

## **DPC Meeting 2/27/23 - Okemos High School Library**

### **Welcome and Introductions - Karen Shapiro**

#### **Attendees:**

In person: Mr. Hood, Jessica Guillard, Corinne Dyksen, Joy Magyar, Karen Shapiro, Dan Kemsley, Katie Cavanaugh, Niki Robinson, Sunmee (Sunny) Han, Stacey Smith, Young Mi Choi-DeYoung, Tere Blanca, Jenna Shiver, Liz Luyendyk, Carly Patel

Zoom: Rita Sharma, Lauren McWain, Sarah Allen

### **Principal's Report - Dan Kemsley**

Mr. Hood Intro of Mr. Kemsley: Increased paid clubs, increasing awareness of institutional bias, tells the kids he loves them every morning.

### **ACADEMICS**

- Academics: wants new electives (low pressure), Comparative world religions, LIFE (logic, finance and engineering), Python (computer programming), college prep study skills, AP Psychology, Meteorology
- Remove Pure Okemos and studies classes (same standards but slower pace) - bloated now. More training on differentiation.
- Co-teach geometry sections
- Mingling departments/maybe cross-curricular projects
- Resource (credit or no credit)- now get letter grades.
- Currently doing scheduling for next year
- Reducing the silo effect
- Flatter leadership process

### **OTHER**

- Graduation Commencement at Breslin Center- doors open at noon, commencement 1-3 PM, time for pictures. Will stay at Breslin in the future, though actual date may change based on Breslin availability. It is the weekend after the senior's last day.
- Standardized testing- he is spreading it out so Seniors won't be here when it happens so less stress for those testing (Seniors to go to John Ball Zoo).
- He is using the parent group in social media to quickly respond, but important information goes out in traditional manners too.

### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

- Dual enrollment? For those taking classes at MSU and LCC, Dr. Kemsley will get back to her (Tere Blanca).
- Do students have a counselor helping them to plan from freshman year on and meet 1-2x a year, does this happen? Are meetings voluntary?
  - Mandatory for juniors but possibly not before. Will look into it.
- Dr. Kemsley will send parents info for signing into Google classroom and what is on there

- Dan was one of the first responders to the swatting incident.

### **Superintendent's report: Mr. Hood**

- Acknowledge the stress of the past three weeks.
- Hard calls to make with ice days. Parents always have the final say of putting kids on the road. There are kids that don't eat without school and hourly employees don't get paid with snow days. We have rural roads, different salting areas, etc.
- Many thanks to the first responders.
- Spaghetti dinner- Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Music Patrons, 4:30-7:30 at OHS.
- Announcing Jewel Settlement: we joined a lawsuit suing vaping companies. Considering a settlement in March. They had targeted kids.
- Letter to Cornell Families, regarding the incident at Cornell. Follow up: Suicide by gunshot overnight. No intent to harm anyone at Cornell. Name not released. Following up with more training on scanning the area (playgrounds) to ensure safety. Traumatic for those who saw the individual (a few students and staff). Lockdown and windows covered.
- Dr. Coggins presents tonight at the Board meeting on creating community- violence prevention
- Jason Russell presenting today here at DPC regarding security.
  - Jason asked what we are doing on the front end to help create community- Dr. Coggins (prevention of school violence).
  - Debriefing of staff in March, and community in March
  - Secret service and law enforcement background, pushing to get him involved with a country wide response.
- Bond presentation next month, first 10 million dollar draw for this summer made
  - security vestibules this summer (Cornell, BW, Edgewood, Montessori).
  - High school athletics this summer- stadiums
  - Planning new middle school buildings
  - Bond website
- District out of snow days - less than 1 day left. Hoax (gun violence) days considered snow days (Acts of God), Bennett Woods power out day, Cornell suicide incident
  - He will apply for a waiver from the state. In the past not forgiving.
  - Likely adding on at the end. Could make an early release day or minutes for the elementary.

#### *Comments:*

- Not normal that there was more gun related days off school than snow days
- Therapy dogs are already being used heavily given all of these incidents.
- Good social work response to that incident.
- Kids still have trauma re that experience. Staff as well.
- At the board meeting, we were giving the first responders gratitude when they had to leave for MSU mass shooting.
- Hiawatha- culling deers at the same time as the swatting incident.
- How to train edustaff employees (subs and third party employees) vs regular staff to make sure they are trained too (lockdown situations, scan the playground before going outside, etc).
  - In Detroit, the principals went out first thing in the am to check the grounds

- Questions, Cornell has follow-up, will the other parents in the community be told for transparency?
- Lawsuit- where does the settlement money go to? May be stipulations (vaping detectors).
- Student gender identity policy: posted for 30 days, will vote soon, memorializes the practices we have currently
  - What is the protocol for bathrooms? Female can go into a female bathroom, male staff into a male bathroom; Question- can female staff go into a male bathroom to protect a student? That isn't covered in this policy. Our transgender students haven't needed protection in the bathrooms. Students can use single use restrooms if they prefer.
- Are there more increases in security now? What should be done differently?
  - Video cameras, police etc. weapon detecting systems

### **Invited Speaker: Jason Russell-Security Consultant**

- Has worked with Oxford, MI Schools
- His job is to assess and create actionable recommendations (local budget and culture plays a role)
- Looking at 1000's of schools
- Personally he did this district
- He has responded to six mass shootings in past 18 months
- Security theater isn't ideal- need to make things really work (actionable recommendations).
- Strong perimeter is ok only if the doorbell people are stringent as well
- Making adjustments are process changes to help things be faster
- Oxford unlimited budget - Lots given to the district (weapon detection cameras free for 5 years, paid for at middle school), \$10 million from the state
- More security is a double edge sword.
- Vestibules are parts of the process. Threats generally from outside for elementary schools. Older students the threat can be internal generally.
- If we focus on hardening the target we miss the prevention aspect (Dr Coggins will address this).
- District trainings: can try to include edustaff. ID threatening non verbal communications
- Updating camera systems here.
- Looking at AI weapon ID
  - More failures than we thought we would see. Some are now unstaffed. Training issues for what to do if they alert the staff of a gun.
- Cost to these \$500,000
- Budget over time to maintain things needs to be accounted for.
- The response isn't just to add more people.

### **COMMENTS and QUESTIONS?**

- Volunteer trainings? Yes - August in police training. OK for him to train whomever is in the room. In person to start then virtually. Alternate with in person
  - Some things don't need to be known by all
- Could we fundraise so the budget isn't limited for some safety measures?

- If the budget doesn't allow, then we can approach the board, and can approach parents. The concern is who will do the work.
- School resource officer, received one grant.
- Time lag- 6 months for a good security guard, weapons ID units, etc.
- Some things are not good ideas- door barricades
- Parent: Edustaff employee, federal agent for a few years. Hiawatha parents brought to us security concerns, and created a safety committee. Ideally, the district would have a safety committee, and Hiawatha would have a representative. Would we create this in Okemos? Yes we are working on that. Security is one area where people have opinions but no experience, you get false ideas. The committee must be advisory but there are many operational costs and truths. The Committee should be running for the fall. Hoping ideas from Hiawatha are getting to Mr. Hood's office and Jason Russell's office.
- Parent indicated her son was in lockdown with a long term sub who didn't know what to do.
- Parent: Surprised that doors were not locked here initially (when she moved here years ago). Her child was in lockdown at OHS but felt secure that there was such a response. No need for more security. Education is important.
- Swatting event, no prevention for this.
- Jason R: MSU incident could not have happened here, can't just walk in. K-12 is more advanced than college campuses.
- Metal detectors? Is there any value? Line kids up (easy target), deterrence (yes), if truly committed to get guns in (yes they can). How would you run them? Three lanes, two people per lane, (2 lanes at the other schools). Can't quantify the deterrence. Can't just chase the last emergency. Come up with something new. Different weapon detection systems are ok.
- What are they doing for protection? Multiple items were discussed.
- Behavior threats? Threat assessment piece.
- Swatting information flowed in reverse order of a normal emergency. The non-emergency line single call info needed to be shared with the responders. Dispatcher on the radio should have said this is on call on a non-emergency number, Sheriff key card.
- Hiawatha will send suggestions to Dr. Beard with potential solutions
  - Eg. Notification of parents for lockdown drills - can be done via Remind text- but someone at the district level has to do it. Needs to be accurate.
  - Mr. Hood's comment- we do this and have adjusted this.
  - Mr. Hood didn't want parents to show up before law enforcement and not having to manage parents.
- Mr Hood: Does our community support having a plainclothes armed person at our high school?
- Talked to township about sharing costs. Only offset for 3 years (1/2 time support)
- Jason Russell: Recommended to have a school resource officer only if they are the right person. 99% relationships and 1% enforcement. This is an embedded person. Plainclothes vs uniform? Easier to develop a relationship with plainclothes people. They have police marking.
- Speed of response was good here at OHS. It is a deterrent.
- Internal threat: what do we have right now. No backpacks to class. Key is to prevent loss of further lives. Deterrents. Funding for staff is key if you can even find people to do it.

- Lobby lawmakers- for continual funding. Mental health last year is a deterrent.
  - State legislatures being lobbied.
- Who can check all of these things or run all the deterrents? Currently, 2 counselors at Kinawa School do this full time. Need more consistent money and still issues with finding people.

### **Board of Education - Katie Cavanaugh**

- The Board has created an advocacy committee this year. OPS advocacy page online - can click on it, write to your lawmakers. Red flag law, gun security issues, enhanced background checks, etc.
- Also write to support school funding
- Gun lock giveaway
  - 80% of guns used at school shootings came from the home
  - PTA can discuss information, but teachers and superintendents can't endorse it
  - Moms demand action for eg.
  - Community-wide event on responsible gun ownership
- Question- do students tell staff regarding their interest in using the bathroom of a gender identity, can a child just decide one day to go into another bathroom one day?
  - Kids have not done this in the past
  - Bad intentions if they are disruptive in the bathrooms- discipline policy
  - Student's do not have to declare which restrooms to use

### **School Reports- See below**

#### **OHS winter dance- successful**

#### **Other Business- Tabled for next time.**

COVID spending

District parenting

Mileage Club

## **District Parent Council Building Reports**

**February 27, 2023**

### **Building updates**

#### **OHS – Niki Robinson and Sarah Allen**

- Okemos Parent Group for February was Cancelled.
- Upcoming OPG Meetings at 9:00 a.m. : Friday, April 14, 2023 and Friday, May 26, 2023
- Our Okemos Principles are making extra time every Monday morning and afternoon to talk to students. The principals open times are:
  - Monday mornings 7:15 -7:30 a.m
  - Monday afternoon 2:45-3:15 p.m.

- Our 2023 WinterFest was successful and was hosted by Stacy Black-Christensen and Class of 2025 please give them a special “Thank You” with help from our parent volunteers and staff.
- March 9th: 47th Annual OMP Spaghetti Dinner from 4:30-7:30p.m.

#### **Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Tere Blanca**

- CPG catered a thank you breakfast 2/24 from Panera (delayed due to ice days) for teachers and staff.
- February 28 - 8th Grade Trip to Wharton Center to watch the Black Violin
- March 2 - MSBOA District Band and Orchestra Festival
- Virtual conference via Zoom will take place on:
  - March 13: 4:00 - 6:30
  - March 14: 12:00 - 2:30
  - March 14: 3:30 - 6:00
  - March 15: 4:00 - 6:30
- Sign-up for conferences opens on February 28 at 5:30pm and closes on March 8 at 8:00pm.
- The next CPG meeting will be on March 7, 1:30 pm.

#### **Kinawa – Sunny Han**

- Kinawa parents are able to sign up for Parent Teacher conferences beginning February 27 at 5pm
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held over zoom on the following dates and times:
  - March 13: 4:00pm - 6:30pm
  - March 14: 12:30pm - 3:00pm
  - March 14: 4:00pm - 6:30pm
  - March 16: 4:00pm - 6:30pm
- March is Reading Month and will be celebrated at Kinawa. We have a calendar of daily events throughout the month..
- Kinawa Science Night is April 7th for 6pm - 8pm
- Students will be taking the M-Step Assessment starting the week of April 11
  - 5th grade will test on April 11, April 13, April 25, and April 27
  - 6th grade will test on April 18 and April 27
- April 18th all 5th grade students will be going to Celebration Cinema
- Kinawa administration is currently working on scheduling students and planning for the 2023-2024 school year

#### **Cornell – Liz Luyendyk and Corinne Dyksen**

- Big thank you to everyone who stepped up to help during and after recent events. The outpouring of love and support was much needed and much appreciated.
- Upcoming events:
  - Read Together, Grow Together – month of March reading program, 2 books chosen, each student gets a book, school-wide activities that correlate
  - Science Night – March 20
  - Mileage Club – starts after spring break, software and tokens purchased
  - Global Cornell – April 28
  - Family Fun Night – May 19
  - Field Day – June 6
  - Individual Reading Plans will go out March 10 - Includes NWEA testing data points
- More info and questions can be asked during P/T conferences

- Parent Teacher conferences start March 13, are all virtual, discussing bringing back an in-person option next year

**OPM – Niki Robinson and Sage Hales-Ho**

- OPM Impressions 5 fundraising event is Thursday, March 2 from 5-7:30p
- April Fundraising Eatout is Thursday, April 13 from 5-8:45p at Sindhu Indian Cuisine
- Planning Flash Dash fundraising event for late May
- Provided staff breakfast items following the week of the district wide lockdown
- Looking at other teacher appreciation events for coming months

**Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi**

- Science night was a success with over 600 student/family attendees.
- Multicultural night is coming up March 10
- NWEA testing to be released March 10
- Parent teacher conferences March 13-23
- March 20 author Laurie Keller will visit
- Family council awarded some teacher grants.
- MSU health has indicated they would be willing to sponsor mileage club
- Next PTA meeting is March 16

**Hiawatha – Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith, Carly Patel and Joy Magyar**

- Due to the lockdown, the Hiawatha PTO elected to cancel their February general meeting.
- Very successful fundraising event with Chipotle happened in February. Remaining fundraisers for the year are Schulers Books Days (3/11-3/18), Movie Night (4/11) and Hiawatha Happening (5/12)
- Science night is coming up on 3/10
- Mileage Club will begin on 4/17
- Many lunch volunteers have converted to edustaff employee status in an effort to help with having trained staff to work shifts, however we still have a substantial shortage of people to work lunch.