

OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL

Regular Board Meeting – Minutes

Friday, February 19, 2021 8:30am

Meeting held at:

Via Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/99659370772?pwd=dlorWXIxNHU4aHhtM2FaVlh0RmRIQT09>

Meeting ID: 996 5937 0772

Passcode: 3SherD

1. CALL TO ORDER

Amanda Igra called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was held.

The following board members were present: Amanda Igra (President), Becky Seah (Vice-President), Mike Smiley, Mike Jager and Geoff Streit. Susie Shipman was excused.

Non-Board Members Attending:

Danielle Clayton and Renee Kolle, OMPS Co-Principals

Matt Missias, GVSU

Kelley Davis, Veritas Accounting

Monnie Peters, OMPEF

Rebecca Schubert, OMPS PTO

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Streit and supported by Seah to amend the agenda to add Business Item 10.j. Travel Policy and to approve the agenda as amended.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. MEETING MINUTES

a. January 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Jager and supported by Streit to approve the January 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

b. February 15, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Jager and supported by Streit to approve the January 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

6. OMPEF UPDATE

Monnie Peters reported that OMPEF has paid off their line of credit and is in good financial health. Working on organizing this year, Jennifer Wilson is helping with this and doing a great job. Focus on turning the school to be the best in the area.

Peters stated that some fixes to the building will happen over spring break. Hoping to actually be able to go into the building later this year.

7. OMPS PTO UPDATE

Rebecca Schubert, PTO President, reported on upcoming and completed activities: Cardboard sled race was a success, with creative and fun with great volunteers. Working on ways to include virtual students to participate more. March Wild About Reading month, food drive for Traverse City High School is coming, Michigan Science

OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL

Regular Board Meeting – Minutes

Friday, February 19, 2021 8:30am

center STEM for all classrooms, chemistry and physics, include virtual students in person or live feed. Virtual book fair.

8. GVSU REPORT

Missias:

- Reminder to continue updating the Covid Learning Plan.
- With regard to board vacancy, understand the board will be nominating Chris Johnston to start July 1st. This nomination will then go to the GVSU April board meeting for approval. Notes re-application by Igra should be in by March 7th. Reminds Streit that Missias needs his citizenship verification documents.
- Board Training: online, sign up and webinars one a month between now and June. Missias reminds the board members that the majority of the board needs to complete the trainings to receive the GVSU grant. An in person training can also be done if desired.
- School operations did well on the survey to help support the schools.
- Board meetings return to in person starting in April unless the bill changes for Open Meetings Act.
- Governor Whitmer submitted a budget with a modest increase for the following school year, it is still in the process of going through the legislature.
- Missias commended where OMPS is at and how far the school has come.
- FOIA: reminders of FOIA rules for public bodies.

9. MANAGEMENT REPORT(S)

a. Leadership Monthly Report

Clayton and Kolle reported on their overarching goals:

(1) *Support teachers with standards and curriculum needs:*

Teachers have completed the benchmark assessments. NWEA, Aimsweb, and Delta Math screener are finished and have been reviewed extensively. We have been able to celebrate growth. From the data review, we are able to look at where some students may need some extra help. We have a reading and a math interventionist that are here daily. These positions are supported from title funds received by the school.

(2) *Ensure the team at OMPS will feel secure and supported:*

Within the building we are forming committees to help and support in decisions that come up. Community outreach - the surveys going out to our families and establishing communication with the township. We are here, we support all staff and want them to feel supported.

10. BUSINESS

a. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Report

Clayton/Kolle reported on plan progress. In January, 91% of students made growth in math, and 84% of students made growth in reading. However, only 45% of students made the projected RIT growth. The original goal was 60%. Moving forward, the recommendation is by the Spring window, 85% of students will show performance growth as determined by the NWEA performance assessments in math and reading.

Proposed Action Item: Recertify Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Motion made by Seah and supported by Smiley to recertify the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as amended.

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

b. Michigan Charter Schools Grant Report

Seah: Working on requests and getting ready for first submission to the MDE.

Davis: First part of grant done: Did a fantastic job, we did not spend all the money we got due to the fact of things being purchased for less cost. Spent most of the money in instructional technologies and curriculum, text books etc for success in the future. We spend \$10k less than available in the leveled readers but we can use that in the next round to purchase additional readers. For the second round, we are collecting wish lists amounting to \$350K in total, and working on a more streamlined method of purchasing.

OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL

Regular Board Meeting – Minutes

Friday, February 19, 2021 8:30am

c. Monthly Financial Report

Davis summarized monthly financial reports, overall things are positive with the budget. Continue to monitor funds moving forward. Received Title 1 Grant funding. Going to receive a round of Covid-related funding soon.

Budget to actual and expenditures are at 60%, 54% of expenses are done due to timing of special education expenses coming later and under spent in some categories like landscaping/snow removal, tracking ahead of plan. Food service we are in really good shape, Theresa does a good job with food supplies, 34% thru this far. Overall in great shape, no concerns at this point. Planning on roughly 15% Fund balance. Healthy fund balances are 10-15%.

d. School Calendar 2021/22

Kolle: we will start after Labor Day, staff will start earlier with Professional Development. We start school Sept 7th and end June 17th. One significant difference is that first and last days are ½ days with special things planned after school with the whole school. One other ½ day, due to a long stretch between first day of school. Day off after conferences per usual. November 1st, the day after Halloween, is a day off, everything else is standard.

Jager: Have we talked about that snow day vs virtual?

Kolle: We have thought about it, it is being talked about in the legislature. We expect more direction from the state.

Motion made by Streit and supported by Jager to approve the 2021/2022 School Calendar as presented.

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

e. Wellness Policy

Clayton: Peggy from NCIS walked them through the policy. It recognizes the eating movement: we will post a food pyramid in the cafeteria and Theresa will speak about healthy food to students. Physical education program and it is not a form of punishment. All students should be entitled to a clean environment and outside is for everyone. Consumption of healthy food in the school. The last portion is about federal and state regulation and guidelines and ends with an overview. It is what we have done all along but this outlines it within policy.

Streit is it common for all schools to have this policy?

Clayton: Yes, for schools with Title 1 funding it is required.

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

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

f. Committee Reports:

No committee meetings were held.

g. Middle School Discussion:

Clayton/Kolle: from administration from our perspective looking at re-enrollment and survey: our recommendation K-5 seat schedule and make it K-6 when the number of students reaches a feasible level. Open enrollment is going on to the end of month and it is open with 6th grade included in the re-enrollment.

Jager: We had 8 committed for next year, break even was 8, we are at break even and fund balance is good right now. Should be a commitment for the long term and not a year by year decision. We need to show commitment, it does not show confidence if we are not committed. Long term is what we need to look at for the upcoming grades. Can we use the fund balance to supplement if we do not break even? Our area is growing so can the school.

Streit: 8 have committed through the survey, what is the push? 10 for sustainability. How much is the financial loss and how badly does this affect the school?

Davis: Students bring in roughly \$8000, so you will lose that for every student that you lose.

Igra: 8 indicated in the survey, have those 8 enrolled?

Clayton: No, 6 kids have re-enrolled

Igra: We have hurdles to overcome, we need strong support from parents that want to stay, submit the enrollment form and show up.

Jager: We have not been committed to it so it is hard to commit as a parent. The message must be more positive.

Igra: We are giving up the science lab, there is a lot of work to make it a good program. Do we want to give up the science lab for the whole school? There are consequences in the decision either way.

Jager: Do we have to give up the science lab?

OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL

Regular Board Meeting – Minutes

Friday, February 19, 2021 8:30am

Clayton: Not for next year but the following we would.

Igra: We want a great 6th grade program, it takes effort, money and people. We need resources from a great number of people. We need man power or we cannot create it.

Jager: 25 parents volunteered to help, a lot of 1st and K families offered to help. When we talk about it it is a 3-5 year plan. Excited to see the help, we will need them all to get to the goal.

Smiley: Wishy washy can be unsettling, what are we giving up? Trade off with a science lab, expectations of what parents want. Each grade is a challenge, extras are a challenge and each piece is costly. Is it just a 5th grade extension? What do parents expect out of our 6th grade?

Clayton: Teachers with self-contained mostly are k-8, if they teach all subjects. If you want a middle school to teach specific subjects you need to departmentalize. We could find a self-contained, if you want the departmentalized feel that becomes harder.

Igra: We can't afford multiple teachers.

Jager: I cannot speak for all but for some it is okay not to departmentalize.

Seah: As School Board members we are here to provide the best education we can and not just do a 6th grade to be an extension of 5th. We are here to educate and prepare our students.

Missias: If you do a K-6 seat schedule then we have to provide it.

Igra: We can do a K-5 seat schedule and say we need the numbers and leave the deadline as long as we want to add a 6th grade.

Jager: Monnie can I ask you, if we want to go on a limb if we lose one can the foundation help in the short fall?

Monnie: I cannot make a promise for the Foundation, would need to talk to the rest of the board. I know the issues and if you make the decision and you want to ask from the community you have to make an exciting case about it and what does it make to make it a strong school. Can we do a 6th grade and science lab in the physical plant?

Any change to the physical plant will not happen for this coming year but maybe in 3 years.

Jager: With what Monnie said, we do have the support.

Streit: Financially and going forward if the numbers go down I am willing to fail if we give it a shot. The number of people who wanted to help is the same number who would not volunteer, it can be an end game.

Monnie: When you ask to commit, how with time or money?

Jager: Both. In enrollment we have had 6, 5th graders are stepping up, not sure if we have yet or not. We have to go out on the limb at some point.

Igra: Hand in hand partnership, we need to protect the school financially, I am unwilling to leave it unprotected. We should try a seat schedule with K-5 and try for the 6th. We cannot do it for 3 kids. It is a partnership with the families but we need you to do your part.

Jager: 6-8 we can do it.

Igra: Where are the families that said they would come?

Seah: We need the Middle School Committee which includes 6th grade and our community to help to make this work from all sides.

Smiley: We cannot budget based on donations, it is not long term for the budget. We have to fix it going forward; we cannot rely on gifts.

Davis: Projection 3-5 years would that help to look at it as a whole?

Jager: That is tough, survey results are one thing, we just need to take some risk. The smaller grades are bigger, if we build it they will stay. I am not looking at it as a one year, it has to be a 3-5 year look.

Seah: Please give us a 3-5 year projection. That will be helpful in planning, we should look at everything.

Missias: GVSU is concerned about where the fund balance ends up and autonomy of the school. It is important to remember we went from 1/2% fund balance to 15% fund balance. That is amazing and took a lot of work on the behalf of Shipman and Davis.

Igra: Happy to see where we are with fund balance. We do need to protect the balance, we cannot go back to where we were before not being able to pay our bills.

Missias: GVSU has no preference what you do for middle school, concern in seeing financial and organizational stability, high education and long term with sustainability.

Igra: There is a lot of support, in the long term.

h. 2021-2022 Seat Schedule:

The Board considered the following seat schedule options:

Kindergarten: 36

Kindergarten:36

OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL

Regular Board Meeting – Minutes

Friday, February 19, 2021 8:30am

Grade 1: 36		Grade 1: 36
Grade 2: 36		Grade 2: 36
Grade 3: 44	or	Grade 3: 44
Grade 4: 44		Grade 4: 44
Grade 5: 44		Grade 5: 44
Grade 6: no		Grade 6: 44

The board continued discussion about the viability of offering 6th Grade including the seat schedule approval requirement, fiscal sustainability based on current enrollment, the numbers of students in current grade cohorts and future sustainability, options and requirements for blended classrooms, and the uncertainty the board is creating which causes parents to be leery of committing.

Motion made by Smiley and supported by Jager to table Approval of the 2021-2022 Seat Schedule.

Roll call vote: Igra: yes, Seah: yes, Smiley: yes, Jager: yes, Streit: yes. The motion was approved to table discussion and vote.

i. Board Nomination

Chris Johnston was welcomed to the board subject to GVSU approval in April.

j. Travel guidelines:

Seah: following the guidelines of CDC and GTC Health Department, if we vote to get rid of policy and ask for compliance with the guidelines, they still will have recommendation of quarantining.

Jager notes going out to eat is risky but people aren't being asked to quarantine after eating out.

Igra: Reason for the policy was concern for teachers, to keep school open. Little kids are not shown to be spreaders and teachers have been offered a vaccine, do not see a function for the policy at this time and so this is a vote to remove the policy.

Motion made by Jager and supported by Igra to approve the removal of the OMPS Travel Policy.

Roll call vote: Igra: yes, Seah: no, Smiley: yes, Jager: yes, Streit: yes. The motion was approved.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Courtney Gorman: Thank you for all you put into the school. Voice concern saddened by how the 6th Grade has been unrolling, understands these are big decisions. 6th was included in the pitch to the school, with projection middle school would come down the road. Why are the surveys not on the discussion months ago, this is hard at the enrollment process, it is disheartening that we are talking about this right now. The last three years my kids were planning on going to 6th grade, with lack of confidence now I do not know here we stand. Now we are looking at other options. When you say you need help from parents to stand up, there has to be a game plan and a dream. A vision is not being upheld. Seeking transparency. Thank you.

Igra: Thank you Courtney for your comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Streit and supported by Seah.

Roll call vote: Igra: yes, Seah: yes, Smiley: yes, Jager: yes, Streit: yes. The motion was approved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.



Board Vice President