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

**November 19, 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:**  L. Smith, K. Elms, S. Ward, D. Belcher

**Committee Chairs/Members Absent:** A. Taylor, M. Battles, T. Addison, T. Snead, J. Belcher, E. Smith, J. Bailey, L. Battles, S. Mannan

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

**Special Guest:** Paul Sassin, Transition Coordinator Chippewa Valley Schools

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Paul has been in his current role for 3 years. His primary role is connecting the community with CVS students, parents and teachers. He works to bridge the gap between the community and the district.

Paul provided a wealth of information, including information on the following programs:

* Individual Education Program (IEP) – this program assists special needs students, students that struggle or need an alternative plan/support system. Paul helps coordinate a plan for students along with the high school work study coordinator. Additionally, he helps make the connection between students, parents and teachers with outside programs.
* Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) – MRS is a great resource that helps students with employment services. They help students find jobs, training and maintain those jobs.
* Paul works with several post-secondary schools (MCTI, Macomb Academy, Lutz, Macomb Community College, Trade Schools and University) to match students with the appropriate program. MCTI offers a free program if you qualify. Unfortunately, field trips to the schools are unavailable due to COVID. However, Paul can provide additional information if you are interested in any school/program.
* Transitions Night is held once a year and everyone is welcome to attend. All service providers are present during Transitions Night and this is an opportunity for parents and students to learn more about the services that are available and ask additional questions.
* 529 ABLE Accounts – The ABLE Act was signed into law in December 2014 and it allows Americans with disabilities to save money for college and other expenses in a tax-deferred account as a supplement to private insurance and public benefits. All students will disabilities qualify for this account and it will not affect any monies that are received from the State.
* Work Study Program – currently 150 students are participating and the goal is to provide students with job related experience. This program partners with 40 different job sites (Jets Pizza, McLaren Hospital, Salad Creations, etc.) in Macomb County.

Ebony Carter also attending the meeting. She is in the process of planning an HBCU Virtual College Panel. There will be 10 HBCUs represented on panel which will take place on 12/19/20.

**Guests:** 22+ participants

1. **Call to Order** at 7:04 P.M.
2. Welcome – La’Trise Smith
3. Review of Agenda – La’Trise Smith
4. Shawn Shackelford will have information to share at the next meeting.
5. **What’s Going On?**
6. The Window Sign Fundraiser raised approximately $500. The funds raised will be used to purchase materials for Skill Building Thursdays and to provide a gift for the Student of the Month. We are also adding a donation link to the website and Facebook page. Thanks to everyone that supported the fundraiser.
7. Skill Building Thursdays – the next two sessions will be on 12/3 and 12/10. Smart Goals will be discussed on 12/3 and the 12/10 session will focus on a Vision Boards. We will provide poster boards for the sessions. If there are topics you would like to see discussed for Skill Building Thursdays, please reach out to Kim or Latrice.
8. Student Volunteers – 6 students have volunteered to support AAPN. La’Trise has given each of the student volunteers assignments. They are working on the social media page, student newsletter and will be assisting with Skill Building Thursdays.
9. Student Spotlight – we didn’t have a student for October. We want to continue to recognize our students and their achievements, so please nominate your student.
10. Our December meeting will be extended a half hour. A Detective from CV high school will be attending to talk to our students on how to interact with the police. This will be a town hall format so feel free to ask questions. We would like our students to attend the December meeting.
11. **Committee Chair Updates**
12. **Education Program Chairs – Darian and Johnessa Belcher – no update**
13. **School Ambassador Chair – Edrena Smith**
	* Edrena was absent. La’Trise shared the role of the school ambassadors. Edrena and her team has accomplished a lot and we now have representation at all schools. Some ambassadors have signed up for more than one school.
14. **Special Needs Education Chairs – Kim Elms and Mike & Lisa Battles – no update**
15. **Administrator’s Reports**
16. **Harry Weaver, Diversity & Inclusion Officer**

Harry recently attended a Dakota High School staff meeting and is moving forward with our goals for the school year.

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

Nicole thanked Ms. Elms for helping with donations to our K-12 schools and noted that the United Way also donated to students in our district.

1. **What’s Next**

* If you are interested in being a School Ambassador, please reach out to La’Trise or Edrena.
* We will continue to accept donations via our website and Facebook page
* Skill Building Thursdays – 12/3 & 12/10
* Stay tuned for more information on the HBCU College Fair
1. **Adjournment**
* The meeting ended with closing remarks from La’Trise Smith.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Shameeka Ward