinawa Auditorium
  - SHOWTIME : Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 from 6:00 - 8:00pm in the Kinawa Auditorium
  - ATTENTION: We are looking for a parent volunteer to assist with audio for Kinawa's Got Talent. If you are knowledgeable and tech savvy in this area, please email, Jayme Taylor at [jayme@taylordmarketing.com](mailto:jayme@taylordmarketing.com) OR Kristen Pricco at [kristenkomen@hotmail.com](mailto:kristenkomen@hotmail.com)
- M-Step Testing Dates\_Coming this spring all 5th and 6th grade students will take the M-Step test. The M-Step is a standardized test that measures students' proficiency on state curriculum standards. Our 5th grader students will be tested in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. They will take the test on all of the following dates: 4/9, 4/11, 4/16, and 4/18. Our sixth graders will be tested in Mathematics and English Language Arts. They will test on all of the following dates: 5/7, and 5/9.
- Kinawa Yearbook Orders: It's not too early to order a yearbook for your child. Many parents have already gone on-line and placed that order. You can order by going to [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) and use Yearbook ID Code: 10858519. Yearbook Order deadline is: April 12, 2019 so don't wait to order. Yearbooks do not come in until the last week of school. We will not have extra yearbooks to sell if you don't order one by the deadline. If you have any questions about whether you already placed the order or just want to check on it, please go to the same site: [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) and click on: get details of previous orders by email.

#### Cornell – Sarah Allen, Liz Luyendyk, and Melissa Cochran

- Science night on March 6th was well attended and a fun evening.
- Our Box Top/Mascot naming contest was a great success earning Cornell roughly \$470 dollars from Box Tops and our Cougar's name is Cosmo! Side note the costume is extremely hot!!
- Parent teacher conferences went well and our teachers and staff enjoyed some great dishes brought in by our families.
- March 21st at 9 am is our next PTO meeting
- Global Cornell is scheduled for April 11th 6:00-7:30, please come to check it out.

#### OPM – Kristin Arnett and Katie Cavanaugh

- March is Reading Month, we'll have an author visit on March 22<sup>nd</sup>

- March is also Women's History Month. Many teachers are doing special projects. Katie Cavanaugh is giving women's history presentations in many classes. She is available to come to other schools, too, if teachers are interested.
- Have a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher leaving her position after spring break, looking for a long term sub to finish the year
- Our Salmon Program – all of our baby fish died, so we recently received approximately 60 new baby fish. The kids will be releasing them into the Red Cedar River at Ferguson Park in late April/early May. This was a grant project, and we will be doing it again next year.
- Had a Chick Fil A eat out last week
- Market Day for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders is Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>
- Early Release District 5 fundraiser on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>
- Asian Buffet eat out April 10<sup>th</sup>
- Science Fair on April 24<sup>th</sup>
- M-Step in May
- Our Flash Dash, the major fundraiser for the year, is May 10<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Concert on May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Reproductive health for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in May/June. Will have boys, girls, and co-ed section for the first time after it was piloted at Cornell last year
- May 7<sup>th</sup> Bond election happening while kids are in school, so we're asking for parent volunteers to be in the halls to direct voters and make sure they aren't in other parts of the building

#### Bennett Woods – Janet Philips and Jonathan Pickett

- Next BWFC meeting is Thursday, March 21, 6:30PM
- News In Brief from the February BWFC meeting
- Working on planning for Family Fun Fair, coming up 4/26
- Family council also working on teacher appreciation week
- Principal Palasty sent out enrollment surveys to help with planning for 2019-2020 school year
- International family night took place on 3/1 and was a success, celebrating various cultures and diversity within our school
- Bennett Woods Upcoming events:
  - April 17 – Kindergarten Information Night, 6:30
  - April 26 – Family Fun Fair

#### Hiawatha –Jen Nanzer and Carly Patel

- The used book fair went very well. We had well over 500 books donated for the sale. Each student was able to purchase 1 book and if they brought more money they were able to spend it at the end of the day. The money collected will be donated to the Summer Playground program.
- PTO Teacher appreciation dinner was March 14<sup>th</sup>. We had an awesome turnout of food for the teachers.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> is the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Rural education day field trip

- March 20th is the PTO meeting at 7PM
- March 21st is the 3rd grade music performance at 7:00pm
- The science fair is April 8th
- April 18th is the Kindergarten Information Night
- April 19th Hiawatha Happening. We are currently collecting items/donations for the silent auction that takes place at the event. So far, we have collected some great items. This is a huge event for our Hiawatha families and everyone is excited for the event.
- The PTO purchased 6 new drinking fountains with the bottle filling stations. They were delivered on Friday and we are hoping to have them installed over spring break.

Next Meeting- Monday, April 15, 2019 at Hiawatha Elementary.

Topic is Gifted and Talented Programs - Marsha Chance and Deb Hamilton.

District Council Website [www.okemosk12.net](http://www.okemosk12.net)

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Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Suhrheinrich