

Meeting Minutes

Study Session of the Board of Education

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:00pm

TCAPS Administration at Glenn Loomis - Boardroom

1009 S. Oak Street, Traverse City, MI 49684



Approved on April 14, 2025-revised April 3, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Education of the Traverse City Area Public Schools, Counties of Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Benzie, Michigan, was held at the TCAPS Administration at Glenn Loomis, 1009 S. Oak Street, Traverse City, Michigan, on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ballenger, Hardy, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, Schmidt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bird

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Houghton, Tiesworth, VanWagoner

STAFF PRESENT: Brittany Kay, Ranney, Warner

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Newman-Bale welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Courtade Elementary students led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board welcomed staff and citizens, reviewed the agenda, considered any suggested rearrangement of items, and determined if any changes in the agenda were needed.

Approval of the meeting agenda as presented.

Moved by: Moon Mohr

Seconded by: Pack

The following vote was held:

Ayes: Ballenger, Hardy, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, and Schmidt

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

4. PUBLIC COMMENT #1 (Orange Card)

President Newman-Bale opened the meeting up for public comment and the following addressed the Board.

- Tim Werner-Helping students learn
- Jim Rowlett-K-readiness, "Read to Me"
- Mary VanValin-Student achievement
- Gretchen Kronk-Helping all students achieve proficiency
- Bill Wiesner-Exposing Queer Theory, Gender Ideology-The neo-pagan blaming of biology and justice

5. CONSENT

The purpose of the consent calendar was to expedite business by grouping items together to be dealt with by one Board member motion without discussion. Any member of the Board may ask that any item on the consent calendar be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected.

a. **Meeting Minutes**

The Board considered the Regular and Closed Session meeting minutes from the March 10, 2025 meeting.

Approval of the Consent Calendar as presented without discussion.

Moved by: Hardy

Seconded by: Pack

The following vote was held:

Ayes: Ballenger, Hardy, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Schmidt

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

6. STUDY SESSION - Student Achievement

Dr. VanWagoner introduced the study session as a time to discuss and ask questions regarding the presentation. He introduced Dan Tiesworth, Chief Academic Officer-elementary to begin the presentation. Mr. Tiesworth introduced Kirk Ranney, principal at Blair elementary, Misti

Warner, Director of Whole Child Systems, and Brittany Kay, Director of Curriculum. Some highlights from the presentation include:

- Defining the achievement gap in TCAPS student groups.
- Causal Factors including infrastructure, leaders, curriculum, instruction, teachers, and students.
- Jessie Houghton, Chief Academic Officer-Secondary discussed how Title I federal funds are distributed and Kirk Ranney spoke on how these funds are used specifically at Blair Elementary to help improve proficiency.
- Ms. Houghton discussed the at-risk state funds and how these are distributed among students/schools. She also explained the definition of an "at-risk" student. The importance of making sure all families complete the CEP (Community Eligibility Program) forms (formerly free/reduced lunch forms) in order for TCAPS to receive these funds was discussed.
- Ms. Warner talked about social work in the schools and ways the social work staff members are supporting students to help bridge the student achievement gap.
- Mr. Ranney discussed leadership training that is taking place within the district to build systems and goals within schools.
- Ms. Kay talked about curriculum and instruction and the plans for upcoming years including explicit instruction, the new CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) curriculum that will begin next year, and the science of reading.

- The following programs that provide student support were introduced: SSN (Student Support Network), individualized reading intervention plans, school success liaisons, and parenting programs.
- Mr. Ranney spoke about the assessment system and how student achievement is measured.
- There was discussion amongst the group on what is next in terms of measuring achievement and establishing what the goals would be.
- The strategic plan was also discussed and how the student achievement gap vs. proficiency would be addressed in a realistic manner.

The presentation slides are available in the agenda packet or click [here](#) to view.

Trustee Hardy left the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Dr. VanWagoner was absent from 6:10-6:12 p.m..

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT #2** (Green Card)

President Newman-Bale opened the meeting up for public comment and the following addressed the board.

- Michael Radke, Ph.D-Strategic Plan-Equity

8. **BOARD PRESIDENT CLOSING REMARKS**

President Newman-Bale shared that the next meeting will be a Study Session on April 7, 2025 at Northwest Education Services Conference Center at 1101 Red Drive, Traverse City.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Moved by: Ballenger

Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following vote was held:

Ayes: Ballenger, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Schmidt

Nay: N/A

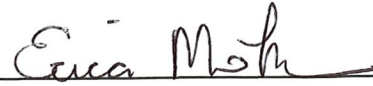
MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Respectfully Prepared By,

Tammy Brunan

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Board Recording Secretary



Board Vice President

Next Board of Education Meeting

Monday, April 7, 2025-Study Session

Northwest Education Services-Conference Center

1101 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684

Board of Education:

*Josey Ballenger, Holly T. Bird, Scott Hardy, Erica L. Moon Mohr,
Scott Newman-Bale, Beth Pack, and Ty Schmidt*