

Approved on April 28, 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 Building-Boardroom, 1009 S. Oak Street, Traverse City, Michigan 49684 on April 14, 2025.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ballenger

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Houghton, Smith, Taylor, Thomas-Hill, Tiesworth, and VanWagoner

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT: N/A

[Meeting Presentation](#)

1. [CALL TO ORDER](#)

President Newman-Bale welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Ms. Jackson's third-grade class from Westwood Elementary led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. [REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA](#)

The Board welcomed staff and citizens and reviewed the agenda. The agenda was amended to add a discussion item for the open Board position to be Item 9f and to move Consent Item di - Capital Project Facilities Storage Building to Discussion Item 9e.

Approval of the meeting agenda as amended.

Moved by: Moon Mohr

Seconded by: Pack

The following vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

4. [RECOGNITION](#)

Compass Awards

Dr. VanWagoner introduced Coni Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Labor Relations and Legal Services, to present the TCAPS Compass Awards. This award is an employee recognition program that aims to recognize the contributions individual staff members are making toward the implementation of the District's Strategic Plan in their daily work. The following employees were recognized this month:

- James Claar- Bus Driver, Transportation

- Alberto Dimas- Lead Custodian at TCAPS Montessori School
- Angela "Mama Tank" Hicks-Full Year Guest Teacher & Coach, East Middle School
- Kimberly Kelderhouse-Special Education Teacher, East Middle School
- Nathanael Kepler-Assistant Principal, Traverse City Central High School
- Erika Lahti-Director of Human Resources, Glenn Loomis Administration
- Michelle Perkins-Cook's Assistant, Traverse Heights Elementary School
- Traci Walters-Lead Administrative Assistant, Central Grade School

STEM Presentation to the Board

Dr. VanWagoner introduced West Senior High principal, Joe Esper. Mr. Esper then introduced Cal Meyers, who is the STEM teacher at WSH. Mr. Meyers introduced two West Senior High innovation and design students, Sophia Ware and Magnolia Zaiewski, who thanked the Board for the new Innovation and Manufacturing Center and then presented the Board with 3-D printer projects they had made in class. Three robotics team members from the Central High School Raptors also thanked the Board for the Innovation and Manufacturing Center, expressing what a big help it was in expanding the program and giving them their own space to work.

Recognition of Holly T. Bird

President Newman-Bale spoke on the loss of Holly T. Bird. He expressed that there would be some type of more formal event to recognize her that was culturally appropriate, but since the loss is so close, he wanted to wait to discuss this with her family. He opened it up to the Board members to speak. Vice President Erica Moon Mohr spoke of how much Holly will be missed, along with her passion and dedication to children and the community.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT #1 (Orange Card)

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

- Linda Racine - Building Renovations
- Emerick Dee - Music Department Projects/Bond Money
- Peg Siciliano - Board Communication
- Tim Werner - Central Grade
- Scot Richards
- Suzannah Tobin - Central Grade
- Woody Smith - Gratitude
- Bill Wiesner - Take Back the Classroom, Exposing TCAPS sexually explicit books
- Brandie Ekren-TCLP - Updates to Central Grade School

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Architect Update for Central High School, Music Project and Central Grade

Dr. VanWagoner introduced Christine Thomas-Hill, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. Ms. Thomas-Hill explained that she was bringing options to the Board for three capital projects, Central High School, secondary music projects, and Central Grade. She stated that these projects are currently in the discovery phase and that some high-level decisions need to be made before the design phase for these projects can begin. She invited architects from the Central High School and secondary Music projects to the table:

Tracy Ezell from TMP Architecture, Mark Hammitz with Cornwell Architects, and Jack Abate, Construction Manager from Miller Davis make up the team for these projects. The major talking points were budget, timeline and whether renovations or demolition and additions were needed. A complete link to the presentation for all three projects can be found [here](#). Ms. Thomas-Hill then introduced the design team for Central Grade School, John Dancer with Cornerstone Architects, Gabe Alvey from Diekema Hamann, and Jack Abate. She explained the visioning committee process and the items that were considered high priority among the committee. After discussion, it was decided that Ms. Thomas-Hill and the teams for these projects could move forward with some more specific plans, and that more discussion would be needed before anything could be approved.

The Board called a break from 8:02 p.m. to 8:07 p.m. to sign student forms

Legislative Update

Dr. VanWagoner stated there was nothing really happening on the legislative front. He is hoping there will be something to report after the May revenue consensus.

District Highlights

TCAPS Innovation & Manufacturing Centers both held ribbon-cutting ceremonies on April 10, 2025.

Certificate of Excellence-For the twentieth consecutive year, TCAPS has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), recognizing the district's dedication to financial transparency and excellence.

TCAPS K-12 District Art Show -opening was held April 10 at Glenn Loomis. The show will run through April 25—all are welcome to attend Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, at the TCAPS Administration building-Glenn Loomis

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) - Fifth graders at Cherry Knoll participated in an updated/pilot program for D.A.R.E. and a graduation ceremony was held for them. Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department Deputy MaKenzie Kreiner taught the 5th grade students about Risks and Consequences, Stress, Communication Styles, Bullying, Alcohol/Tobacco, Resistant Strategies, Vaping, Dare Decision Making Model, and Help Networks. Cherry Knoll is the first school in TCAPS to have started this program after several years.

West Senior High German American Partnership Program (GAPP) - has been recognized by the US Department of State for its outstanding support of the 2024 GAPP. This honor highlights TC West's commitment to fostering international understanding and providing invaluable youth exchange opportunities. Kerry LaBonte has been instrumental in this program.

March is Reading Month was a success around the district. Guest readers included Senator John DaMoose, Representative Betsy Coffia, and Monty from the Pit Spitters.

7. [BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION](#)

Board members provided a brief summary of the meeting held.

- a. **Board Curriculum Committee (April 1)** → Report out by Pack
- b. **Board Finance Committee (April 3)** → Report out by Hardy

- c. **Board Executive Committee (April 3)** → Report out by Newman-Bale
- d. **Sustainability Committee (March 13)** → Report out by Schmidt
- e. **Nutrition & Fitness Committee (April 3)** → Report out by Pack
- f. **Board Office Hours 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
 - i. March 13, 2025 → Report for Ballenger by Moon Mohr
 - ii. April 24, 2025 → Attending: Pack, in-person meeting

8. 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. **Personnel Recommendations**

The Board considered personnel recommendations that were included in the agenda packet.

b. **TCAPS District Course Catalog with Amendments**

The Board considered approval of the 2024/2025 TCAPS District Course Catalog with amendments.

c. **Field Trip Request**

- i. West High School FIRST Robotics World Competition - Houston, Texas - April 15-20, 2025
- ii. West Senior High Academic World Quest to Washington, DC - April 27-29, 2025

d. **Bids, Services, and/or Purchases**

The Board considered the following:

- i. Capital Projects
 - Traverse Heights Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment
Purchase classroom furniture and custodial equipment through Interphase and Imperial Dade in the amount of \$74,500.00, which includes a 10% contingency and will be funded by Capital Bond Funds.
 - West Senior High Renovations for NorthEd
Award the contract for the West Senior High renovations to Eckler Building Solutions for a total amount not to exceed \$362,800, which includes a 10% contingency; funded through a reimbursement from NWES and Capital Bond Fund contingencies from prior West Senior High projects.

e. **Donation**

The Board considered the donation to the Student Support Network from the First Congregational Church of Traverse City in the amount of \$26,582.86.

f. **Meeting Minutes**

The Board considered the meeting minutes from the April 7, 2025, Study Session.

Approval of the Consent Calendar as amended and without discussion.

Moved by: Hardy
Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following vote was held:
Ayes: Hardy, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Schmidt
Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

9. DISCUSSION

a. **School Safety Update**

Dr. VanWagoner shared that last fall, one of our TCAPS families reached out to Trustee Ballenger about a grant focused on the cardiac health and well-being of our students. Patrick McManus applied for the grant and worked very closely with the foundation over the last couple of months. This involved numerous communications, detailed documentation outlining the necessity for AEDs within the district, and a genuine commitment to demonstrating the positive impact these devices would have on student safety. I am pleased to announce that the Thomas Smith Memorial Foundation has generously pledged to donate seven new AEDs to our district. This foundation, also known as "Tommy's Heart," has a straightforward mission statement: "To prevent families from suffering the loss of a child, by providing early detection and education for teenage heart ailments." Across Michigan, Tommy's Heart has been instrumental in equipping schools with life-saving AED devices and providing crucial education on cardiac health to staff and students. Their proactive approach has undoubtedly made a tangible difference in promoting student safety and preventing potential tragedies statewide. On behalf of all of our students, their families, and our staff at TCAPS, I would like to thank the Thomas Smith Memorial Foundation for their support and generous donation.

b. **Board Policy**

Coni Taylor, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and Legal Services, stated that the legislature passed and the governor signed in February the Michigan Sick Time Act (ESTA). As a result, Thrun has created the new policy 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA). She stated that the TCAPS HR and Business departments have made sure we are in full compliance.

i. 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (NEW)

Approval of Board Policy 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Acts, as presented.

Moved by: Moon Mohr
Seconded by: Pack

The following vote was held:
Ayes: Hardy, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Schmidt
Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

c. **Social Host Responsibility Proclamation Resolution**

President Newman-Bale passed the chair to Vice President Moon Mohr and abstained from any discussion and participation due to his line of work outside of the Board. The Board considered a Resolution proclaiming the month of April as Social Host Responsibility Month. Ms. Taylor explained that this resolution pertains to TCAPS being a community committed to the prevention of underage alcohol, tobacco and/or recreational drug use.

Approval of the Social Host Responsibility Proclamation Resolution.

Moved by: Hardy

Seconded by: Pack

The following vote was held:

Ayes: Hardy, Moon Mohr, Pack, and Schmidt

Nay: N/A

Abstain: Newman-Bale

MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1

Ms. Moon Mohr read the Resolution.

d. **Staff Appreciation Special Recognition (May 5-9, 2025)**

Dr. VanWagoner announced that TCAPS Staff Appreciation special recognition would take place the week of May 5-9, 2025. This is a time that we can show our appreciation for not only teachers but for everyone who works at TCAPS.

Approval of TCAPS Staff Appreciation special recognition for the week of May 5-9, 2025.

Moved by: Moon Mohr

Seconded by: Hardy

The following vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

e. **Bids, Services, and/or Purchases**

The Board considered the following:

- Capital Projects - Facilities Storage Building
Award the contract for the facilities storage building project to Grand Traverse Construction for a total amount not to exceed \$922,240 which includes a 10% contingency, funded from Capital Bond Funds.

Approval of the Capital Projects Facilities Storage Building as presented.

Moved by: Pack
Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following vote was held:
Ayes: Hardy, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Schmidt
Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

f. **Interim Board Position**

The Board discussed the interim Board position created by the resignation of Holly T. Bird on March 29, 2025. This term will expire on December 31, 2026. The Board decided that they would open the position to the public as well as reach out to the candidates and finalists who applied in February/March. The information will be posted with a submission date/time of 4:00 p.m. on April 22, 2025, and the interim Board member will be appointed at the Study Session on April 28, 2025.

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

President Newman-Bale opened the meeting up for public comment, and no request was made.

11. **BOARD PRESIDENT CLOSING REMARKS**

President Newman-Bale

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Moved by: Moon Mohr
Seconded by: Hardy

The following vote was held:
Ayes: Hardy, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Schmidt
Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 5-0



Josy Ballenger

Board Secretary

Next Board of Education Meeting-Study Session

Monday, April 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Administration at Northwest Education Services-Conference Center

1101 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684

Board of Education:

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