

## Meeting Minutes

### Board Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 8:15 a.m.

Administration at Glenn Loomis

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



*Approved on April 1, 2025*

### [Meeting Slides Presentation](#)

**PRESENT:** Josey Ballenger, Holly Bird, Beth Pack, Dr. John VanWagoner, Jessie Houghton, Dan Tiesworth, Brittany Kay, Danielle Mapes

**1. The meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m.**

Chair Josey Ballenger welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Ballenger offered time for public comment. The following public comment was offered:

- Diane Arnold (topic - calendar)

**3. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**a. Prior Committee Meeting Minutes**

The committee was asked to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2025, Board Curriculum Committee meeting. No changes were recommended. The January 28, 2025 minutes will remain as posted.

**b. 2024-2025 TCAPS District Course Catalog [Updates](#)**

Jessie Houghton, Chief Academic Officer - Secondary, reported on course additions to the catalog, as outlined in the memo and meeting presentation linked above.

**The committee moved the Course Catalog changes to the full Board under the Consent Calendar for approval at the March 10, 2025 meeting.**

**c. Elementary English Language Arts: CKLA Materials Purchase [Request](#)**

Dan Tiesworth, Chief Academic Officer - Elementary, provided an overview of the request to purchase a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum - Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). Mr. Tiesworth shared where the district has been with the process of reviewing new curriculum options over the past two years with 20 teachers piloting the CKLA curriculum this school year.

Brittany Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Danielle Mapes, CKLA Pilot Teacher at Traverse Heights Elementary School, provided an overview of what a high-quality ELA program looks like and explained how CKLA meets all the elements outlined in her presentation. CKLA was built on the Science of Reading. CKLA is research-based, proven effective, and offers explicit, systematic skills instruction, intentional knowledge building, daily writing connected to reading, high-quality diverse texts, and differentiation at multiple levels.

Ms. Kay also provided an overview of CKLA efficacy data and CKLA perception data from pilot teachers regarding student and adult impact. Ms. Mapes shared positive feedback from her experience with teaching the CKLA curriculum this school year in her classroom at Traverse Heights, an At-Risk building in a 3/4 split grade classroom.

Mr. Tiesworth presented the overview of the professional development plan for the district-wide roll-out of CKLA during the 2025-2026 school year and the associated costs of adopting the curriculum over a 5-year contract. The elementary ELA leadership team and teaching staff recommend purchasing CKLA resource materials through Amplify (2025 edition) for K-5 students and staff. The recommendation with Amplify includes the following materials and resources: Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition: classroom kits/manipulatives, teacher editions, student consumables, Amplify CKLA 3rd Edition: digital student and teachers' licenses, Amplify Boost Reading: access for all teachers and students, and Amplify Support with professional development and coaching for building leaders and staff. The material cost associated with this recommendation is \$1,119,908 which includes a 10% contingency to account for enrollment fluctuations and is funded using the 35J Literacy Grant.

**The Board Curriculum Committee moved the CKLA curriculum materials purchase request to the full Board under the Consent Calendar for approval at the March 10, 2025 meeting. The purchase request will also be reviewed by the Board Finance & Operations Committee on February 28, 2025.**

#### **4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

##### **a. Board Curriculum Learning Series:**

##### **i. CKLA Pilot Report-Out**

This overview was provided under Procedural Item c.

##### **ii. Data - 2024-2025 Elementary Winter NWEA Data & 2024-2025 Secondary PSAT & NWEA**

Mr. Tiesworth provided an overview of the NWEA data for grades K-5 ELA and math and the other winter data sets used by the district including Amplify CKLA, aimsWeb+, Delta Math, and Math Expressions. He also provided an overview of what winter data meetings look like. Ms. Houghton, Chief Academic Officer - Secondary, provided an overview of the data for both NWEA middle school ELA and math, and PSAT for high school ELA and math. Ms. Houghton also explained how the data is used at the district level, building level, and the classroom level. The data slides are available in the meeting presentation linked above.

Trustee Bird left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

##### **b. Input on Meaningful Student Achievement Outcomes**

Preparing for the upcoming Board of Education Study Session on March 18th regarding meaningful student achievement outcomes, Mr. Tiesworth provided a summary of what could be shared, such as M-Step data, reviewing proficiency levels and percentages, and then drilling down into subgroup comparisons such as students who are economically disadvantaged vs. not disadvantaged, or at-risk vs. not at-risk. Ms. Houghton added that when talking about proficiency levels we also need to talk about growth levels. Mr. Tiesworth added that the study session can also highlight the things the district is doing to close the achievement gap. He noted the importance of including, as part of the conversation, how all district systems support the whole-child and every child, including those at non-Title schools. Chair Ballenger prefaced this is a preliminary conversation, and she doesn't want to speak on behalf of other trustees, but suggested the Board may want to review average NWEA growth for all grades to identify stretch goals that are meaningful and achievable, in addition to M-Step scores and data on economically disadvantaged vs. advantaged students. As committee

members reflect upon what data they would like as part of the conversation for the Study Session in March, they are asked to communicate their requests to Dr. VanWagoner so he can share with Ms. Houghton and Mr. Tiesworth.

**c. TCAPS 2025-2026 School Year Calendar Discussion ([memo](#))**

Dr. VanWagoner provided an overview of the proposed calendar for next school year, highlighting the following changes: consistency, less half-days, and more consistency with early release days (10 total, compared to 12 this year), incorporation of more professional development time for union groups, the elimination of the voluntary opening day, which brings the district a cost savings of \$60,000, and early release days on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day. The calendar needs to be approved by the Traverse City Education Association. It is the district's hope that the calendar will be approved before spring break 2025.

**d. Celebrations & Successes**

Ms. Houghton and Mr. Tiesworth highlighted several celebrations and successes throughout the district as outlined in the meeting presentation linked above.

**5. OTHER ITEMS**

**6. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted By,

*Kelly Walter*

Kelly Walter

Committee Recording Secretary

**[Next Board Curriculum Committee Meeting](#)**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 8:15 a.m.**

**Administration at Glenn Loomis**

**1009 South Oak Street, Traverse City, MI 49684**

***Curriculum Committee Members:***

***Josey Ballenger (Chair), Holly Bird, Beth Pack, Ty Schmidt (alternate), Dr. John VanWagoner, Jessie Houghton, Dan Tiesworth, Brittany Kay, Tiffany Pomaville, Misti Warner***