

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizens Group Launches “Yes for Kids” Committee Urges Residents to Support August 6 TCAPS Millage

Traverse City, Mich. – Today, a group of moms, community leaders, parents, grandparents, and citizens launched a “YES” committee in support of the Traverse City Area Public Schools August 6 bond proposal. The *Yes for Kids* committee believes the August 6 bond proposal includes essential needs that keep kids safe and thriving as they get their education in Traverse City Area Public Schools. The request on the August ballot would not increase the current tax rate; it will maintain the 3.1 mill rate, which is 40 percent below the average of all other Michigan public schools 5.4 mill rate.

“As TCAPS moms, parents, and citizens, we are asking the community to say “YES” in August to keep our kids safe and thriving with the proper equipment and enhanced learning spaces while preserving a historic part of our community,” said co-chairs and TCAPS Moms, Sara McCauley and Megan Brown. “These truly are needs – not wants – that will benefit our kids as they grow up and learn in Northern Michigan.”

Bond proposal highlights include:

1. **Safety and Security Enhancements:** Installation of doors, vestibules, cameras, electronic access and communications’ upgrades to ensure the safety of our students from violence or unexpected intruders and the purchase of buses to get our kids to and from school safely.
2. **Replacements of Old Infrastructure:** Replacing roofs, boilers, septic systems, and parking lots.
3. **Energy Efficiency & Performance Upgrades:** Upgrades to lighting, controls and switches.
4. **Learning Space Improvements:** Approximately 35,000 square feet of learning space enhancements, including K-12 Music, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).
5. **Central Grade School Renovations:** Preservation of the oldest school in the district located in downtown Traverse City with a renovation project.

The *YES for Kids* committee members include:

1. Sara McCauley, Co-Chair & Owner of Strategic Policy Consultants
2. Megan Brown, Co-Chair & Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Munson Healthcare
3. Cecilia Chesney, Chief Executive Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters
4. Jeff Spencer, VP Investments, Wedbush
5. Wayne Schmidt, Former Michigan State Representative and State Senator
6. Jayne Mohr, Retired Associate Superintendent, TCAPS
7. Dave Mengebier, Chief Executive Officer, Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
8. Sakura Takano, Chief Executive Officer, Rotary Charities of Traverse City
9. Heidi Britton, Chief Executive Officer, Northwest Michigan Health Services

10. Isaiah Wunsch, Chief Executive Officer, Wunsch Farms
11. Jen Seman, Senior Director, Priority Health
12. Lindsey Dickinson, Director of Student Success & Retention, Northwestern Michigan College
13. Alexis Juett, Quality Manager, Venturi Inc
14. Marilyn Vlach, Treasurer of the Central Neighborhood Association
15. Whitney Waara, Chief Operating Officer, Traverse City Tourism
16. Emily Wilbert, Director of Talent Management, Hagerty
17. Dr. Stephanie Galdes, Pediatrician, Kids Creek Children's Clinic
18. Fred Anderson, Active Retiree & Volunteer

"We are heartened by the support of so many other community leaders for this bond proposal which simply maintains our current tax rate, investing in our kids' future and Northern Michigan's future," added Brown and McCauley.

For more information about the committee or how you can support the effort, visit:
SayYesforKidsTC.com or 'Like' us on Facebook at *Yes for Kids*

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