

## District Parent Council Meeting at Chippewa - 11/21/22 12-2:30 PM

### Attendees:

Via Zoom: Mr Hood, Mr Lyon Callo, Sage Hales-Ho (OPM PTO), Jesse Gillard

In Person: April Perkins, Corinne Dyksen, Liz Luyundyk, Niki Robinson, Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro, Jane Manfredi, Stacey Smith, Principal Jody Noble, Mark Fargo, C Bailey-Fakhoury, Marlo D. Johnson

Welcome- Karen Shapiro

Superintendent- Mr Hood

- Thanks for passing the bond (68.2% yes votes), amazing turn out.
- In 2-3 years Chippewa will be all new except for the new large rooms at the end (where we are meeting). They are traveling to look at schools to get ideas.
- Central- Montessori- upgrades, including secure vestibule, classrooms refresh, repair- front end of bond work. \$6.5 million for central cafeteria lockers floors bathrooms – need 8-10 years of use until next bond
- Melissa Samlock- French teacher, Woof pack, She will be approaching parent councils re PTO interest in supporting a therapy dog for their building, \$10k a dog, they pay for training, offset vet bills and food, 2 dogs a year will be added. First two dogs are donor funded. Business logo or name the dog depending on, 4 years stagger so not all old at once, 2 dogs for high school.
- Elementary report card committee being updated, Stacey Bailey
- Physical health and sex ed- Jill De Lynn, short term to replace the nurse, train our new PHASE director. She is a retired certified teacher and nurse, who used to run PHASE. We are working on hiring a new person.
- Bus shortage- not different than other districts. We already increased wages, at the top, still hard to find folks, now approved positions for bus driver subs.
- Dr. Margaret Coggins- threat assessment specialist, former Secret service, headed branch on school threats, recommended by Jason Russell (physical security), her goal is to avoid and assess threats. Met twice already, to assess internal threats.
- Student name change policy to board in December- piloted an approach last year, 25 students piloted it. 2 presentations to board, great success in supporting students. Will post it for feedback, we know students who are questioning their identity or live as another are more at risk for self harm, abuse, homelessness.
- Start time survey finalized and sent out this week (5-12<sup>th</sup> graders), bring it back to the board. There are numerous studies suggesting that start times before 8:30 am are dangerous to mental and physical health. Chippewa and HS- 8:30 am would be the earliest start.
- Board of Education election- thanks to the 5 people who ran.

### QUESTIONS

Caregiver involvement with the preferred in school name- this isn't a legal change, just that the teacher calls you by your preferred name, computer log in, etc. Students will work with the counseling department if desired to navigate alerting their caregivers. This won't change in Powerschool unless the student ok's it. The district's attorneys state they are ok with this policy.

Dogs in elementary schools - students have fear? Chip is the therapy dog at Chippewa. Students have to sign up to see Chip. Allergies - there are designated rooms for dogs, sign to indicate where dog can't be, allergen free. Shultz vet volunteered for the current dogs. Cost is \$10 k to get dog and training for the dog, golden doodle, and other breeds.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Cyber attacks- Jackson Hillsdale county-** Tom Isom, tech director (will come to talk in March, can come in sooner). Most attacks are through phishing - click on a link, virus get into network, diligently, shoring up our firewall, we pay Palo Alto, most schools pay the ransom and only get 60% back, could happen here but firewall ok, 2 factor authentication, rotate passwords, but can't 2 factor authentication students since not all have cell phones. They are doing phishing tests with kids and staff- fake email, will follow up with education. Data is backed up on separate servers but some can get to those as well. A Few weeks ago students got a job offer email that was a phishing attempt. Sextortion is the newest threat. Predators pretend to be a student and engage in an online relationship and ask for illicit pictures, offshore people, then search social media and threaten to share pics on social media if ransom is not paid. The key to avoiding this is education. This has happened in MI. Also in one case, they paid the ransom, was asked to pay more and the child couldn't, the predators then posted the pictures, and the student died by suicide. Education to the parents and the kids will occur.

**NWEA results-** Stacey Bailey to answer more. This is a growth measure assessment. Can have high achievement and low growth, or low achievement and high growth, board presentation on results, end of winter next presentation. Text to speech was not enabled in the second grade on the last one, emails will be sent to see if this was a local school or district wide issue.

**Delayed start snow days?** Not now but tried in the past. Hard to know if roads would really be clear by 9 am. John checks the roads at 4:45 am, decides by 5:30 am, and for 2 hour delay would need to decide again by 6:15. A 2 hour delay is tough as parents have to make plans twice. Lots of times 2 hour delays become cancellations. Challenge also because, shared staff and schedules, lunch etc. This past one was difficult to call. Ice is worse than snow. Parents can always keep kids home if they feel it is safer. No public schools were canceled.

Question- wouldn't that schedule just be a 2 hours early school release day? Principal Noble supported that.

Questions: Hiring of additional school safety support consultant- will you engage families in the broad planning and help in buildings?

Future talking point, Jason Russell (in Feb he will discuss things with the DPC)

Question - April Perkins- You trust parent to make the call for snow days, you trust parents to keep kids safe, but with student pronouns used you think school knows the best?

Mr Hood- these aren't the same. Once at school, the school has legal authority to act in the absence of the parent as the caregiver. While in the parents care the parents have authority, but parents aren't at school. AP-Why does the school get to decide what is in the child's best interest? Mr Hood states we look at research and mental health organizations and pediatric health organizations which unanimously say allowing kids to choose their preferred names and pronouns keeps them safe, so we are

looking at the actual research vs just deciding on our feelings. The parent acknowledged this makes sense but indicated she would prefer to be told so she could decide if she wanted to remove her child from the school. Mr Hood indicated the desired approach is to do this with the caregivers, but there are cases where we disagree, and student safety is involved, the school tries to minimize issues by providing education.

### **Principal's Report Jody Noble**

New building- yeah!!! Thanks for your support. Groups are going end Nov/Dec to look at model schools (art, librarian, many teachers looking). Fun 3 years planning. Will parents be touring? They will ask Mr Hood if parents and students can join.

NWEA- Kids knew it was longer and harder than FastBridge, teachers have had 2 days of training, RIT score shows the students growth- expect maybe a point of growth. In January teachers will compare assessments. The third one will be given in the spring. 8<sup>th</sup> graders take PSAT and MStep. Always 3 per year.

Questions: if a kid doesn't do well, what happens? Data days. Look all assessments. Then do placement and intervention decisions. Parents can deny intervention courses.

How is a teacher accountable for helping the growth? Teachers have a growth chart, connect learning to life. Instructional coach or Principal helps if there are kids with challenges that aren't being helped. Multiple people look at the data. Observations- teachers want feedback and to ask all students.

How do you get parents involved in their learning? Parent report has details, NEW-- 3.5 NWEA score connects to Khan Academy, not in the current report.

Teachers concerned parents don't understand- but Chippewa's teachers aren't as anxious about the change. Testing growth not mastery. Designed to get 50% of the questions right. Presentation given to the board of education.

Book study groups- 3 sessions for teachers, find the time or the \$ to make it happen, hurdles vs road blocks.

7<sup>th</sup> grade camp coming back, Spring Hill (Feb), OHS juniors and senior get to be counselors, lottery

Clubs- 3 more starting

Walk-Run returned. It was a great event. Kids enjoyed it. Thanks for the help.

Links- AST teacher, part with ASD or gen ed student, learn about how to work with ASD students.

### **QUESTIONS**

Is OK to Say (state program, anyone can report a suspicious activity, bullying, anonymous) blocked or not blocked on the computers. – she will find out. It shouldn't be. Used respectfully this year. It's a website.

Had a local case of sextortion- would be good to let parents know these things are occurring in the district.

Policies re cell phones - can't see it or hear it. Parents can lock it down during the day. Can call but not text.

### **Board of Education- Vin Lyon Callo**

What to take to the board from the DPC? Board has only a few roles- make policies and hire the superintendent. 1.5 years ago, discussion to evaluate all of the policies, are there inconsistencies. DEI lens review, student well being, law firm going through it first, questions- parent responsibility to keep home from school but elsewhere school claims responsibility. Consider best practices. Never considered these student wellness and DEI years ago. Had to fight to keep the breakfast program before- now that's not even a question. 4 years ago there were no therapists in schools and now doing it. How do policies reflect changing times?

Question- outdoor recess without enough staff.? All the schools or just one? Issues across the board. PTO FACILITATES THIS VOLUNTEER FORM AND LICENSE. Send home a physical volunteer form to the PTO, secretary had a big issue, considered a breach of confidentiality of going to PTO vs school. Form isn't clear where to submit it. Teachers send home forms at Cornell. There needs to be a district-wide plan for volunteers.

Lunch- need to be trained on to be able to work there (allergies etc).

Possibly do an At large email to community.

### **Invited Speaker- Mark Fargo- Facilities**

- Schools and operations department. I assume that his staff is responsible for all at the schools. Can bring it to his attention. Previously didn't pick up leaves.
- Parent work day- he comes to the meeting beforehand, we don't purchase the mulch, he delivers it. He can provide tools.
- He wants to know about planting things (trees not next to the building),
- If we notice we want to do a project, tell him to get the tools.
- Communicate: PTO or principal or school custodian (Dean at BW) , ticket system, PTO and Principal standing meeting - ask questions talks, dedicated opportunity.
- Custodial maintenance and grounds, meet 1x month. Goes over tickets in the system.
- Need to tell the principal of issues at their schools.
- Ground rules at schools?
- Relationship with Meridian township- can we join up like what happens with EL?
  - Just starting those discussions: Connect the trail system loop with meridian for eg. Meridian planted the trees here a few years ago.
- Cornell- AC units, reuse? Recycle? Spent all that money, if they can repurpose they will.
- Maintenance: will do what is needed, not the wants
  - Will be at the level of edging and weeding as standard of care.
  - Weeds in cracks of sidewalks- he just got the machines to do this purchased.
  - Need to be able to spray for weeds (not round-up)
- NO MOW areas: Spaces to not be mowed for natural plants- mice issues in the buildings as a downside. Even if 300 yards away.

- Horticulture class- asking for plots. Raised beds in front of school now weed beds when the students move on.

Building Reports: see other sheet with the exception below

Stacey:

Buff City Soap (fundraiser) - Rosie- and Jersey Mikes- Okemos wolf pack soap starts 11/21, PTO's NEED TO ASK TO PARTICIPATE- Rosie Hersh- email [buffcitysoap.okemos@gmail.com](mailto:buffcitysoap.okemos@gmail.com).

QUESTIONS:

Ask Mark- 2<sup>nd</sup> year here, been parent groups landscaping project- grounds department to do this, student group, clean ups.

Attachment (Michigan volunteer policy):

<https://files.neola.com/michigancity-in/search/policies/po8120.htm>

## **8120 - VOLUNTEERS**

The School Board recognizes that certain programs and activities can be enhanced through the use of volunteers who have particular knowledge or skills that will be helpful to members of the staff responsible for the conduct of those programs and activities.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for recruiting community volunteers, reviewing their capabilities, and making appropriate placements. The Superintendent shall not be obligated to make use of volunteers whose abilities are not compatible with School Corporation needs.

Each volunteer who is in direct contact with students will be required to submit a Limited Criminal History Record Check.

The procedures shall ensure that information and records obtained from criminal history inquiries under this policy are confidential and shall not be released except as necessary to implement this policy or to defend a decision made pursuant to this policy.

The Superintendent is to inform each volunteer that s/he:

- A. shall agree to abide by all Board policies and Corporation guidelines while on duty as a volunteer;
- B. will be covered under the Corporation's liability policy but the Corporation shall not provide any type of health insurance to cover illness or accident incurred while serving as a volunteer, nor is the volunteer eligible for workers' compensation;
- C. will be asked to sign a form releasing the Corporation of any obligation should the volunteer become ill or receive an injury as a result of his/her volunteer services.

The Superintendent also shall ensure that each volunteer is properly informed of the Corporation's appreciation for his/her time and efforts in assisting the operation of the schools.

I.C. 5-2-22

I.C. 10-13-3

I.C. 20-26-2-1.3

I.C. 20-26-2-1.5

I.C. 20-26-5-10, -11 and -11.5

Revised 2/28/17

## District Parent Council Building Reports

November 21, 2022

### Building updates

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

- The library will be open M-TH every day for one hour. The library is available for students to have a quiet place to work; connect with NHS tutor; or read and unwind for the day. However the library will not be open during half days or early release.
- OHS recognized students for various reason and students are receive a certificate of appreciation for doing fantastic things during the 1 st quarter, including academic success, being kind, improved attendance, being a leader, etc.

#### PTO Update:

- Liability insurance purchased through RVNA for \$155.00
- End of Fall semester Staff Luncheon Fri., Jan 13, 2023
- Prom/Post Prom date is May 13, 2023. Recruiting volunteers for the Post
- Prom committee: Food, Raffle, Vendors, Volunteers, Ticket Sales.
- Next Meeting Fri., Jan. 20, 2023

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

- Reminder that yearbooks are for sale. If you would like your student to have a yearbook you can pre-order one at <http://jostensyearbooks.com?ref=A01014789>
- Chippewa Walk/Run a success and fun for students. We used Fund Hub for fundraising, sign-up for volunteers, bought doughnuts from Barkham Farms, gallons of cider donations from parents, and borrowed speaker equipment from Playmakers. The kids either walked or ran the 3 mile loop and came back for treats and lots of time to hang out with music in the track area.
- Walk Run numbers:
  - Our sponsor donations totalled \$1250.
  - The numbers from Fund Hub show: \$8095 student donations. Usage fees were \$1289.25. \$987 were donated back for a net use age fee of \$302.25. The set up fee was \$250. So our total fees with Fund Hub were \$552.25.
- Since the bond passed, teams from Chippewa, Kinawa and Cornell will be touring buildings around the State in December to see examples for new facilities.

#### **Kinawa – Katie Cavanaugh**

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

- Two Upcoming Fundraisers
  - Scrip/Raise Right gift card program
  - Cornell Elementary Wolf Merchandise Online Store
- NWSA reports coming home before Thanksgiving break.
- PTO calendar finalized for the school year

- Ms. Joanna Adam's (social worker), Mrs. Gracie DeLadurantaye (third grade) and Mrs. Megan Malkus (second grade) each received a Commitment to Excellence Award at the annual OEF banquet this past Thursday.

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

- OPM is rated #1 best public elementary school in Michigan.
- We have our annual Liability Insurance for OPM PTO
- You can ask the parent do any of the school have D & O

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

- We had a family council BW fall clean up day that was successful for beautifying our school
- Our square one art fundraiser is in progress
- Starting to plan for future activities like Muti-Cultural Family Night and science night we provided staff with snacks and treats for their PLC meetings today!
- Teachers have been regularly able to get OG training opportunities.
- Our next business meeting is on January 19 (Our December 15 meeting is just a social event at Joe's on Jolly).

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

- 10/7—Hawk Walk—total payout from FundHub of \$19,354.00 (this is after fees and not including cash and venmo donations)
- 10/26—Hiawatha Harvest—it was a huge success. A very large turnout, and about \$400 collected between donations and old Hawk gear sales.  
Upcoming Events:
- 10/31-11/18—Food Drive with Hiawatha Helps Committee. PTO will donate turkeys (estimation of 10). Fruits and juices, vegetables, coffee and tea, rice, potatoes, stuffing, soups and dessert
- 11/4-11/20—Fabricated Customs Pre-sale! Specific Hiawatha designs will be sold online during these dates ONLY, with the 15% that usually goes back to OPS coming to the Hiawatha PTO instead.
- The PTO will be purchasing each staff member a shirt with the hawk under “Hiawatha” as a thank you/holiday gift.
- Spring Pre-Sale with Fabricated Customs to include more warm weather gear (Same financial arrangement as the fall sale)
- 12/7—BUFF CITY SOAP FUNDRAISER 15% of sales on this day will go to the Hiawatha PTO, when the virtual flyer is shown at checkout. “Okemos Wolf Pack” soap will go on sale on 11/21 in the store with a portion of the proceeds going back to the Okemos School District.\*
- PTO is purchasing two loaves of the soap to give to teachers as a “teaser” and thank you/holiday gift. (>\$175—needs a vote)
- Possibly have PTO members and teachers meet & greet?
- 12/7—Jersey Mike's Fundraiser - 15% of sales between 10am and 9pm on this day will go to the PTO.
- 1/19—Buddy's Pizza, Okemos Fundraiser 20% of in store and takeout/online sales between 11am and 9pm on this day will go to the PTO. (no doordash, etc) code: GIVEBACK



- 2/1—Chipotle Fundraiser 33% of sales will go to the PTO
- 3/10—Science Night
- 3/11-3/18—Schuler’s Book Days a portion of the sales within this period of time will come back to the Hiawatha PTO. Purchases can be made in person OR with an online code.
- 3/14—Teacher lunch during conferences? Mr. C asked to go back to potluck style
- 4/10-4/14—Book Fair
- 4/11—Movie Night This is being scheduled during the time of the book fair to increase foot traffic.
- TBD—Mileage Club (Conclude if the PTO is willing/able to put this event on without Sparrow Health and Wellness) (2022 was 4/11-5/27)
- OEF Awards for Excellence Banquet: 11/17 5:30pm at the Kellogg Center. The PTO has purchased tables for the school’s 4 recipients: Stacy Cook, Jen Nanzer, Doug Warren and Carly Patel.
- Many small funding requests have been fulfilled and a lot of large ones are in the works! Current projects are: sticker system for the newly created sensory hall, ongoing support for the PBIS efforts within school, a trial of the Vocabulary A-Z program for third grade and a goal of corporate sponsorship for the shelving needs in our library.
- Mrs. Garvey is adding a request for more 2 person sleds
- Funds from 2019 bond are to be used for flexible furniture, ie calming corners, book shelves, seating. Furniture order will hopefully be placed by Thanksgiving
- Hiawatha is looking to hire 2 paraprofessionals and a literacy aide.
- Good fit groups starting back up soon
- New clocks have arrived at school
- Safety committee is being formed.
- PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE/FEEDBACK FORM :
  - The PTO has created a google form for parent questions and feedback! Complete the form at any time prior to the monthly PTO meetings, and PTO will plan to address your questions and/or concerns during the general meeting.
  - Current questions to be addressed— Carline
- Dr Beard looking into having special education teachers in more afternoon roles for carline
- PA system and bells not working consistently causing big problem for dismissal: should be a district facilities fix
- The school is still in need of help throughout the lunch hours, both indoors and outdoors. Hours are from 11:15-1:30ish. A signup genius has been created for you to register to help. A background check will need to be completed. If the school doesn’t end up with the support needed, our students will end up having indoor recess.
- The volunteer form will be going home with students Friday 11/11—together with the Winter Fun at Hiawatha flier. Please send the completed form, together with a picture or copy of your ID, back to hiawathaPTO1900@gmail.com
- Shout out board is filling up. Instead of polaroid she has started printing the pictures
- working on ideas to make Hiawatha more personal for the students
- Making a “chill zone” funding requests for this have been submitted

- PTO facebook page primary form of communication. PTO to look into twitter page also. Mr. C and Mrs. Sainz suggested using Remind or Talking Points app
- Idea of PTO cookbook since international night is still tabled for this year