

Approved on December 9, 2024

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 Monday, November 11, 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Newman-Bale, Vice President Humphreys, Treasurer Raymond, Trustee Moon Mohr, Trustee Bird, and Trustee Pack
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Secretary Ballenger
ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Houghton, Taylor, Thomas-Hill, Tiesworth, and VanWagoner
ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT: Smith

[Meeting Presentation](#)

1. [CALL TO ORDER](#)

President Newman-Bale welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE](#)

Mr. Schopieray's 4th-grade class at Long Lake 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. President Newman-Bale suggested adding Discussion Item D - Electric School Bus and moving Superintendent Report Item d - Bond Update - Central High School to Discussion Item e.

Approval of agenda as amended.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following Roll Call vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

4. [RECOGNITION](#)

TCAPS Military Veterans

Dr. VanWagoner thanked military veterans and recognized veterans that are currently working for TCAPS. The following employees were recognized:

- Angela Hicks (Moma Tank), Air Force - 25.5 years - East Middle School
- Russell Nyland, Navy - 12 years - Traverse City High School

- Aaron Smith, Air Force - 10 years - Traverse City High School
- Carol Johnson, Navy - 10 years - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- John LaBarbera, Army - 8 years - Food Service
- Gene Brzezinski, Navy - 6 years - Facilities
- Paul Crowley, Air Force - 6 years - West Middle School
- Phillip (Rick) Forton, Army - 6 years - Central High School
- Jim Coneset, Coast Guard - 5 years - Central Grade School
- Patrick Mangan, Marines - 5 years - West Middle School
- Joshua Veith, Navy - 4 years - Traverse City High School
- Steve Lautner, Army - 4 years - Silver Lake Elementary
- Tom Freitas, Navy - 4 years - Food Service
- Jeff O'Brien, Army - 3 years - Transportation
- Gordon Fitch, Army - 2 years - Traverse Heights Elementary
- John Brazaski, Army - 2 years - West Senior High School
- Solon Barnes, Army - 2 years - TCAPS Montessori
- Tina Preston, Army - 1.5 years - East Middle School
- Tyson Burch, Marines - Transportation

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT #1** (Orange Card)

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

- Gail Lamphear
- Bill Wiesner

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. **Audit of Financial Report**

Guest Presenter: Dave Nielsen, CPA, Principal from Maner Costerisan

Assistant Superintendent, Christine Thomas-Hill, introduced Dave Nielsen, CPA, Principal from Maner Costerisan. Mr. Nielson provided the Board with an overview of the audit process and a summary of the audit report.

Below are the Independent Auditor's Report Highlights:

- **Financial Statements:** Unmodified
- **Internal controls over financial reporting:** No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies
- **Compliance for Major Programs:** Unmodified opinion and no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies

The presentation slides can be accessed from the meeting presentation linked above and the full discussion can be viewed on the district website.

b. **Legislative Update**

Dr. VanWagoner shared that the legislature will be meeting this week and is likely to review some big ticket items during lame duck - such as economic development and health insurance. He will work with local legislators to continue advocating for resources.

c. **District Highlights**

BE SMART Gun Safety Resolution

The Board approved the BE SMART Gun Safety Resolution in November 2022. A reminder of the importance of safe/secure firearm storage and other firearm safety and violence prevention measures will be shared in the November district newsletter.

Open Interviews

TCAPS will host interviews onsite, no appointment necessary at the Glenn Loomis Administration Building, 1009 S. Oak Street, Traverse City on Wednesday, November 20 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Interested applicants may simply stop in during one of the designated days and times. Many posted positions require no prior experience and on-the-job training is provided.

Central High School (CHS) Musical - Seussical

Performances run for two weekends: November 15th-November 17th and November 22nd - November 24th. Get your tickets at tcaps.boottix.com or call (231)933-6984. Ticket prices are \$20/person.

CHS Marketing Class

Students in Ms. Harvey's Marketing class started a Junior Achievement business called Cherry Capital Cozy Co. and they have items for your holiday shopping! You can visit their website at CherryCapitalCozyCo.com.

West Senior High School (WSH) Arts and Craft Show

WSH will host a community arts and craft show on Saturday, November 16 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Titan Excellence Fund.

Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month and this week TCAPS Indigenous Education Program is sponsoring a Native American Heritage Spirit Week and national Rock Your Mocs week. A breakdown of the Spirit Week events can be found on the Indigenous Education Program page.

Athletics

Coach Lisa Taylor has been inducted into the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association(MITCA) Hall of Fame for her 30-year coaching career at Traverse City Central High School. Under her leadership, the girls' cross country team achieved numerous accolades, including 1 State Championship, 17 regional and 22 conference titles, and 37 All-State athletes.

Dr. VanWagoner also shared that the Central High School volleyball team won their 3rd district title this past weekend and students in swimming and cross country have qualified to compete at the state level.

Calendar Reminders:

November 27, 28 & 29 - No school for students

7. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

Board members provided a brief summary of meetings held and discussed miscellaneous topics.

- a. **Board Curriculum Committee (October 29)** → Report out by Moon Mohr

- b. **Board Finance and Operations Committee (October 31)** → Report out by Raymond
- c. **Board Executive Committee (October 31)** → Report out by Newman-Bale
- d. **MASB Annual Leadership Conference** → Report out by Pack
- e. **Board Office Hours 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
 - i. October 24, 2024 → Report out by Moon Mohr
 - ii. November 21, 2024 → Attending: Ballenger

8. CONSENT

The purpose of the consent calendar is 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 have been included in the agenda packet.

b. **Conferences**

The Board considered the following:

- i. AASA Conference, New Orleans, LA (March 6-8, 2025)

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

The Board considered the following:

- i. Safety and Security
 - Digital Portable Radios
 - Purchase from Grand Traverse Mobile Communications utilizing the MiDeal purchasing cooperative for a total not to exceed \$171,695, which includes a 15% contingency; funded from Capital Bond Funds.

d. **Meeting Minutes**

The Board considered the minutes from the October 28, 2024 Study Session.

Approval of the Consent Calendar as presented and without discussion.

Moved by: Bird

Seconded by: Humphreys

The following vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

9. **PUBLIC HEARING – Policy 5207 – Anti-Bullying (NEW)**

The Board conducted a Public Hearing regarding revisions to Board Policy 5207 – Anti-Bullying. Board President Newman-Bale declared the Public Hearing open to the public at 7:10 p.m. and deferred to Dr. VanWagoner.

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

- Bill Wiesner

Board President Newman-Bale declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.

10. **DISCUSSION**

a. **Board Policy**

The Board considered the following:

- Policy 5207 – Anti-Bullying

Approval to repeal Neola Board Policy 5517.01 - Anti-Bullying and adopt Thrun Board Policy 5207 - Anti-Bullying as presented.

Moved by: Humphreys

Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following Roll Call vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

b. **School Safety Update**

As considered during the consent portion of this meeting regarding bids and purchases, TCAPS is upgrading its two-way radio communication system. This will replace portable radios for key crisis team leaders, building administrators, and schools district-wide. The current radio system uses an older analog very high frequency (VHF) range that restricts coverage areas in and around each school, making it difficult to hear and transmit messages in a clear and timely manner, with a limited coverage area.

c. **Adoption of Bond Authorizing Resolution**

The Board considered adoption of a Bond Authorizing Resolution authorizing actions necessary to facilitate the bond sale and the delivery of bonds. Ms. Thomas-Hill explained that the district plans to sell the bonds in February, with the sale closing in March. This bond sale will include \$10 million from the 2018 bond, fully exhausting that authorization, and an additional \$80 million from the first 2024 bond authorization. These bonds will be sold in a 10-year series through a competitive bidding process, similar to previous bond sales. Ms. Thomas-Hill also mentioned that the recent property value increases have exceeded the initial projections made by the financial advisor. The district will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure that a new bond authorization is sought before the current authorization falls below 3.1 mils.

Approval to adopt the Bond Authorizing Resolution as presented.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Pack

The following Roll Call vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

d. **Electric School Bus**

The Board considered the purchase of an electric school bus. The district has received \$200,000 from the EPA Clean School Bus Rebate and \$280,000 from the Section 74(b) Clean Bus Energy Grant to purchase and pilot an electric bus. The district will amend the grant to include coverage of installation.

Approval to purchase one (1) EV Conventional 77-Passenger electric bus in the amount not to exceed \$449,312, funded by the Section 74(b) Clean Bus Energy Grant and the EPA Clean School Bus Rebate.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following Roll Call vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

e. **Bond Update - Central High School**

Dr. VanWagoner recommended the Board approve TMP Architecture to undertake bond-related projects at Central High School. These projects include constructing a secure main office vestibule, renovating the gym and wrestling room, and developing a design for a multi-purpose turf gym. Additionally, Dr. VanWagoner asked the Board for authorization to collaborate with the Board President to establish a fundraising committee. This committee would focus on raising funds for multi-purpose facilities at both West Senior High School and Central High School.

Approval of a contract with TMP Architecture for the design of the Central High School renovations including the main office safe and secure entryways, gyms, including a potential rendering for a turf gym, and the wrestling room.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following Roll Call vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Approval for Dr. VanWagoner and Scott Newman-Bale to move forward with discussion on a capital campaign regarding a multi-purpose turf gym facility.

Moved by: Moon Mohr

Seconded by: Humphreys

The following Roll Call vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Dr. VanWagoner informed the Board that he has made the decision to halt work to move central office staff to the Sabin Data Center and make Glenn Loomis the permanent location once Central Grade School is complete. He shared that everything will continue as planned to move Central Grade School to Glenn Loomis in fall of 2026, including focus group meetings beginning in early 2025. In the meantime, he will be looking for some leased or available business space for central office staff during the time that students are in Glenn Loomis for renovation at Central Grade School.

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

President Newman-Bale opened the meeting up for public comment and none was provided.

12. **BOARD PRESIDENT CLOSING REMARKS**

President Newman-Bale shared condolences to the families of Terry Smith and Gail King. He also welcomed Ty Schmidt to the Board of Education beginning January 2025.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Moved by: Bird

Seconded by: Humphreys

The following vote was held:

Ayes: Bird, Humphreys, Moon Mohr, Newman-Bale, Pack, and Raymond

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Respectfully Prepared By,

Stacey Hozak

Stacey Hozak
Board Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josey Ballenger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Board Secretary

Next Board of Education Meeting

Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Administration at Glenn Loomis

1009 S. Oak Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Board of Education:

***Josey Ballenger, Holly T. Bird, V. Flourney Humphreys, Erica L. Moon Mohr,
Scott Newman-Bale, Beth Pack, and Andrew R. Raymond***