

Approved on October 28, 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, October 21, 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Newman-Bale, Vice President Humphreys, Secretary Ballenger, Treasurer Raymond, Trustee Moon Mohr, Trustee Bird, and Trustee Pack

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT: None

[Meeting Presentation Link](#)

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](#)

Ms. Cobb's 5th grade class at Traverse Heights Elementary 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 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Humphreys

The following vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

4. [RECOGNITION](#)

The TCAPS Compass 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:

- Angela Adamick, Custodian at Silver Lake Elementary
- Erin Harrelson, Great Start Readiness (GSRP) Lead Instructor at Long Lake Elementary
- Gretchen Evenhouse, School Social Worker at Traverse Heights Elementary

- Kayla Elliott, Cook at West Middle School
- Larry Burden, Creative Services Manager at TCAPS Administration
- Peg Siciliano, Instructional Assistant at Eastern Elementary
- Luke Johnson, Assistant Principal at East Middle School
- Robert Struble, Bus Driver for Eastern Elementary

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

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

- Bill Wiesner
- Liz Yarch
- Katherine Vermeersch

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. **Legislative Update**

Dr. VanWagoner shared that the district will receive a rebate from the Office of Retirement Services (ORS), which will be distributed back to staff that pay into the state retirement health insurance fund and, beginning next year, the state will no longer deduct 3% of salary for the state retirement health insurance fund from employees that are paying into that fund. He also shared that additional appropriation was put into the mental health/safety and security state budget, bringing it to approximately \$150 million. This is less than half of the appropriation last year.

b. **District Highlights**

CHS and WSH Named to AP Honor Roll

College Board announced Traverse City Central and Traverse City West Senior High Schools have been named to the 2024 Advanced Placement® Program School Honor Roll. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness. West Senior High School achieved Silver distinction with 448 students participating in AP courses and completing 813 AP exams. Central High School achieved Bronze status with 421 students participating in AP courses and completing 788 AP exams.

SSN Pop-Up Shop

The next Student Support Network Pop-up shop is on Thursday, October 24, and Friday, October 25. The Pop-Up Shop provides new and gently used clothing, shoes, school supplies, hygiene items, and more. All items are free and shopping is open to any TCAPS student, age 3-20, by appointment only, for more information or to make an appointment email Katie Kubesh or call 231.933.1789.

Open Interviews

TCAPS will host opportunities to interview onsite, no appointment necessary at the Glenn Loomis Administration Building, 1009 S Oak Street, Traverse City on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 23 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 20 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Interested applicants may stop in during one of the designated days and times. Many posted positions require no prior experience and on-the-job training is provided.

13th Annual Patriot Game

The 13th annual Patriot Game between the TC Central Trojans and TC West Titans is scheduled for this Friday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Thirlby Field. Tickets are now available at GoFan.co for \$7 each. Tickets will also be available at the gate on game day beginning at 5:30 p.m. for \$8 per ticket or \$7 on GoFan.co, or via Apple Pay or Google Pay. All Veterans, active duty, and first responders receive free entry for the game and can enter Thirlby Field at the 13th Street rolling gate or through the 14th Street main entry. It is highly recommended to purchase tickets in advance at GoFan.co. On game day, there will be separate lines on the 13th and 14th Street entrances for cash, credit card/Apple Pay, and GoFan. Senate members from both schools have named Reining Liberty Ranch and Peace Ranch as benefactors from proceeds raised through school t-shirt sales. For more information visit www.tcaps.net/tcpatriotgame or contact the TC Central Athletic Office at 231.933.6575.

Calendar Reminders:

November 1 - No school for students

November 5 - No school for students

c. **Student Health Center Update**

Dr. VanWagoner introduced Heidi Britton from Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc. (NMHSI). Ms. Britton gave an overview of NMHSI and the services offered to students aged 3-21 at TCAPS Student Health Center. Some highlights include:

- The center empowers students with learning how to access a health care system and advocate for their physical and mental health.
- The center is open year-round and offers flexible scheduling and translation services.
- The center accepts all types of insurance, provides insurance billing, insurance support service, and a sliding fee scale.
- Since the center opened in January 2024, they have serviced 185 unduplicated users, provided 658 total visits (medical 134, behavioral 501, and telehealth 23), and done outreach to 432 families and students.
- The center continues to evaluate ways to remove transportation barriers for students throughout the district, including offering telehealth services.
- NMHSI has secured a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) grant to provide a year-round Behavioral Health Therapist at East Middle School five days per week.

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

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION

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

- a. **Board Curriculum Committee (October 8)** → Report out by Moon Mohr

- b. **Board Finance and Operations Committee (October 10)** → Report out by Raymond
- c. **Board Executive Committee (October 10)** → Report out by Newman-Bale
- d. **Superintendent/Board of Education Student Advisory Council (October 15)** → Report out by Raymond
- e. **Board Office Hours 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
 - i. September 26, 2024 → Report out by Raymond
 - ii. October 24, 2024 → Attending: Moon Mohr

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 (Informational only per Board Policy 3120)**

The Board reviewed personnel recommendations that have been included in the agenda packet.

b. **Field Trips/Conferences**

The Board considered the following requests:

- i. West Middle School 8th Grade U.S. History Trip, Washington, D.C. ; April 22 - 25, 2025
- ii. East Middle School 8th Grade U.S. History Trip, Washington, D.C.; May 6 - 9, 2025
- iii. West Senior High School Global Service Trip, Guanajuato, Mexico; June 11 - 30, 2025
- iv. West Senior High School International Galapagos Trip, Ecuador; Spring Break 2027

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

The Board considered the following requests:

i. Capital Projects

- Bleachers Upgrades

- Purchase from Interkal, LLC for a total not to exceed \$419,096, includes a 10% contingency; Funded from Capital Bond Funds.

ii. Food Service

- Food Service Equipment

- Purchased for a total not to exceed \$43,702.13; Funded from Food Service Funds and Grant Funds.

iii. Transportation

- 10-Passenger Van

- Purchase from Seelye Kia of Battle Creek for a total not to exceed \$60,295.40, includes a 10% contingency; Funded from General Fund - Transportation.

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

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

e. **Meeting Minutes**

The Board considered the minutes from the September 23, 2024 Study Session.

Approval of the Consent Calendar as presented and without discussion.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Bird

The following vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

9. **DISCUSSION**

a. **School Safety Update**

This week TCAPS is participating in Safe Schools Week, a nationwide effort to promote not only the awareness and importance of creating secure learning environments, but also to encourage proactive measures that can help prevent violence, bullying, and other threats in schools. During this time, students, staff, and community members will engage in discussions and activities designed to foster a culture of safety and respect within the school district. From emergency drills and educational sessions on cyber safety, the initiative aims to equip everyone with the tools and knowledge necessary to maintain a safe, welcoming atmosphere for all. Through collaboration and awareness, TCAPS hopes to strengthen its commitment to the well-being of its students and staff, ensuring that education can take place in a space free from harm and fear.

Dr. VanWagoner also shared that last week the district piloted a weapons detection system at Thirlby Field and received positive feedback. The district will continue to review grants and state funding to determine the feasibility of installation in the future.

b. **Bertha Vos Property Update**

Dr. VanWagoner deferred to Scott Hardy, who is representing the district in the sale of Bertha Vos. Mr. Hardy shared that the buy/sell agreement is a \$550,000 cash offer with an agreement to demolish the building within five years of purchase. The buyer has requested to do a Phase 1 environmental study prior to finalizing the purchase, which will allow them to get an insurance policy on the property. The Board discussed allowing Dr. VanWagoner the authority to sign the documents and execute the sale, including grammatical and technical changes under the terms listed.

Approval to give the superintendent or designee authority to sign the existing sales agreement with any addendums with respect to the sale of the Bertha Vos property located at 3723 Shore Road, Acme, MI with said parcel number listed, along with any negotiations or clarifications that need to take place as stated by Mr. Newman-Bale and execute the sale of same.

Moved by: Bird

Seconded by: Raymond

The following Roll Call vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

c. Insulin Litigation

The Board considered a nationwide lawsuit against defendants accused of artificially inflating insulin prices at the expense of employees and health plan entities, as recommended by Thrun Law and the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Approval to join the lawsuit on the terms specified in the Attorney-Client Fee Contract and authorize Dr. VanWagoner to sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract on behalf of TCAPS to take such other action as necessary to obtain monetary damages and injunctive relief for TCAPS in the Lawsuit, subject to review by TCAPS counsel.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Humphreys

The following Roll Call vote was held:

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

Nay: Pack

MOTION CARRIED 6-1

d. Operating Millage Renewal

Dr. VanWagoner reminded the Board that the operating millage renewal will be on the November ballot. Assistant Superintendent, Christine Thomas-Hill reviewed some key highlights:

- In order to receive the state-determined per-pupil amount, the state requires the district to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property.
- Non-homestead tax does not apply to primary residences and other exempt property, it is only levied against properties considered “non-primary residence”, which are essentially businesses, industrial properties, and second homes located in the school district.
- An operating millage generates revenue to support the district’s general operating budget. The operating budget funds essential day-to-day expenses such as staff, utilities, supplies and materials, and all costs associated with the district’s educational and co-curricular programs.
- Funding is based on a state-determined “per-pupil” amount, for fiscal year 2025, that amount is \$9,608.
- Local non-homestead taxes make up one portion of the per pupil amount (fiscal year 2025 is approximately 64%) and the state covers the difference.
- In order to receive the state-determined per-pupil amount, the state requires the district to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property.

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

Trustee Bird was absent from the meeting from 8:01 - 8:04 p.m.

e. **TCAPS Bond Update/Performance Management Contract**

Ms. Thomas-Hill reviewed bond projects in progress, including district-wide performance management work being completed by TRANE. She also updated the Board on future bond projects, including the planning and construction of Central Grade School. Current conservative capital planning for projects that the Board identified as Priority 1, 2, and 3 with contingencies totaling \$190 million.

Ms. Thomas-Hill advised the Board that TRANE was the only bid received for the performance management contract and reviewed projects identified for completion under the contract at each building. She shared that TRANE is working with multiple local contractors and has been working closely with the district staff. TRANE will have a project manager assigned to the district to coordinate work.

Approval that the performance-based energy conservation contract be awarded to TRANE US, Inc. for a total not to exceed \$36,306,545, including a 10% contingency, funded from capital bond funds.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following Roll Call vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

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

f. **Thrun Law Firm Policy Manual Adoption Resolution**

The Board considered repealing its existing policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines and adopting the Thrun Law Firm Policy Manual. Associate Superintendent, Coni Taylor, shared that she will do an audit of the archived Neola Policy Manual to ensure any changes made by the Board previously are updated in the new Thrun Policy Manual.

Approval to repeal all existing Board policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines, except Board Policy 5517.01 - Anti-Bullying and adopt the Thrun Policy Manual, except Board Policy 5207 - Anti-Bullying, in the form presented as the Board's new policies and bylaws, including those forms and administrative guidelines in the Policy Manual, for the purpose of governing the District, effective Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

Moved by: Humphreys

Seconded by: Bird

The following Roll Call vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

A public hearing will be held for Board Policy 5207 - Anti-Bullying at the November 11, 2024 Board meeting. The Board will then be asked to consider repealing Board Policy 5517.10 - Anti-Bullying and adoption of Thurn Board Policy 5207 - Anti-Bullying.

g. Central High School Tennis Facility Naming

The Board agreed to name the Central High School Tennis Facility for TCAPS Tennis Coach Larry Nykerk.

Approval to rename the tennis courts at Traverse City Central High School the Larry Nykerk Trojan Tennis Center.

Moved by: Raymond

Seconded by: Moon Mohr

The following Roll Call vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

10. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 (Green Card)

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

11. CLOSED SESSION - SUPERINTENDENT QUARTERLY EVALUATION

The Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting a periodic personnel evaluation, as allowed by the Open Meetings Act, P.A. 267 of 1976, Section 8(1)(a). The closed session was requested in writing by the employee.

Approval that the Board of Education go into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting a periodic personnel evaluation, as allowed by the Open Meetings Act, P.A. 267 of 1976, Section 8(1)(a). The closed session was requested in writing by the employee.

Moved by: Ballenger

Seconded by: Pack

The following Roll Call vote was held:

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

Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

The Board entered into a Closed Session at 8:58 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:52 p.m.

12. BOARD PRESIDENT CLOSING REMARKS

President Newman-Bale shared that the Board received a letter from Representative Betsy Coffia about school funding and thanked Representative Coffia and other local legislative representatives for championing support for TCAPS. The next meeting on Monday, October 28 at 5:00 p.m. is a Study Session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

Moved by: Ballenger

Seconded by: Bird

The following vote was held:

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

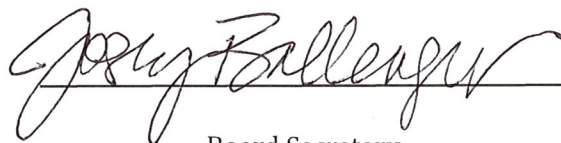
Nay: N/A

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Respectfully Prepared By,

Stacey Hozak

Stacey Hozak
Board Recording Secretary



Board Secretary

Next Board of Education Meeting - Study Session

Monday, October 28, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Administration at Glenn Loomis

1009 S. Oak Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Board of Education:

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