

# **OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL**

## *Special Board Meeting – Minutes*

*Thursday, October 10, 2019 8:30am*

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Meeting held at:

At Peninsula Township Hall

13235 Center Road, Traverse City, MI 49686

1. CALL TO ORDER

Amanda Igra called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was held.

The following board members were present: Amanda Igra (President), Becky Seah (Vice-President), Jen Coleman, and Mike Smiley. Isaiah Wunsch was present via telephone. Mike Jager and Susie Shipman were excused.

Non-Board Members Attending:

Rick Couturier, OMPS Head of School

Beth Simon Assistant Principal

Matt Missias, GVSU

Amanda Renkiewicz, OMPEF President

Sarah Kroupa, OMPEF Secretary

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Coleman and supported by Seah to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

5. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

a. School Electrical Incident Update and Discussion

Couturier reviewed the timeline and outcomes of Monday's incident. The electrical issue occurred on Monday morning, when Couturier was offsite. Simon took the lead with Peninsula Fire Chief Gilstorff. All students and staff were effectively and safely evacuated from school and collected by their parents or guardians.

Couturier reported that planning for alternate locations began Monday, and the OMPS team met Tuesday morning to further plan for and evaluate alternate locations. Forecasting to families was difficult due to the plan needing adjustment 4 times between Monday and Wednesday. When the plan for an alternate location was unsuccessful due to state permitting requirements, the team started with logistics work for plan B – to organize half day curriculum-based off site excursions that would be effective instructional days.

Couturier stated that there is still no timeline for when we can return to the building and discussed the status of repairs and cleanup activities. Couturier noted that he will remain the liaison between the foundation and the board for the school building repair situation.

Igra: Thanked Couturier and asked how the board could support the team.

Smiley: Inquired of Missias and Couturier: "we are not the first school to experience this, so how does the state react in a situation we are in?"

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Missias responded:

This is a first time something like this has happened to me in 20 plus years of education. This is rare. The State has things in place to help support the school – such as an emergency waiver to not make up days at the end of the year. Permitting issues were unexpected by all parties, including the GVSU Charter Schools Office.

Couturier stated that knowing about the permit issue will guide OMPS in establishing all the requirements to be able to rapidly transition to an alternate location in the event of any future incident.

Renkiewicz: Noted that considering how much is happening behind the scenes, communication has been good. 9&10 News were in her neighborhood looking for information, going door to door asking families. She appreciated the note that Igra sent out.

Couturier explained that the OMPS team is working on all fronts: alternative scheduling, consistent messaging to school and community, and then once back in the building, looking at options to make-up days because the top priority is to educate the students.

Board members and staff continued to discuss communication strategies to ensure families could be provided with timely information.

Couturier expressed thanks for all of the assistance the community has offered, including the various locations for field excursions, and the alternate site options.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Renkiewicz: Angel Care has communicated well and has a place at Faith Reformed Church until we return to OMPS. Couturier noted that when they were seeking alternate locations, they were seeking to include space for Angel Care since they are a part of our school community.

Kroupa suggested that emails sent out include Rick's name at the end. People want to hear directly from the school leader, vs. the OMPS Team.

Renkiewicz: Asked should OMPEF defer to Rick for communication? And Couturier agreed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Coleman and supported by Seah.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.



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Board Secretary