

OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL
Special Board Meeting – Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:00pm

Meeting held at:

Via Zoom at

<https://zoom.us/j/6382772649?pwd=dUExaW5YckVKMDZqeFB5NnhYNFhqZz09>

Meeting ID: 638 277 2649 Passcode: 3SherD

1. CALL TO ORDER

Amanda Igra called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was held.

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

Non-Board Members Attending:

Danielle Clayton and Renee Kolle, OMPS Co-Principals

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Seah and supported by Jager to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote: Igra: yes, Seah: yes, Shipman: yes, Smiley: yes, Jager: yes. The motion was approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Susie Shipman read a letter submitted by Dirk Mammen (attached to meeting minutes).

5. BUSINESS

a. COVID-19 current regional risk and OMPS operations

Igra reviewed the extensive consultation and research she's been doing throughout the weeks both prior to and after school started. Igra noted that families who are not following the precautions recommended by MDHHS are putting our students, families and staff at risk. Igra outlines activities that she has become aware of where families of students are traveling or participating in non-socially distant activities and returning to school and noted this is disappointing to hear given how hard everyone at OMPS is working to keep the school a safe place and keep the school open. Igra suggests the OMPS Board draft a policy stating that families must limit their exposure and commit to following safety guidelines to protect staff, students and their families.

Igra's position is that OMPS has not had a confirmed case, and so closure may not be appropriate at this time given the importance of continuing in-person learning, which has been shown by a wide range of experts to be best for the students, underway. Igra notes that in the case of the TCAPS district, closure occurred due to a lack of staff coverage. OMPS may end up in that position, but that is not currently where we are. We do need to absolutely support OMPS staff, however, and look at real ways to do that. And keeping staff safe is a critical part of that.

Smiley agrees that staying open while keeping students and staff safe should be prioritized.

Jager believes the school should be open, but understands that people have rights to behave as they will. Jager stated that regardless of people's personal rights, families do need to make sacrifices in order for OMPS to remain open.

Seah notes that weekly health department calls attended by her, Kolle and Clayton provide current, local information directly from pediatricians. Pediatricians are still, as of this Tuesday, emphasizing that having kids in class is the most beneficial to children's health and well-being.

Shipman agrees that looking at a possible board policy and sending a strong and clear message to families that by not following MDHHS guidelines, they are putting the school operations at risk, and they

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are threatening the health and safety of fellow students, their families, and our staff, who are front line workers and are putting themselves at risk to educate people's children. The situation in the community and the risk factors will likely have to be evaluated week by week, and without due care being taken, OMPS will be forced to move to virtual learning.

Kolle and Clayton note that one of their main concerns for staff is that the majority do not feel safe, and their health and safety needs to be taken care of.

Monnie Peters notes that the Biederman Foundation has awarded OMPEF funds to support COVID-19 needs for the school, so OMPEF and OMPS should plan to spend those funds.

Smiley notes letter advising parents of importance of protecting the school by following guidelines should go out right away. Shipman agrees this is an important immediate first step.

Jen Wilson of OMPEF asks if rapid testing is a possibility?

Kolle notes that according to the health department, rapid testing is now currently being allocated to local health and medical needs, for example, people going into needed surgery. Seah agrees based on information she has heard through hospital information sources.

Board consensus was to remain open at this time and send letter to families as soon as possible encouraging MDHHS compliance.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None received from non-board members attending.

Shipman thanks the many attendees of the meeting and reminds people there is a regular board meeting on Friday and meeting information is on the OMPS website.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Shipman and supported by Seah.

Roll call vote: Igra: yes, Seah: yes, Shipman: yes, Smiley: yes, Jager: yes. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.



Board Secretary