

District Parent Council Minutes

May 16, 2022 12:00 – 2:30pm – online Zoom

Attendance, Liz Luyendyk, Karen Shapiro, Sarah Allen, Joy Magyar, Kristen Arnett, Mary Gebara, Corinne Dyksen, John Hood, Jane Manfredi, Tempe Brown

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro*

Superintendent's Report - *John Hood*

Prom is this weekend. First time with dinner included at prom. Post-prom is at the HS.

Preparing for potential bond recommendation for the board to approve. (Approval just means that it is ok to put it on the ballot.) A Q&A Thursday was held 5/12 for Cornell concerns specifically. Overall there have been 8 bond listening sessions, 3 community forums, and 2 board work sessions (one tonight). By extending our current tax rate we get 3 new schools, which is unheard of. The Steering Committee identified a new Kinawa and Chippewa, and Cornell (currently under 100 sq foot/student and needs 200 sq foot) as the top needs. The Steering committee vetted it and Powell Rd came in as the best move for Cornell. However, community members would like to keep it at Cornell.

Also, the bond money would create secure vestibules for all buildings, more space at Hiawatha and replacement of furniture and student devices, an extra performing arts room, tennis space, a new home for the Meridian Senior Center, expand the HS cafeteria, new busses, and better technology infrastructure. Additionally, the district will be looking at unutilized sites, and it would tear schools down if they aren't going to use it. Montessori in Central was decided to be the next priority for the future.

The consultants hired, Tower Pinkster Corporation and Chrisman, don't get paid unless the bond passes. Okemosk12 website had all the bond information as it was known.

Questions of Mr Hood and responses:

Q: Is there money to demolish buildings?

A: There is money to demolish buildings: \$330,000 to remove a building, or buildings could be repurposed for a new senior center or Edgewood daycare. The sinking fund could also provide funds to demolish a building, This was intentionally left open in the bond recommendations as to which would be demolished so the board has some options.

Q: How much are we paying to upkeep Wardcliff?

A: Costs are minimal for building upkeep, more for the grounds. They are committed to maintaining the grounds and could be used for future building sites. Not more complaints about Wardcliff grounds than other schools.

Q: Is there a process for communicating to individuals that don't have kids in the school?

A: Only board minutes, on the banner, tweet some information out, senior center newsletter. Now we zoom board meetings, which are more accessible. It's okay for the community to put information up on Nextdoor. The Steering committee was supposed to be confidential until it was put to the board. Their recommendation was shared on May 9th for the first time. On March 9th, Cornell at Powell Road was on the slide deck but not discussed. It was talked about on April 20th officially.

COVID - Okemos will mask if we hit CDC Level 3 and/or recommendation from Ingham County Health Department, the latter being the most critical. East Lansing schools has reinstated mask mandates as their trigger was set to mask again at CDC risk level 2.

Presentation - Tempie Brown – Athletic Director

She has been here since November and welcomes feedback and help. She was a collegiate coach for 20 years and lived here before that.

HS Football program - Wide receiver coach from EL hired. He's young with good vision. The biggest concern was getting the kids excited to play for a coach. The coach's day job is in technology in Okemos.

Q: Field trip idea: PTO's, seniors, younger kids can go to various HS games.

Q: Coaching staff: There are 25 sports; some coaches overlap. Targeting clubs at the HS level. Lacrosse and basketball in winter. What are your thoughts on the trend for specialized sports for kids? College coach background, she prefers them to do many other things for injury prevention and makes a better teammate.

Q: Consider mountain biking?

A: Start as a Community Ed sport, like boys volleyball, club sport. HS web site lists sports listed and MASAA- you can see all sports, eg. gymnastics.

Q: Challenges for facilities?

A: Takes second seat to school/educational issues. November to April there is no ability to practice inside - we need more indoor space, so kids are not practicing until 9 pm at night during the season. For example, cover the courts, so sports can practice more throughout the year so practices can be done by 7 PM.

New jerseys ordered, basketball court can be fixed this summer but not turf.

Q: Swimming - Does our HS hold swim meets?

A: Can host 1 team only. The pool is short lane-wise. Normally there is more than just 1 other school at a meet. So we travel to go to competitions.

Board of Education Report - Mary Gebara

Bond- meetings every Monday now. Tonight is a work session (at the HS library), trying to allow Cornell to be heard. The building and design team never once had as many community outreach meetings as for this bond. The key is what is best for all kids. The design team only makes money if the bond passes. If Cornell goes to Powell Road, old Cornell will be the senior center or early childhood center or a park. If Cornell stays at the current site, a bus loop would have to be on the outside diameter of the property. The Community perspective started last August with the surveys. District-wide, Cornell has been a concern for a while.

Comments: 2018- PTO meetings, school district owned property there. Recommendation to move Cornell to Powell Road not finalized until May 9th.

In Cornell Woods, irate people all new to the area, who didn't know about Powell Road possibility are upset because they bought homes there to go to school there. Issues with Cornell include the need for fire lanes that

can't be created on the current space (small lot) and issues with staging. If Cornell needs to be rebuilt on that same property, where do the kids go? There is a meeting tonight: 6:30 PM second floor HS library. Board members/administration/steering committee members will sit at a table for community members to walk up to and discuss issues. There will be a work session following that community table time. The Board will vote next week.

School Reports

OHS – Niki Robinson and Sarah Allen

Prom and Post Prom was successful for our Senior and Junior Class 2022.

Comments: Prom - Kids said they saw people sneaking in, not enough food, but liked having dinner there. Kids said post-prom was a 10/10.

Comment: At Prom, kids wouldn't sit with people they didn't know. Location too small for 550 kids, food not worth the cost?

Important OHS Dates

- May 16- Senior Skip Day
- May 17- Senior Volunteer Project
- May 18- PLC, Early Release Day
- May 19- Last Day for Seniors!
- May 19- Flex
- May 26- Flex
- May 30- Memorial Day, No School K-12
- June 5- OHS Commencement, Ticket Required
- June 8- Final Exams (Hours 1 & 2) Dismissal at 10:55 a.m.
- June 9- Final Exams (Hours 3 & 4) Dismissal at 10:55 a.m.
- June 10- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! Final Exams (Hours 5 & 6) Dismissal at 10:55 a.m.

Senior Yard Signs - Senior Yard Signs will be available for pick up during your last week of school. Please plan to get your sign from B116 during one of these days & times: Tuesday, May 17th between 2:45 - 5:00pm
Wednesday, May 18th between 12: 40 - 2:45pm.

CONNECT Freshmen Orientation - Attention CURRENT Sophomores & Juniors interested in being leaders of our CONNECT Freshmen orientation program! Please join the google classroom for more information and the application. Applications will be available starting Monday May 9th and will be due by Wednesday application. Applications will be available starting Monday May 9th and will be due by Wednesday May 18th by 1:00 p.m. CONNECT Google Classroom Code: tjzlyek

OHS Spring Clean-Up - Please join student and community volunteers on Sunday, May 22, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. to clean up the OHS school grounds. Gloves, trashbags, and trash picks will be provided. Please click on this link for more information and to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4DACAB28AA8-spring>

In case of bad weather, the make-up date will be held on Thursday, May 26 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Q: Why do seniors get out so early and why do they not have to take finals?

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Kristin Arnett see notes

Kinawa – Sarah Allen see notes

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk and Corinne Dyksen see notes

Additionally, Liz L was asked to share an email regarding concerns for DEI training from one of the parents in Cornell (Margaret Cook). She read her email and Liz was going to follow up with Mr Hood and Ms. Cook.

OPM – Katie Cavanaugh and Niki Robinson

Need new reps- email will be sent to the principal and parent group. Liz to help their parent group.

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi see notes

Hiawatha – Carly Patel and Joy Magyar

- Fundraiser - games, food trucks this Friday. Food trucks- 2 backed out (vegan and BBQ, looking for new options). Book fair was successful, and parents were excited to be there.
- Mileage club just M/W/F for coverage.
- Teacher appreciation week- food brought in.
- Last Friday teachers wore wolf shirts.
- Field day June 3rd
- PTO meeting was canceled

Music Program Follow-up Discussion - Tabled until Mr. Hood is available; after the bond is not so present.

Bond Proposal Discussion - Held previously in this meeting

New Business / Follow up information gathered:

For next year DPC reps are as follows:

Sarah Allen to move to HS with Nikki

Karen Shapiro for Chippewa

Jane M for Bennett Woods

Kinawa needs a rep; ask Mr. Stierley

Liz L and Corrinne D for Cornell

Joy M and Karly for Hiawatha

Need a rep for OPMontessori

Email Karen S or the DPC email if anyone is interested.

Who to point people to with FB issues re bond? Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro, Liz Lyendyk and online resources. Slides from last Monday night are easy to understand (May 9, Cornell Q and A session). Shared on Cornell's PTO and Katie Cavanaugh shared it too.

First fall meeting - We decide who we want to present to us and when. Planning to be online for the first meeting.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Have a great summer! See you in September!

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

Website: www.okemosk12.net – Families – District Parent Council

Building Reports

OHS – Niki Robinson and Sarah Allen

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Kristin Arnett

- CPG held its last meeting on Friday, 5/13.
- The last PLC is this Wednesday. Staff will discuss student growth goals.
- CPG decided to wait to do the walk/run fundraiser until next fall.
- The 8th grade dance will be Friday, June 3rd after school. A group of 8th graders are raising funds for Ukrainian physicians.
- 8th graders are going to Cedar Point on 6/9.
- 7th graders are going to Lake Lansing North park on 6/9.
- Chippewa is considering opening a small school store.
- New picnic tables in front of the school are a huge hit. They are being used at lunchtime and even some classes are using them in the nice weather.
- They are hiring new teachers to replace those that have retired or moved to other buildings, plus a new additional band teacher.
- August 23rd is the first day of school. There will be an orientation/open house sometime the week before. Monday 8/22 will be a make-up open house but staff will not be available for tours at that time.
- The next Chippewa Parent Group meeting will be held on Friday, June 3rd, 8:30 am on Zoom.

Kinawa – Sarah Allen and Niki Robinson

- 5th graders going to Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum on Monday, May 16th.
- 6th graders had a great day at the Lugnuts game with great weather.
- May 18th Chipotle Fundraiser, 4-8pm.
- Girls Volleyball meeting for all interested in playing volleyball at Chippewa. Meeting on Tuesday, May 17th, during lunch.

Cornell – Liz Luyendyk and Corinne Dyksen

- Family Fun Night May 20th from 5-7PM
- Raffle basket fundraiser benefiting the PTO
- Mileage Club extra laps
- Treats provided by PTO
- Inflatable obstacle course
- PTO Board elections May 19th
- Yearbook distribution at end of year assembly
- Field Day is June 3rd

OPM – Katie Cavanaugh and Niki Robinson

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi

- Mileage Club is in full swing (425 kids signed up!) and we have successfully paired some evening family mileage club sessions with our Scholastic Book Fair
- Bike and Roll to school was a big success on May 4th
- 4th graders went to the capitol and have one more field trip
- Science Night was a huge success with what seems like a majority of the school attending and close to 70 science fair projects present
- Step testing for grades 3 and 4 is finishing

- We made shirts for the participants in the Special olympics for K-4
- Several teachers grants have been awarded for books and jigsaw puzzles
- Mark Fargo has been contacted regarding black top painting
- Principal Schefke is updating the BW website
- Teacher appreciation week has some special surprises for the teachers including food, kids contributions, and a travel shopping vendor (Sweet Lee's)
- The BW block party is June 5th to include inflatables, food trucks and a DJ
- Field day is June 3rd with many games for the students
- Next Family Council Meeting is May 19th at 6:30 PM in person
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Hiawatha – Carly Patel and Joy Magyar