

Meeting Minutes

Board Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Administration at Glenn Loomis

Board Room, 1009 South Oak Street, Traverse City, MI 49684



Approved on July 8, 2025

Meeting Slides Presentation

PRESENT: Sara Bageris, Josey Ballenger, Jen Ciolek, Chandra Fles, Jessie Houghton, Beth Pack, Tiffany Pomaville, Ryan Ranger, Dan Tiesworth, Dr. John VanWagoner, Ben Zenner

A. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Chairperson Ballenger welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Josey Ballenger offered time for public comment. The following public comment was offered:

- Gail Lanphean - Indigenous Education
- Sofia Hoag - Credit Hours

C. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

a. Prior Committee Meeting Minutes

The committee was asked to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2025, Board Curriculum Committee meeting. No changes were recommended. The April 29, 2025 minutes will remain as posted.

b. 2024-2025 TCAPS District Course Catalog Updates

Jessie Houghton, Chief Academic Officer - Secondary, reported there are no revisions to the course catalog this month, as outlined in the memo and meeting presentation linked above. This is a standing agenda item.

The committee moved the Course Catalog as presented with no changes to the full Board under the Consent Calendar for approval at the June 9, 2025, meeting.

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Board Curriculum Learning Series:

Professional Development 2025-2026

Jessie Houghton, Chief Academic Officer - Secondary, and Dan Tiesworth, Chief Academic Officer - Elementary, shared the goals for the district's professional development (PD) and provided an overview of the plans for teacher PD during the 2025-2026 school year. The district's goal is to implement a coherent, evidence-based PD system that directly supports ongoing district priorities and instructional goals. Their intentional planning for PD ensures it is aligned and coherent, evidence- and research-based, embedded in current work, meaningful and relevant, time-conscious, and compliant, meeting all mandates. The elementary and secondary PD teams for the coming school year include: Content Teacher Leaders, Lead Principals, Chief Academic Officers, the Curriculum & Instruction Director, and Instructional Coaches. Ms. Houghton introduced Traverse City Education Association Representatives Chandra Fles and Ben Zenner, who provided the teacher perspective relative to PD, noting they value PD that is consistent, focused, and relevant. Trustee Pack suggested that, if the Committee agrees, staff report back periodically to report out on how PD is going. Ms. Fles noted the TCEA would be happy to collaborate with the Curriculum & Instruction Department leadership on post-PD surveys. Dr. VanWagoner added that the district will be working with the new leadership at Northwest Education Services on regional PD plans and finding common through lines to help shape PD for the coming year.

b. Virtual Learning Reflection & Planning

Mr. Tiesworth provided an overview of elementary virtual learning. Ms. Houghton introduced Jen Ciolek, Principal at Traverse City High School and the Compass Learning Center, and Ryan Ranger, Principal at Traverse City East Middle School. Principal Ranger provided an overview of the plans for middle school virtual learning beginning in the fall of 2025 at East Middle School using the virtual platform Acellus. There will be a learning lab at the school with one full-time middle school teacher supporting the learning. The enrolled students will have access to all TCAPS resources (guidance counseling, school social work, extra-curricular activities, SSN, etc.), access to in-person courses as needed, and transportation flexibility with BATA based on the times they would like to use the learning lab. The enrollment will start with approximately ten (10) students, with growth anticipated.

Ms. Houghton confirmed that TCAPS will offer summer school again this summer through the Acellus platform for students who are off-track for graduation. The five-week program is supported by teachers at West, Central, and Traverse City High Schools. The Acellus platform was piloted for summer school in 2024.

Principal Ciolek provided an update on high school virtual learning at the Compass Learning Center (CLC), which is 100% online programming and a hybrid model for in-person learning. Current enrollment is 115 students in person/hybrid and 162 online. The services are offered at the CLC lab and the SOS Learning Center lab with support from 7 in-person teachers. The CLC program started in 2023-2024 with an enrollment of 130 and has increased to 270 students this school year (2024-2025). Ms. Ciolek shared examples of the successes they've seen as they created systems to support students, which resulted in students connecting to their education, resulting in student achievement. 43 of the students enrolled are from outside the district. Approximately 65 students will be graduating from Traverse City High School this year, which is nearly double that of previous years. The program has created an environment that ebbs and flows to meet student needs. Committee members expressed an interest in the Board conducting a future visit to the CLC and the virtual learning lab at East Middle School.

c. Celebrations & Successes

Ms. Houghton and Mr. Tiesworth highlighted several celebrations and successes throughout the district as outlined in the [meeting presentation](#).

E. OTHER ITEMS - none cited.

F. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Kelly Walter

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Committee Recording Secretary

Next Board Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

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1009 South Oak Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Curriculum Committee Members:

***Josey Ballenger (Chairperson), Sara Bageris, Beth Pack, Dr. John VanWagoner,
Jessie Houghton, Dan Tiesworth, Brittany Kay, Tiffany Pomaville, Misti Warner***