

District Parent Council Minutes
November 19, 2018
Chippewa Middle School

Present: Sarah Allen, Andi Pincheria, Katie Cavanaugh, Jayne Lock, Niki Robinson, Karen Shapiro, Amy Suhrheinrich, Lynne Thatcher, Suzi Yunker, Stefanie Konrad, Liz Luyenchyk

Interim Superintendent's Report - Dr. Cathy Ash

- Board moving forward with a \$24.9 million bond proposal for May ballot. Includes adding two more buses to fleet and replace other buses over time totaling 13 buses. Capital outlay, air conditioning, flexible seating and learning environment, security, adding 5 classrooms at Bennett Woods (extend two hallways and add two to each wing and one specials classroom) to alleviate capacity, small amount of redistricting as most of overcrowding is from Cornell. Some items will already start next year such as devices, furniture and similar items. March DPC meeting will have a presentation on upcoming bond proposal.
- Bus capacity is 77 but try to keep high school and middle school down, 58 is highest. At elementary student ridership ranges from 34-75 most in the 60 range, no plans to add another bus.
- Discipline report to board- suspensions fewer than 1% for High School, Chippewa and Kinawa. These students exceed 3 days of suspension.
- Leadership team provided info about secure entrances. Do feel safer and helps with people checking in at schools. Challenge is increased work load on administrative assistants. Unintended outcomes include not as quick as before, some visitors impatient and may avoid coming. Working on providing an extra phone as you cannot answer if on phone. Also, need another computer to make it easier to check the screen. Challenges are persons letting others in building, holding the door for them and making sure the latches shut completely.
- Board work session in respects to social workers, counselors, and school psychologist. Explored how they work together and their role and with students. Was very educational and provided Board with understanding and cost effectiveness information. People are asking for another counselor in 5/8 buildings and high school would ask for more paraprofessional support to do paperwork to allow counselors more time with students. Presentation on this to the Board will be in December and will be televised.
- Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee continuing work, filled vacant positions.
- John Hood will be Superintendent. Bringing in an interim, Asia Wilcox, to assist for remainder of school year. Assistant Superintendent position posted for next year.

Principal's Report - Jody Noble

- Explained the flexible seating classroom. Research based on the 21st century student as the student's brain is now different. As far as bond, each school will get a flexible seating allotment and be decided at building level.
- Parent Group gave \$5,000 to Chippewa for common seating area near cafeteria.
- Many students and teachers are participating in Community Service Projects throughout our area. An example is reading and playing games with those living at the Dobie Road facility. Montessori students are doing community service on early release days. Kinawa and Chippewa are fundraising for the Mankowski Christmas Party.
- Washington DC trip for 8th grade and 7th grade camp will again take place.

Board of Education Report - absent

Equity Plan Update - Dr. Cathy Ash

- 2012 Strategic Plan included diversity and in 2016 it was decided that a strategy would be to develop an Equity Plan. Gathered information through surveys and looked at data to find trends. An Equity Plan and Operational Plan was created for 2016-2019. It included and Equity Statement, Areas of Focus- to promote equity and actions that are free from discrimination: Authentic Selves and Relationships, Cultural Competence, Instruction/Curriculum/Assessments, Policies/Practices/Procedures
- Updated group on activities and trainings that have taken place for teachers, students and community. A process has been developed to be used when choosing curriculum. Discussed the need to Look at practices and policies, code of conduct, special education, hiring practices, transportation, fees and data, etc. through a cultural competency lens.
- Building representatives were led through an equity audit of the plan which turned into a discussion about where we are at with the different strategies.
- Discussed the importance of using the plan when making decisions and planning activities for our students. Building representatives will report back to respective parent groups the discussion that took place.
- The Equity Plan (2016-2019) can be accessed by clicking on the Cultural Diversity tab drop down menu under Our District on the district's website: www.okemosk12.net

Building Reports - prepared by building representatives

OHS – Amy Suhrheinrich, Lynne Thatcher, and Suzi Yunker

- Signs of Suicide Presentation to 9th Grade Students- Mr. Walton will be visiting 9th grade US History classes to present the Signs of Suicide program according to the schedule below. Students will be given a pre-test, then view and discuss the Signs of Suicide video. After the video students will complete a post-test and also an exit sheet indicating if they'd like to have a follow up meeting with a counselor.
- Senior Meetings- Counselors are currently meeting with all seniors to discuss graduation progress and post-secondary plans. Please encourage your student to schedule his or her senior meeting soon. Students can schedule appointments online by visiting the Meet Your Counselors page: <https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/2902>
- Mental Health Counseling Groups- It is not uncommon for teenagers to deal with depression or anxiety on a weekly, and for some, daily basis. Knowing how to identify and deal with triggers in a positive way can enhance students' wellbeing and improve school performance. The OHS counselors will be offering groups to address these topics this winter. If you are interested in having your child participate or if you have any questions, please contact your child's counselor.
- Advanced Placement Exam Registration- For 2019 AP exams, students at Okemos High School will be registering online at www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/232850 . Online Exam registration began on Wed, Oct 10, 2018 and will end on Fri, Dec 21, 2018 at 11:59 PM. Late fees go into effect after November 20. All payments will take place through Total Registration, no payments can be turned in to Okemos High School. For more information, please go to <https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/2839> .

- The Early College @ LCC - Any 10th graders interested in learning more about The Early College @ Lansing Community College are invited to a presentation in the Kiva during Flex on Thursday, November 15. This three-year program allows students to take the rest of their classes on LCC's downtown campus and potentially earn an associate's degree along with their high school diploma. Sign up for the Flex presentation is in the Counseling Office. Families can get more information on the program at <https://lcc.edu/learning/college-credit-in-hs/earlycollege/> or by talking to Mrs. Akers.
- The Okemos Athletic Boosters are excited to announce BOOST THE CHIEFS 2018-2019! We have heard from a number of parents that they really want to help out and support the Boosters but just do not have the time to volunteer. As a result, in lieu of volunteering your time you can make a \$50 minimum donation per athlete. You can follow the link to make your donation. <https://okemosathletics.net/donation>. We would like to thank you for your support of the Okemos Athletic Boosters and our student Athletes!!
- Student-Athlete Celebrations- As the fall sports season comes to a close, we want to highlight how well our student-athletes have done in the classroom. The overall GPA for all fall varsity teams was an outstanding **3.54!** The top two team GPAs for the boys' sports were Boys Cross Country (3.91) and Boys Tennis (3.71). The top two team GPAs for the girls' sports were Girls Cross Country (3.77) and Girls Golf (3.76). Thank you to our student-athletes, teachers, and coaches for all of their hard work. If you see our fall sports student-athletes or coaches, please congratulate them.
- In Sports: Tennis Championship Celebration- The OHS Boys Tennis team captured the 2018 MHSAA Division 2 State Championship! The Chiefs had one of the greatest state tournament performances in history, scoring 37 points and winning six of eight flights. The 2018 Chiefs become the first OHS Boys Tennis team in over a decade to win back-to-back state titles! Under the leadership of head coach Chris Silker, the team had an amazing season, winning the CAAC league title, regional championship, and state title while compiling a 22-1 record.
- OHS Boys' Water Polo won the 2018 Michigan Water Polo Association State Championship in quadruple overtime with Hudsonville 11-10, after winning both district and regional championships. This is the first boys' water polo state championship win for OHS!
- OHS Cyber team finished 3rd place out of 201 teams in the Governors High School Cyber Challenge!
- Meet the Chiefs for our OHS winter sports teams will be held on Monday, November 19th, at 6:00pm in the Wood Gym.

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Sibylle Thornton

- Boys Basketball games: 10/19
- 8th Grade Spring 2019 DC Trip Informational Meeting November 27th at 6 pm
- Speed & Agility Class at CMS Tuesday and Thursdays for 5th-8th Grade
- December 4th 7th Grade Camp Meeting
- Holiday Party December 21st
- A Gift of \$5,000 from parent group for common area seating

Kinawa –Sarah Finley and Niki Robinson

- Parent Teacher conferences were Nov. 6, 7, and 8.
- The 5th grade Strings Informance Concert was November 14 & 15.

- Kinawa Recycles: Kinawa Students continue to recycle in the classrooms and the cafeteria. We are currently recycling plastics, paper, aluminum, boxboard and Styrofoam (foam lunch trays and cups). Students are taking ownership of this program. How can you help? Volunteer to pick up bagged foam trays on Fridays after 1pm. The building is open until 6 pm so that working parents can easily help with this task. The trays are bagged so that they will not leave residue in your vehicle. Trays can easily be recycled at the Dart Container Recycling Center (Styrofoam only), open 24/7, 2148 Depot Road, Holt, MI 48848. Please click on the Sign Up link to sign up: <http://signup.com/go/wgWdNj>. Call or text for any further information to Julie Lawton-Essa, Okemos Schools Recycling Coordinator, jlawton@lawtongroup.com or 517-282-1111.
- Food 4 Friends: This food share program continues where non-perishable foods are collected during the three lunch periods and made available to all students throughout the day. Weekend Survival Kit organization has partnered with Food 4 Friends to provide Kinawa and other schools in the community and district with non-perishable snacks. This has provided students in Food 4 Friends an opportunity to volunteer in the community and has shown them that even 10 and 11 year olds can make a difference. Kinawa Parent Group purchased a refrigerator for this program and therefore, they now have the ability to store fruit. Kroger and Aldi also graciously donated gift cards so that they can keep their shelves stocked this school year. Even with all the support they are receiving from the community, they can always use more assistance to expand and improve our program. They would like to offer healthier snack options so fruit donations would be greatly appreciated. They are also running low on deodorant and shampoo. Snacks and hygiene items can be dropped off in front of the main office in the box labeled "Food 4 Friends", or in Mr. Turner's classroom (Rm 203). If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to Kinawa 5 / 6 School or cash can be delivered to the office in an envelope with your name on it. Item ideas can be found on the Food 4 Friends Amazon wish list at <http://a.co/43yrWj7>. Please contact Justin Turner (517-706-4716) with any questions regarding this program.
- Reproductive Health at Kinawa will begin the week of Nov. 26 during P.E. classes.
- Dec. 11 is Kinawa Night at Culver's
- Other upcoming events
 - Dec. 4: 6th Grade Band Concert in the Kinawa Auditorium at 7pm
 - Dec. 5: Kinawa Parent Group Meeting - all are invited
 - Dec. 6: 6th Grade Orchestra concert held at Okemos High School at 7pm
 - Dec. 10, 11 and 12: Book Fair at Kinawa
 - Dec. 17: 6th Grade Choir Concert in the Kinawa Auditorium at 7pm
- Upcoming events from the Kinawa Parent Group
 - December 10-14: Follett Book Fair
 - May 6, 6pm: Entrepreneur Night
 - March 12: Teacher Luncheon
 - May 9: Teacher Luncheon
 - March 22, 6pm: Science Night
- URGENT Volunteer Need: Yearbook Coordinator
 - Documenting our kiddos years spent at Kinawa is an important KPG volunteer position. This position can be a shared Co-Coordinator as well. The yearbook coordinator helps with the following: Coordinate with Lifetouch representative to make sure all the yearbook deadlines are met, coordinate photos to be put into the yearbook Review yearbook proof, coordinate yearbook distribution to teachers at the end of the year, make sure all yearbooks have arrived with

yearbooks that have been paid and ordered. Please email kinawapg@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Cornell – Sarah Allen and Melissa Cochran

- Our new playground equipment pieces (slide, climber) were installed and available for students to use!
- Book fair coming up in December, using Follett again. :)

OPM – Kristin Arnett and Katie Cavanaugh

- We had our Family Fun Bowling day at Spare Time on Saturday November 16th. This takes the place of our school carnival. Kids played arcade games and bowled. Also had our basket raffle. Great success and lots of fun!
- Central participated in Old Town Shopping this past weekend. Old town shops gave a percentage of sales to participating schools.
- We will be participating in Schuler Book Days later this month.
- We had our Book Fair during conferences week. We sold over \$7000 worth of books. Profits will be used to buy new books and other school items.
- Our Student Council sponsored a Food Drive for the Greater Lansing Food Bank last week. OPM at Central has provided over 14,000 meals in the last five years.
- Our salmon eggs have arrived! We received a grant to raise 150 salmon eggs, and will release the newly hatched fish into the wild. The eggs arrived last week and will be cared for and observed by the upper elementary students.
- We are now at 150 books for the gift a book program and our goal is 200. With each \$8.00 purchase of a book Mrs. Sally is able to add to our library. Each \$8.00 donation is about one-half to one-third the cost of a new book.
- Department of Food & Nutrition Services - Part-time and Substitute positions available. Hours vary between 10:15 am and 1:15 pm and are for 2.5 - 3 hours each day. For more information contact: Food & Nutrition Services Office, 517-706-5017 or kristy.Paul@Okemosk12.net.

Bennett Woods – Anu Atre and Jayne Lock

- Bennett Woods welcomed a new 3rd grade teacher - Ms. Katie Parker.
- Parent Teacher conferences were during the first week of November. We had very good participation from all families. The Family Council arranged a luncheon for staff as a thank you.
- Good Fit Groups started in mid-October and are going well.
- Family council approved funding requested by staff for laminator service, extra under garments for kids, STEM games and fluorescent light covers.
- Bennett Woods had a pajama day on Oct 25th to celebrate a very successful Fun Run (over 19k raised). The class that raised the highest amount was rewarded with a bubble blast party. Top three fundraisers got 50\$ each for classroom supplies. Staff will dress up as emojis (voted by students) on Nov. 20.
- We had a Culver's fundraiser and had great teacher participation.
- Family council discussed ideas to further the equity plan and the following proposals were made - promoting cultural exchange, early opening/reserved time to have sensory friendly opportunities, signage in multiple languages for ESL learners and their families. Family council also proposed forming a committee to help evaluate how to make different events more inclusive. Survey to families

and teachers to make necessary changes and accommodations to make events more inclusive.

- Upcoming events - Staff EMOJI dress-up day on 11/20, Chieftain Champs on 11/26, 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17, Caring leaders on 12/3 and 12/10, 1st grade to Impression 5 on 12/6, 12/7, 12/13 and 12/14.
- Next Family Council Meeting on 11/29 at 6:30 pm

Hiawatha –Jen Nanzer

- No report submitted

New Business-

- OEF- Banquet went well. Focus continues to be on excellence. Some funding requests may be referred to building's parent groups. A few years back when fundraising was down, OEF started picking up some requests that parent groups originally would fulfill. OEF is now asking buildings to again fulfill those requests.
- Community Education is next meeting's speaker. Created questions for the speaker.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Amy Suhrheinrich