**Chippewa Valley Schools African American Parent Network Meeting**

**September 24, 2020**

**Vision Statement:** Our vision is to engage African American students in the learning process and to motivate them to become lifelong learners by providing opportunities to develop their academic, physical, social, and emotional growth that will enable and prepare them to become productive, responsible citizens.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the African American Parent Network is to collaborate with teachers, staff and administration in Chippewa Valley Schools to create a safe and inclusive learning environment where African American students are valued and respected. We will work together to address implicit bias, eliminate racial inequalities, and promote diversity in the curriculum. We will educate, energize, and empower our community to meet the needs of all CVS students.

**Committee Chairs Present:** La’Trise Smith, S. Shackelford

**Committee Members Present:** J. Belcher, D. Belcher, E. Smith, J. Bailey, L. Battles, S. Mannan, S. Ward, M. Snead

**Committee Chairs/Members Absent:** A. Taylor, M. Battles, L. Smith, T. Addison, T. Snead

**Administration Present:** H. Weaver, N, Faehner

**Special Guests:** Dr. Jolene Andriaschko and Aimee Spooner Crellin are both running for the school board. Ms. Crellin was not present due to a family emergency. Dr. Andriaschko has 4 children in the district and she is running for a seat on the school board to help improve our community. She and Aimee are both Chippewa Valley graduates. Both candidates have Facebook pages and encouraged the AAPN group to check out their pages in order to find out more or their platforms.

**Guests:** 33+ participants

1. **Call to Order** at 7:03 P.M.
2. Welcome – La’Trise Smith
3. Review of Agenda – La’Trise Smith
4. Shawn Shackelford discussed the survey. He is working on compiling the survey results and noted we may need an updated survey based on recent events and new challenges identified for the new school year.
5. **Committee Chair Updates**
6. **Education Program Chairs – Darian and Johnessa Belcher**

MI School Data Website

* Parent Dashboard - good resource for parents looking to assess MI school districts; dashboard includes an abundance of information about MI schools
* Website also includes student to staff ratios and ratings for schools similar in size to our district
* Darien presented a comparison of data (white students to black students) at Dakota High School (**comparison is only for Dakota**)
* It was noted that it appears to be a proficiency gap between white and black students. Discussion questions: Why do we have these deficiencies? What can we do to assist our students? Goal is to increase overall average for our students within CVS.
* Several parents indicated the results are disturbing
* The group will continue to work and look for solutions to improve results

1. **School Ambassador Chair – Edrena Smith**
   * We have 4-5 additional positions that we need to fill. Please reach out to Edrena if you are interested in being a school ambassador.
2. **Special Needs Education Chairs – Kim Elms and Mike & Lisa Battles**

Lisa & Kim reported:

* Special needs handbook is ready for review. Lisa will send the handbook to Nicole for review.
* September newsletter was completed and is on our website as well as the Facebook page. They received good feedback on the newsletter and are currently working on October newsletter.
* Student Spotlight of the Month – please submit your child for student of month
* Skill-Building Thursdays – these sessions are free to all CVS students and include an hour of learning for various skills. Please refer to the website and Facebook page for upcoming sessions.

1. **Administrator’s Reports**
2. **Harry Weaver, Diversity & Inclusion Officer**

Please forward ambassador names to Harry. Harry noted the survey is a good tool and is needed. Once all ambassador names are received, Harry will send the list of ambassadors to the schools so staff at the schools are aware.

1. **Nicole Faehner, Director of State and Federal Programs Outreach**

* The Board is discussing return to school plans
* There is a Board meeting on Monday 9/28 to discuss plans to return to school
* Nicole commended the group on the hard work done thus far
* Testing is still ongoing, but the schedule may change due to COVID

1. **What’s Next**

* AAPN Fundraiser – Please purchase a lawn sign to show your pride and support the group financially
* Submit nominees for student of the month to Kim or Lisa
* Calendar of events for AAPN – all information is on our website and Facebook page
* What can you do?
  + Email us suggestions for meeting content and speakers
  + Support current programming
  + Checkout our website
  + Join the AAPN Faceboook page
  + Support AAPN fundraisers or donate
  + Seek donations from organizations
* Contact the group chairs and co-chairs with any questions or concerns

1. **Adjournment**

* The meeting ended with closing remarks from La’Trise Smith.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Shameeka Ward