

# District Parent Council Agenda

## May 15, 2023 12:00 – 2:30pm – Kinawa 5-6 School

Welcome and Introductions  
Karen Shapiro

### Principal's Report

*Steve Stierley - Kinawa*

- Mostly back to normal, so events have been able to happen this year.
- New lockers added
- Music concerts this week
- Spring Book Fair, Wed-Friday
- Entrepreneur Night - May 19, 6-8 pm (First time since COVID)
- Spirit Week happening now.
- Bounce houses last week (from the parent group); popsicles next
- Finished up testing window
- Archery team participated in Nationals, Daniel Kwan (a sophomore) took 4th!

Looking to expand to 5th next year.

- Phoebe, Kinawa Wolf Pack therapy dog, doing well and checked out per period to different teachers. Trainings through Canines for Change
- OEF: Chair is Sue Hallman
  - Non-profit arm of OPS
  - Supports innovation and excellence through support of curriculum.
  - Grants large and small used throughout the district (\$100 - 1,000).
  - Laird Gerrand professional grant
  - <https://www.oefsite.org/>
  - Golf outing June 3rd, College Fields in Okemos. Looking for sponsors
    - 10 teams signed up so far but would like 18.
    - Corporate donations, not all whole covered yet.
    - Deadline for full sponsorship is this Friday.

### Superintendent's Report

*John Hood*

- Introduced Mario Martinez - Director Human Resources (1st day today). Came from Consumers Energy HR.
- Sextortion presentation at OHS last week. FBI Special Agent Christopher Rodolico. Problems often come from outside the US and often to young men/boys.
- Meridian Cares Event: Health and Safety Expo held last Wednesday. Trustee Cavannagh. Free gun locks.
- The School District will hold a legislative event, Jason Russell with representatives of Okemos. Not open to the public.
- Continuing to update the board on bond work. 1st approved: OPM refresh,

new lockers, secure vestibules and athletic field bids. New bathrooms with be male, female and gender neutral. Open sink areas to hallway. Starting work this summer. Locker rooms to include private stalls.

Donations for the next two therapy dogs have been received. One from Dean Bolton (Bolt), 2nd dog is Charlie. Looking for new businesses for sponsorship. <https://www.okemoswoofpack.com/>. Cornell and OPM still need therapy dogs. Joey's Outfitters provide food; Doggy Daycare and Spa provides free grooming. All Okemos Woof Pack gear goes back to woof pack care. The two new dogs are black labs.

Accessible playground issue brought to Board of Education.

Budget planning is underway.

Kindergarten Roundup numbers coming in very low.

- OPS office opened once a week during summer for registration.
- School of Choice decisions made June 15, but cautious regarding adding need for new teacher (\$120,000 including benefits).
- Worksession tonight with board on next year priorities/policies
- Start Times - changes not for next year.
- Budget surplus of 1 million this year but mindful of this surplus does not address teacher steps (\$900k), insurance, decreased enrollment, etc..
  - School budget finalized by end of June
  - State school budget - significant increase on per pupil foundation. (\$9,200 per student)
  - Covid Grants: Textbooks, summer programs, counselors. Social workers, after school programs - How do we fund years ahead? Need to add to the budget.
- Start time survey follow up will be given to the board tonight (5/15) and communication to the public will follow.
- Snow Day issue at Cornell, board has given permission to not send kids back. OPS will pay a fine from the State of Michigan.

## **Board of Education Report**

*Andy Phelps*

Policy Update: Board subscribes to policy service from Trune Law. Library of policies are available to use and make recommendations to suit our district. Over 200 policies need to be reviewed. Started with admin priorities, board operation procedures, gender identity, now to implement the rest. Community will need to review, and need a realistic timeline.

Budget - looking to make the best decisions for our District.

Bond update - under budget on Montessori, secure vestibules and athletic fields by 400K. [www.okemosbond.net](http://www.okemosbond.net). End of summer for rough design on new Chippewa.

Start Times - Dr Hoffman (Okemos parent) has given definitive research on the delayed start times.

School Resource Officer - research on this intervention not overwhelmingly positive, community data is a mixed bag on this. Community support is good, not great. This will be a 215K budget ask.

Security: OPS is hosting a legislative event here because we are a model.

### **Invited Speaker**

*Cyndi Webster* - School Libraries: Chippewa, Kinawa and Elementary LMC coordinator

Been with district since 2006. She has a Masters in Info/Library Sciences

- Access is biggest part.
- Library Bill of Rights
- Support from MASL, AASL, REMC (discount on resources) and of course OPS. OPS school policy reinforces principals that help guide our collections.
- Collection Development - anyone has the right to question what is on the shelf and starts with conversation then formal review policy.
- 7 libraries (she gives support to all), but 1 OPS District Library. Under media tech department.
- Main goal is informational research for our students and staff and curation (make sure they come from good resources).
- Maker space area
- Received money for including more diversity in the library: collection catalog, shelving (gentrifying fiction collection), displays (reflective of community) and resources. Looking at our current catalog for bias.
- Holocaust storyteller (OEF, Michigan humanities)
- Online web page on district site
- Audiobooks: Have budget. PebbleGo supports elementary buildings purchased by district money.
- New furniture supporting all buildings in the district. (Each elementary got the same funds).
- New middle school buildings: A joint 5-8 library
  - Merging collections, 2 different genre setups, bell schedules, similar furniture (most pieces with go over), parent concern (age of collection and shared place. 2 classroom areas. Excited about the chance for a broader collection.
- Relationships with the area: CADL, Kiwanis, OEF, Masonic Lodge Bike for Books and MI Humanities.
- Student Success Initiative

- CultureGrams, ProQuest, Britannica : research support for teachers and students.

### **Building updates**

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

- **Parent Group 2023-2024 Executive Board!** Positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. We have nominees for Treasurer and Secretary, but we still need President and Vice President candidates. If you are interested in a position, please let us know as soon as possible. Voting for new board members will take place at our last meeting on May 26th.
- Our OHS Parent Group email is [OHSParentGroupInfo@gmail.com](mailto:OHSParentGroupInfo@gmail.com) or join us on Facebook “Okemos High School Parent Group.”
- Meetings take place at 9:00 am in the Counseling classroom at OHS on the following Fridays: May 26, 2023

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

- CPG planning Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8-12) - coffee & doughnuts, potluck cultural desserts, yogurt parfait bar, catered lunch from Ozzy’s, and Starbucks giftcards.
- State testing is done!
- May 22nd - FBI sextortion presentation to students in PE classes
- Hiring is done for 2023-24 Chippewa (4 retiring).
- Annual Montessori Plant Sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 13, 14, 20, 21. We will be offering house plants, vegetable starts and flower starts for donations at the Chippewa Middle School Greenhouse. Donations from the sale will benefit the Montessori program and its diverse programs.
- There will be an 8th grade dance at the end of the year.
- 7th graders - East Lansing Aquatic Center June 8th
- 8th graders - Cedar Point June 8th
- Need a couple of positions for the CPG for next year: Secretary and a 2nd VP/volunteer coordinator. Carly?
- Next meeting is June 6, 1:30 pm.

#### **Kinawa – Sunny Han and Leah Kwapis**

- Teacher appreciation was a success! Biggby Coffee, Henry’s Restaurant, a Dessert Table, and Nail Techs offering pampering!
- The students had their bounce house reward for Keep Kinawa Moving this past Friday and the kids LOVED it. They will also be enjoying outdoor time and popsicles this week.
- We have upcoming field trips to Greenfield Village (5th), Michigan Adventure and Lugnuts (6th)
- Entrepreneur Night is this Friday May 19 and open to the community! Come shop! 6-8 in the Kinawa Gym. We will have 40-50 students selling baked goods, crafts, and jewelry! All homemade. Please bring cash :)
- The Book fair is this week (ends on the same day as entrepreneur night) and we still need volunteers!

- This week we have three music concerts! We are proud of our band, choir, and orchestra
- We will have 2-3 open positions for the KPG for 2023-2024. Volunteer Coordinator and Secretary. Kinawa open meeting June 2nd on Zoom
- Please email KinawaPG@Gmail.com if interested
- We have created a calendar, thank you to our treasurer Sophie for creating this, to keep events organized and avoid overlap when possible amongst the PTO groups.

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

- May 17 PTO meeting and elections for 2023-2024 school year
- May 19 Family Fun Night
- May 22 Spring Sing: Grades K-1 @ 6:30pm OHS Auditorium
- May 23 4th Grade Move Up to Kinawa
- May 24 Spring Sing: Grades 2-4 @ 6:30pm OHS Auditorium
- June 6 Field Day, rain out June 7th
- Teacher appreciation week was enjoyed by all staff, chair massages were the highlight
- Global Cornell was well attended, 13 different cultures represented. I'd say over 400 people crammed into that building

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

- Henry's Place and Asian Buffet provided staff appreciation lunch for the staff Professional Development day in April
- PTO coordinated teacher appreciation efforts this past week including providing spa/self care bags to teachers among other items
- The Annual Fundraiser, FlashDash is planned for Friday, May 26. Fundraising started last week and is moving
- Mileage Club is going well and runs through Friday, May 19. Children have run 1748 miles so far and 95 % of students did 1 lap.
- 4th grade graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, June 9, 2023, from 11:00am-11:50am in the gymnasium at Okemos Public Montessori at Central.
- 3rd and 4th graders are traveling to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit on June 8.

#### **Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi**

- We had a great book fair and mileage club nights.
- We had a great teacher appreciation week.
- We are looking forward to our field day and block party.
- 5/21 block party
- 6/2 field day

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

- The PTO has granted over \$15,000 in funding requests from teachers, staff and administrators this school year.
- We are hosting our second Family Run night for Mileage Club. If other schools haven't already had evening runs, they have been extremely fun and well attended. Girls on

the Run is going to attend this weeks run to raise funds for their Community Impact and also to spread awareness about the program.

- Teacher appreciation was last week. The PTO planned a special event/activity/meal for each day of the week.
- Hiawatha Happening was Friday 5/12. We made the event FREE to all attendees this year as a way to increase accessibility and participation. There were still fundraising aspects of the event; 50/50 raffle and the silent auction, which is still live on Event Gives so you can still go and bid!!!  
<https://event.gives/hh2023>
- The PTO Board has voted to adjust their meeting schedule and style for next school year. Board meetings will also be held in the evenings in an effort to increase both teacher and caregiver participation. The Board and General meetings often tend to mirror each other almost exactly, so we are working on ways that we can improve our efficiency. We will also be requesting that teachers join event committees when they are able.

### **Old Business**

Update on school start times (BOE)

### **Action Items**

PHASE application review volunteers

Representatives for 2023-24

Parent Group board openings

Speakers for next year?

Other questions/Comments?

Adjourn

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

Email: [Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com](mailto:Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com)

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