

District Parent Council Meeting at BW Elementary - December 12, 2022

Welcome and Introductions -Karen Shapiro

Attendance: Karen Shapiro, Katie Cavanaugh, John Hood, Sarah Allen, Corinne dyksen, jane Manfredi, Erin Minckley instructional coach, Dr Laura Slee (DEI), Jessica Gillard, Pamela Jones, Niki Robinson, Carly Patel, Liz luyundyk, Jenna Schreiber

On Zoom- Joy Magyar, Stacy Smith, Katie

BW Representative (Erin) - Principal Schefke was out:

Erin- Book fair last week successful, \$12,0150 (aim for 10K), Library getting new furniture start of the year (2019 bond), BW all grades good fit groups 30 min, 5x week (Literacy focus based on data), Teachers FAME (best practices for formative assessment), school social worker adopt a family (3 families), several grade levels 1st grade impression 5, 4 full days, science lessons

Jane Manfredi- Fall clean up day, and spring one planned

New addition totally filled.

Best fit groups- first year since the pandemic doing them, small groups interventions last year, this year the whole class,

Superintendent Report: John Hood

Hard time hiring special ed para-pros. Looked at rates of pay, given them a raise to attract and retain. Positions open all schools. Students have some big behavior needs and paras have to help at-risk for kicking, spitting, biting.

Township met with trustees and Mr Hood - discussions for the future of the senior center. Township goal of developing more inclusive senior center with Haslett and Okemos; community center.

Bond team: Members made visits to Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo to look at learning spaces, more space = calm, safety additions noted, natural lighting, common learning spaces outside of classroom. Design meetings ongoing for Kinawa and Chippewa, Cornell will wait a bit.

Updates on Bond to community - will post on the website, update bids, monthly or bi-monthly updates to the BOE.

BOE said John can hire an owner's representative who will serve the schools' interest, in the building community. \$275 million is a lot to manage, want to do best stewardship practices.

Jackson and Hillsdale schools shut in November due to systems hacking. We are already evaluating this, ISD and 3rd party experts, students and staff will see stricter access to the network, restrictions to non-district devices (guest network only), decreased convenience, but increased security. Hackers don't release data unless ransom is paid. We have insurance, but insurance dictates to do XYZ if you want to be insured. This list is expanded. May see multi-factor authentication (passwords change more often), Phishing tests with employees. Schools are easy targets as there are so many access points.

Start time survey- Given to students in grades 5-12 and all parents and community. Preliminary data available in January. Board will start a work session about this. We know what the research says on the 7-12 kids, need to look at impacts on elementary families and employees. Issues: bus system dictates 45 min entire elementary and upper class runs. Can't increase bus fleet or find new drivers so all can't start at the same time. Board will unpack data and share. They want to look at more than one option, ask community input and this spring look at voting on a change. Issues: child care, sports, extracurriculars, jobs, etc. 900 surveys filled out so far. Will start talks after the New Year.

Questions:

Separate student survey 5-12 and then another to the community/parents.

There was a question about economics on afterschool jobs.

Other districts, Williamston HS 8:30, one bus run for the whole system. Governor or legislature could mandate an 8:30 am start time. Other states have mandated it, CA. Other districts may start discussing this. Extracurriculars of a concern. Some kids will miss more class time for sports events if other districts don't move start times.

How many use before care or after care at the elementary schools? Mr. Hood can get that info.

At large email: 180 sign ups so far, include senior citizens, future parents, and community members, not just with kids in schools. Bond, start time goes out to at large, he doesn't send out cancel school notices to this group.

Communications Director: Board may consider during budget discussions. Hyperlinked research papers and community plans.

Concern regarding diversity of staff vs student body. Similar to others, lower paying jobs have more people of color, with predominantly white staff. Trying to work with MSU to increase diverse applicants that want to teach. Hannover research: try to grow your own- need to change the system that they were in, reaching out to alumni. Dr. Slee- Engage community members, parents, staff, etc in those places. What other college and university's, how draw more diverse in, hiring practices, more during her session.

Food service for different age groups? Went on visits with them, more from scratch options. Designers for new buildings to make kitchens that can be used to cook more. One kitchen and two cafeterias (Chippewa and Kinawa). Foods classes can contribute to this and help with food service, kids play a role. Redesign of High School kitchen in the bond as well.

Kids without AP access, less resources directed at them? Attendance? Falling through the cracks? Gatekeeping in AP? Can kids be in those classes but not take an exam? Can't get into AP's without certain pre-requisites that are often in freshman year. Just being in AP classes benefits kids. Kids- not honors, but not special needs, would like the challenge of AP. Equity issue.

MTSS structure multi-tiered systems of support) Tier 1 in class, tier 2 in the classroom but math K-8 in place. We aim to include the HS in this because of the schedule and tends to be about content. High School teaches content traditionally, but they also need skills.

Status on the security analysis from Jason Russell: complete, made recommendations to board, involved in the design of new buildings and the secured vestibules (Montessori, Cornell, BW this summer, next summer Hiawatha and the High School). Working on lock down drills and state legislature. He is helping make an ISD wide assessment.

Addressing artificial intelligence monitoring of web sites - securely sends an email report of where your kids went to. School devices only. Students will know that it is happening. Could be a SS assignment on 2nd amendment. Help ID suicidal ideations.

Threat assessment process (currently work with police). He put us in touch with a threat assessment specialist, Dr. Margaret Coggins. Get ahead of issues that happen.

Procedures will be trained this year and next year. We are vague so we don't advertise failings.

Katie Cavanaugh- He was happy with where we are.

Legislative change with lock downs- hard, soft, shelter in place. Legislate this Spring then train. Building security for before and after care. Buzz-in system tied to phones.

Jenna At Hiawatha - safety committee. Jenna is an ex-police officer, worked with Sparrow. Jason is the DPC guest speaker in February. Would like some things to happen faster.

Passwords- kids shouldn't know others, kids can change their own passwords? We think yes. Kids can sign into others. Passwords have been leaked in a data breach. Ask tech department if we can change passwords and let the kids know how to do it.

Board of Ed- Katie Cavanaugh- Tonight is the last meeting of the year. Final goodbyes to Dean Bolton and Vin Lyon-Callo.

Superintendent review went well. Board advocacy committee- met with MI Association of School Boards. MI PTA- lots of advocacy work, DPC can do it or individual PTOs. Possibly a good resource. MIPTA.org Bring back to PTO's. Interest in this group?

MI Children's advocacy group- Jessica Gillard's husband, forum to reach out to legislators.

OHS- sign being fixed up really nice as soon as insurance gives the OK.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Slee

DEI update:

Equity plan separate from DEI plan

DEI- aim: 3 guiding principles- collaboration, data-driven decision-making. how we get there

Areas of focus- part of original plan in 2016:

Authentic selves, Culturally responsive -sustaining ed, Instruction/curriculum assessment, Policies, practices and procedures.

Ensure that ALL of our community benefit from our actions

Annual review, implementation throughout the school year, operationalize the plan summer/fall

Eg. Wolf- not symmetrical by intent, students brought that out.

Working on weeding out some of the arts and craft perfections, thanksgiving especially.

Within the year, all Chiefs deco will be replaced.

Current initiatives: some certain grades, some span all the grades.

K-4 staff: differentiate professional learning, they can choose, professional learning that they need, interest. Restorative, Reading growth, Neurosequential model, behavior management.

Is there a DEI time slot dedicated during Professional development days? Not yet, also embed DEI into all of the other prof development activities. Neurosequential model- research around student behavior and reading, best way to train cortex (behavior decisions), is to teach them to read really well.

5-12: Kinawa, youth participatory action projects: choose a topic, work in teams, real world research in their school. One group- food (vegan options),

PRISM clubs - affinity groups LGBTQ+, Kinawa and Chippewa and OHS, trying to align support. OHS to reach out to Kinawa and Chippewa.

Math Lab- to aid high risk students struggling in math at OHS, expand next semester, 2nd math class. Title 1 funding for at risk students (qualify socioeconomic status, language, history of school failure). Next semester to open up to more who are failing math. Algebra 1 is a target. Help to get them ready for the content they will see, not just the basic skills.

Question- why are these kids not successful to start with? Need to be evaluated.

Similar to Chippewa- electives, can take math lab vs electives like Foods.

Question- kids who fall through the cracks vs. math 5th grade super honors group tested into.

Issues if older kids that are repeating are with younger kids, especially if younger kids are accelerated. Taught more to the higher level. Issues with mixing grades, can teaching be equitable if different levels?

Working with Jennifer Eddy (Gifted and talented), test into the honors track, lots of off ramps, but how to get back on? Structural changes?

Maybe bring in OHS principal, regarding not getting all required and electives.

After school resources- kids don't want to stay? Or maybe add small group zooms? More communication allows parents to help students reach out. Late bus for afterschool kids? Slee and Hood will look back into this for OHS. Potential to help with clubs or tutoring.

E3 grant, mental health clinic, one therapist at OHS, but all students ages 5-21 can access them. Can start accepting more into the program. Telehealth possibility? Or drive to OHS.

Equity Work Team Updates: Four teams. Includes staff, students.

1) Authentic selves and relationships, recognize all strengths, successes, restorative practices (wrap arms around kids vs stay at home), Anti-bias/anti-racist learning opportunities, affinity groups (parents),

2) Culturally responsive- sustaining education: bias, power privilege, partner with PTO's and multicultural events.

3) Policies/Practices/Procedures: Incident reporting ease, make them more accessible, hiring practices (grow your own), non-traditional pathways. Met with MSU- teacher certification pushed 5-year to 4-switched this year. State also pays student teachers.

4) Instruction- lots of talk about grading and homework, more details to come.

Evening meetings, trying a hybrid meeting.

Meeting times and locations- not on calendar yet. Can add to calendar. Dates can be added. Can add to DEI tidbits. Add to community at large emails? For future parents it could be of interest.

Student Support System: mental health

School social worker, part time counselor, full time student support advisor (SSA) (behavior support), after grade 4, social workers in 5-12, asst principals at those levels, 5 school psychologists (assessment not service, for special education services, problem solving), E3 provider all students (therapists, bill insurance, Therapist 1 on 1 counseling K-8 3 days a week; students have been referred by OHS counselors, all faculty/staff can refer), Ingham ISD (K-6) counseling (mental health therapy, one at BW- Pam, eg. anger management issues), clubs and affinity groups, Mr Mark Abrams- behavior specialist K-8 (social worker by training).

Working on fine tuning the social emotional lessons (5-8 Character Strong curriculum), at OHS money to implement TRAILS to wellness.

Clubs, sports, affinity groups, do wellness.

E3 MHS Services grant counseling during school hours for kids who need it, remarkable. Child and Family Charities, housed in OHS, full time therapist 5 days a week. Dr. Slee facilitated. She wrote the grant. Statewide grant. Finances will continue to be available and renewable. Pays for itself as it bills insurance and generates income.

She is being trained in the neurosequential model. She can train brain based trauma informed strategies to other elementary school teachers.

Can we use this for some of our paraprofessionals? Bringing them in during the PD days.

The Okemos "Woof Pack": Willow, Cee Cee (French OHS), Chip (Delta Dental). Vision to have a therapy dog in every school. New member, school undetermined, 1 yr old Phoebe (golden retriever). Community builders. Looking to expand pack PTO's support/sponsor? \$10K buy the dog and have the dog trained. Does not include vet care. Commitment over 4 years. OEF giving money,

Time for training? In training and in the schools.

Formal proposal regarding sponsoring a dog from the Woof pack will help the PTO's and MSU-CVM etc.

Melissa Samluck helping to organize. Handlers are employees. 2 handlers are teachers and one is a para-pro. Will have other staff workers help with the dog. Each handler gets a stipend from the district. The district owns the dog.s

DEI Slides sent to all (included with minutes).

Building reports-

See Building PDF, additional inclusions below.

Bennett Woods- see attached for the BW report, also gearing up for Science night feb 16

OHS - Niki R. Diversity assembly (during school), Feb 3rd. Talent show. After school- until 3:45 after school help. Library available before sports start (must study), school must empty by 3 PM. Must check into the library. It is locked down. Go to the Culvers Okemos tonight for fundraiser.

Chippewa- see notes, All teachers getting Amazon gift cards

Kinawa- looking for more involved DPC representatives.

Cornell- Spirit week. 4th graders got to meet Gov Whitmer. Fox news covered. Book fair \$10,700 raised. Gift card fundraiser.

OPM- book fair starting

Hiawatha- fundraisers, year end gift for staff, parent feedback form, Jenna (school safety committee)- several staff members, survey'd concerns, lock down drills antiquated, mandate to complete by Dec 1 (late but down), PASS guidelines (most recent), will do within first 20 days of school (should be done after winter break). Required to do 3 in the year, including at lunch and recess. Communications- lack of cell service, PA system spotty, trying to acquire radios (money in the bond from last year). Distric-wide need. Before and after care policies, loop in Meridian, Fire, EMS, to get first aid training for all. Offer lunch initiatives. School will pay for their card.

District Parent Council Building Reports

December 12, 2022

Building updates

OHS – Niki Robinson and Sarah Allen

Principle Dan Notes

- Library is open for all students until 3:45. However, library will be closed on early release and half days. At 3 p.m., if a student is not in a club or sport, the student must leave the school for safety reasons.

OHS Updates

- 2023 Diversity Assembly-OHS is proud to announce the return of the Diversity Assembly on February 3, 2023.
- May 21, 2023 -Commencement

Club Fundraisers

- Drama Booster at Culver of Okemos South, Monday, December 12 from 5-9 pm
- Next OHS Parent Group Meeting -January 20, 2023

Chippewa – Karen Shapiro and Tere Blanca

- The last CPG meeting was on 11/30.
- Chippewa walk/run was a success. There were about 75-100 runners.
- Some Chippewa reps (along with reps from Cornell, Kinawa, Admin and Architects visits Byron Center schools for ideas for our new schools. They toured additional schools after our meeting.
- CPG organizing holiday gift card drive for teachers. Today is the last day for donations.
- Friday, 12/16 - Winter Wonderland party 1:15-2:45. There will be a DJ, dancing, games, movie, arts & crafts, cookies. Kids will move through the cafeteria, gym and some classrooms.
- 8th grade DC trip - 4/28
- Next CPG meeting 1/10

Kinawa – Katie Cavanaugh

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Cornell – Liz Luyendyk and Corinne Dyksen

- Book Fair was the 5th through the 9th, seemed to go well.
- Spirit week is this week, the whole school will be participating in fun events.
- Our fourth graders visited the capital last week. A highlight was meeting with the governor for two classes. Fox 47 news covered the meeting.

OPM – Niki Robinson and Sage Hales-Ho

- Eat Out fundraiser on Jan 25 at Buddy's Pizza

- Book fair going this week through Wednesday, December 14
- OPM completed food drive during November
- Planning for May 2023 Flash Dash fundraiser
- Next Meeting, Mon Dec 12 at 4:15p

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi, Jessie Gillard

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Hiawatha – Jessica Savage, Joy Magyar

- Lunchroom/Playground help still needed.
- PTO funds raised from sales through recent events: Fabricated Customs, Buff City Soap and Jersey Mike's.
- PTO has supported several efforts in school this year: turkeys for families in need, sleds for use during recess, ELL resources for students learning English, PBIS rewards, sticker system for the sensory wall, winter break countdown treats for staff and working to re-vamp the learning labs.
- PTO has also purchased end of the year gifts for each staff member and those that help in the lunchroom.
- Planning to pursue corporate sponsorship for the shelving needs in our library.
- Addressing school safety concerns to include drills, issues with the PA system, radio issues and cell service problems.
- Whole school earned a reward and had a dance party. The Wolf Pack will be invited for the next reward.
- The PTO has created a Google form for parent questions and feedback.
- Upcoming Events:
 - 2/1—Chipotle Fundraiser
 - 3/10—Science Night
 - 3/11-3/18—Schuler's Book Days
 - 3/14—Teacher lunch during conferences
 - 4/10-4/14—Book Fair
 - 4/11—Movie Night
 - 5/1-5/5—Teacher Appreciation Week
 - 5/12—Hiawatha Happenings