OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Friday, October 16, 2026, 8:30am

Meeting held at:
Old Mission Peninsula School
2699 Island View Road, Traverse City, MI 49686

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was held.
The following board members were present: Shaina LaFond (President), Chris Johnston, Susie Shipman, Ben Walmer and Emma Gomez (arrived 8:33). Amanda Igra participated virtually (non-voting). Todd Sanders was excused.

Staff Attending:
Renee Kolle, OMPS Superintendent
Kaitlyn Bailey, OMPS Principal
Courtenay Kierczynski, OMPS Preschool Director

Members of the Public Attending:
Justin Nowland, School Resource Officer (SRO), Traverse City Police Department
Kelley Davis, Veritas Accounting (remotely)
Matt Missias, GVSU representative
Amanda Seguin, PTO

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion **made by LaFond and supported by Johnston** to amend the agenda to add as business item 5: "Presentation - Public Acknowledgement of School Resource Officer" and renumber the subsequent business items and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

5. PRESENTATION – Public Acknowledgement of School Resource Officer

Kolle introduced Justin Nowland and expressed gratitude to law enforcement, Justin specifically, for going above and beyond in response to a crisis situation. Justin showed empathy and care beyond his law enforcement duties to administration and students. Many students happily got in their cars after the incident due to the positive interaction Justin had with them. OMPS is forever grateful for law enforcement and Justin for recognizing the human side during a crisis.

6. MEETING MINUTES

a. August 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
b. September 22, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

LaFond made corrections to the September 22, 2026, minutes including correction to spelling of a name and noting that Heidi Hudson was on the call.

Motion made by Johnston and supported by Walmer to approve the August 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented and September 22, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. OMPEF UPDATE

LaFond notes that OMPEF held a meeting on Tuesday. Bailey met with Amy Couturier following the OMPEF about a donation for a video to be created for OMPS.

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8. OMPS PTO UPDATE

Seguin reported that Track & Trail came in lower than in previous years, but the PTO is in a good position because they came in with a good fund balance. The incoming VP is organizing additional fundraising events.

9. GVSU REPORT (Missias)

- Accountability and Compliance
    - Transparency: Annual Personnel Salary Disclosure Notice: Schools must list average salaries for new teachers, veteran teachers, and support staff on the academy website, as required by MCL 380.506.
    - Reminder that there are financial penalties for non-compliant credentials.
- Presidential Fitness Test
    - MDE has released a Guidance Document: Presidential Fitness Test Requirements for Michigan Schools
- Legislative Updates
    - Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC) program: The new federal income tax credit is for individuals who donate to nonprofit "scholarship granting organizations" (SGOs) (but Michigan has not opted in at this point)
- Financial
    - Notes that Davis will likely cover in detail recent changes regarding state aid
- Scholarships and Learning
    - GVSU Educator Scholarships are open now for a winter start
- Board Training
    - Virtual Board Trainings, which count toward the governance training component of the Academic Grant, are coming up, including today: October 16 — What Indicators of Distress Reveal about School Health; November 19 — School Performance by the Numbers; January 22 -- Board Succession Planning and Recruitment
    - Board President Leadership Retreat is on November 5 (LaFond is attending)
- Leadership
    - Leadership Forums this year include fall and spring Learning Walks at peer schools in November 2026 and May 2027, and the Winter Leadership Forum in March.
- Events and Miscellaneous
    - Save the Date for May 3 & 4 GVSU Annual Celebratory Events
    - GVSU currently has 495 Charter Scholars on campus (students that have come up through GVSU public charter academies)
    - GVSU was honored by US News as a top school

10. MANAGEMENT REPORT(S)

a. Leadership Report

Bailey

- Just finishing up beginning of year testing, with results looking really positive. The results will be shared at parent-teacher meetings coming up next week.
- Apple Crunch Day yesterday – OMPS would like to thank Farmer Warren for again donating apples
- New hire school counselor Amanda Tuma
- Thank you to GVSU for supporting sending staff to Atlanta
- Partner Solutions has been a great partner in the HR transition

Kolle

- Behavior Threat Assessment and Resource team training was completed
- Officer Martinez will be participating as a team member

Kierscynski

- Playground inspections tomorrow to add additional playgrounds to the OMPS license
- This is also a license renewal year, so Kierscynski is preparing for that

The board asked for an update on the status of previously proposed heating improvements. Kiercynski noted that the complicated nature of the LARA application has pushed the timeline for work on improvements.

Count day was 128. A new student in early November will be included in the official count, bringing the total to 129.

11. BUSINESS

a. Human Resources Transition Completion Memo/Quarterly Board Report (Partner Solutions)

Dryer introduces herself as the main point of contact for leadership and reviewed the included Transition Completion Memo.

b. Quarterly Financial Report – 1stQ 2026-2027 School Year

Davis reviewed state aid funding impacts to OMPS. One big change is regarding districts in declining enrollment. This year, MDE will take the last 3 years of enrollment average to determine 2026-2027 state aid allocation. Regarding 31a funding – the state took that bucket and made it a portion of the state aid payment, so it's now less restrictive in how it can be used. Reporting is still required, but will be less burdensome. Ultimately, the change broadens scope of how those funds can be used.

First quarter is proceeding as expected. Some early expenditures were made in technology. A future budget amendment will square up the HR administration costs since that final contract amount became known after the budget was approved.

Proposed Action Item: Approve Quarterly Financial Report – 1stQ 2026-2027 School Year

Motion made by Shipman and supported by Walmer to approve the Quarterly Financial Report – 1stQ 2026-2027 School Year as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Annual Financial Audit 2025-2026 School Year

Davis reported that the audit has already been filed with the state. New audit firm was great to work with.

Gave OMPS the highest level of assurance (ie. no misstatements or corrections needed).

Fund Balance is in a really healthy position at approximately 35-40% of revenue. As a reminder, this is due to the efforts made early on to build the fund, so that there is a cushion to assist in future years.

Davis to check that audit firm was aware of the lawsuit filed September 1.

Proposed Action Item: Accept Annual Financial Audit 2025-2026 School Year

Motion made by Walmer and supported by Shipman to accept the Annual Financial Audit 2025-2026 School Year as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. GVSU 2026-27 Supplemental Academic Grant Award for house system implementation

Proposed Action Item: Accept GVSU 2026-27 Supplemental Academic Grant Award for house system implementation

Motion made by LaFond and supported by Johnston to accept the GVSU 2026-27 Supplemental Academic Grant Award as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Legal Counsel Update

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The packet includes a resignation letter from OMPS' legal counsel. LaFond requested continuation of CS3 Law as OMPS general counsel until a new firm can be identified, which CS3 Law agreed to. LaFond requests formation of a committee to solicit for services, which the full board will then review and vote on engagement. LaFond requested that Igra participate on the committee.

Missias suggests it might be helpful for Kolle to participate in the committee process.

Motion made by LaFond and supported by Gomez to authorize formation of an ad-hoc board committee to investigate new general legal counsel representation and bring recommendations to the board at the November 20 regular board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

f. Committee Reports

Marketing Committee – Gomez will take leadership of the committee. Gomez will work on coordination with OMPEF about communication with OMPEF and the PTO, staff and students about content for the new video.

LaFond requests that all board members participate in GVSU virtual trainings.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Johnston and supported by Walmer. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

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Board Secretary

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