

*Proposed Minutes scheduled to be approved at the Board's next meeting on September 12, 2016.*

A Joint Meeting of the Board of Education of the Traverse City Area Public Schools and Peninsula Township Board, Counties of Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Benzie, Michigan, was held at the Old Mission Peninsula School in the Gym, 2699 Island View Road, Traverse City, MI, August 29, 2016. TCAPS Board President Falconer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**TCAPS:**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Appel, Clark, Falconer, Hardy, Kelly

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Crandall, Ellery

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Davis, Guitar, McCall, Parker, Reynolds, Soma, Thomas-Hill

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP:**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Byron, Hoffman, Rosi, Weatherholt, Witkop

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Avery, Correia (excused)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

TCAPS Board President Falconer invited those in attendance to rise as they recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA – TRAVERSE CITY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Board reviewed the agenda and Board President Falconer received the following motion:

**MOVED BY HARDY SUPPORTED BY KELLY to approve the agenda as presented.**

The following vote was held:

**YES:** Appel, Clark, Falconer, Hardy, Kelly

**NO:** None

***MOTION PASSED.***

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA – PENINSULA TOWNSHIP**

The Board reviewed the agenda and Township Clerk Hoffman received the following motion:

**MOVED BY BYRON SUPPORTED BY WEATHERHOLT to approve the agenda as presented.**

The following vote was held:

**YES:** Byron, Hoffman, Rosi, Weatherholt, Witkop

**NO:** None

***MOTION PASSED.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT - TCAPS**

No public comment on agenda items was volunteered at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – PENINSULA TOWNSHIP**

The following public comment on any topic was volunteered at this time:

- Lee Hornberger, Mission Ridge, Thank you to Monica Hoffman for her service.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST – PENINSULA TOWNSHIP**

Ms. Hoffman's indicated it isn't actually considered a conflict of interest, but she wanted those in attendance to know that she and her husband Bill own the property on three sides of the school and the property originally came from his father.

## **DISCUSSION**

President Falconer thanked everyone for attending. He pointed out TCAPs went through an efficiency evaluation necessitated by declining revenues, declining enrollment, and aging facilities. About a year ago TCAPS engaged communities and invited input and creative opportunities. The process continued through the winter, in the spring the board was making decisions to close schools. The very generous donation that was brought forth from the Old Mission community required further discussion. The board wanted to make sure it coincided with the mission and vision of TCAPS and the responsibility we have to our entire school community. In the past few months we have had conversations about a sustainable solution and we are excited tonight to hear more.

Mr. Falconer continued to explain that TCAPS has been transparent throughout the entire process. In the last few months we have talked about the need for a sustainable solution. That is what we owe to all TCAPS families that we serve. The fact that we have given extra time to Old Mission is because we could afford to. In the spring we were not required to make a decision on Old Mission as the school will be providing a transition while we reconstruct Eastern Elementary. We have found, however, in the last couple of months that as we back up the timeline in making decisions with regard to Eastern Elementary, there is a need for a timeframe of this November to be able to make a thoughtful decision with regard to Old Mission and still move forward on the necessary timeline for Eastern Elementary.

Ms. O'Keefe thanked Mr. Falconer for his clarification. She is the current PTO President for Old Mission Peninsula School and was for last year as well. Tonight she represented the community group. The following represents highlights of Ms. O'Keefe's presentation to both boards. (The full presentation is posted with these minutes.)

### **Highlights:**

Create an Educational Foundation to:

- Negotiate acquisition and ownership of the building and property
- Negotiate yearly overhead and continued operation of education at OMPS

If creating an educational foundation (OMPEF), it would be a charitable non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing quality educational programs on Old Mission Peninsula.

- Provide additional resources towards programming
- Engage the community
- Purchase and fund the yearly overhead
- 501C3 non-profit organization

Benefit for TCAPS:

- Capitalize on the bond money that TCAPS spent to renovate OMPS
- Create a model for funding that supports and frees up money

Benefits for Peninsula Township:

- Own the building outright
- Land protected against development
- Property is restricted for school and library use in perpetuity
- TCAPS continues providing quality public education for our community, in our community
- Save the school, and
- Foundation will continue to highlight the unique school environment

Overhead issue:

- Varies from year to year
- Details need to be negotiated in order to come to an agreement
- Foundation funds overhead or township needs to evaluate options to cover the cost of the overhead of the building
- All of this needs to be worked out. It is a fluid model with a lot of moving parts.

Details to be negotiated:

- Building purchase price (appraised at \$500,000 - \$1.5 million)
- Length of agreement (8-10 years)

Next steps:

- Form committee consisting of members from:
  - TCAPS Board of Education
  - Peninsula Township Board
  - Community members
- Set deadline for committee

Mr. Falconer thanked Ms. O'Keefe and clarified the intent for the evening was to have everyone hear this information at the same time.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Falconer solicited Public Comment on any topic and the following was volunteered:

- Leslie Young – With the ongoing financial problem and proposed closing, does TCAPS have an obligation to entertain the sale of the school to help offset the expenses of the school? President Falconer indicated it is something that is tied to the discussion of the opportunity we are discussing this evening. We do have a responsibility to utilize prudently and efficiently all the resources we have at our disposal.
- Roger Myers, Center Road - It was a formality; TCAPS had their mind made up to close the school. As a senior citizen he is concerned at the loss of a school to their community.
- Jill Hammer, Mother of students attending OMPS – The foundation should cover the incremental cost rather than the full \$400,000 overhead. It should be up for discussion that the foundation cover the incremental cost to bring OM in line with the other elementary schools.
- Andy Valdmanis - 22 years ago this community and peninsula township undertook an impossible task. It was a pragmatic answer to an emotional problem. People wanted to protect properties. We have an emotional problem here, but we also have an offer to a pragmatic solution. Give it a timeline that it deserves. Take a pragmatic approach to find a solution to this emotional problem.
- Jackie Harding – Sounds like this foundation is a win/win if you are able to come together and figure this out. TCAPS will need to pass a bond and we save a school that was just remodeled.
- Christine Allie – Mother of students at OMPS – Options for TCAPS
- Carol Butcher, Peninsula Library Board Member - This library is very important to the community.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS (PENINSULA TOWNSHIP BOARD):**

- Jill Byron, Board Trustee – Wishes Monica Hoffman the best in her future endeavors.

**MOVED BY HARDY, SUPPORTED BY CLARK and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.**

**MOVED BY BYRON, SUPPORTED BY ROSI and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Keena Tibbetts  
Board Recording Secretary

***Next TCAPS Board Meeting***  
***Monday, September 12, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.***  
***Tompkins Boardman Administration Center***  
***412 Webster Street, Traverse City, MI 49685***