

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
November 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2021 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mr. VanderVeen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Lentz, VanderVeen, Bruning, Edmonds and Klenow  
Absent: Butzin, Ulman  
Tardy: None

Administrators Present: Klinger (remotely), Danek, Suttle, Mochty, Bolen

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Suttle will present tonight's positive highlight. Mr. Suttle said last year the high school was recognized as a "Best" high school by US News and World Report. This year a new category has been added to recognize middle schools that meet certain metrics in math and English. Mr. Suttle announced that Tawas Middle School has been named a "Best" middle school ranking 241 of 818 middle schools in Michigan. A trophy will be awarded and will be displayed in the trophy case. He thanked the staff and students for their hard work and being recognized for this award. The board thanked Mr. Suttle for sharing this information and congratulated everyone on this achievement.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. Mrs. Amy Jenkins said we are very lucky to have such great leaders in the district, from teachers to administration to board members. She said she has spoken with people in other districts that don't have such good stories to tell. She thanked everyone for being transparent and for keeping everyone informed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2021 meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to approve the closed session minutes of the October 11, 2021 meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion by VanderVeen to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$867,451.66 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$57,505.39. There were no sinking fund bills to be paid. He also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$27,649.36 as funds become available. There was no sinking fund or lunch fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by Lentz. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

## **RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Klinger said he has received three letters of resignation. First is a letter from middle school teacher, Ryan Fritz. Mr. Fritz has accepted a teaching job in Grand Ledge and his resignation is effective November 28<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to accept Ryan Fritz's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Next is a resignation letter from cook's helper, Derek Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins is resigning for medical reasons. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to accept Derek Hopkins' letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Finally, we have received a letter of resignation from middle school educational assistant, Jennifer Dzuris. Mrs. Dzuris will be going back to school and plans to pursue a Master's degree in education. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to accept Jennifer Dzuris' letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending Mr. Rueben Edwards be hired as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball coach. Mr. Edwards has several years of experience coaching various age groups in basketball. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to hire Reuben Edwards as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Sancrant is recommending Mrs. Dina Mousseau be hired to fill a 3-hour cook's helper position. Mrs. Mousseau has food experience and will be a good addition to the food service department. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to hire Dina Mousseau as a cook's helper. Motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee met on October 25<sup>th</sup> to review new and revised policies. Tonight's meeting should be considered a first reading. He said policies reviewed included Definitions, Orientation, Public Participation at Board Meetings, Employment of Professional Staff, School-Sponsored Publications and Productions, Cost Principles on spending Federal Funds, Student Fees, Fines and Supplies, Property Inventory, Public Records, Personnel Files and Student Records. He indicated the committee is recommending adding two courses to the Orientation policy for new board members. Mrs. Edmonds said most of the changes are mandated and there are a few other minor changes. The committee would like new board members to take the CBA 101 course and the Open Meetings Act course. She said there was discussion on the Student Fees, Fines and Supplies as there was an option to take new language regarding the ability to pay if a student is homeless. The committee is not recommending taking that option in the policy. Mr. Klinger said administration has always worked with families in those situations and outside agencies have also assisted with fines or fees that may be due.

It was the general consensus of the board to consider this the first reading of new and revised bylaws and policies.

Mr. Klinger said the sinking fund committee also met on October 25<sup>th</sup>. They are recommending he put several projects out for bid or collect updated quotes so they can move forward completing them. Mr. Klinger will seek bids for a new sign for the middle/high school and for a FOB upgrade for both buildings. He will also collect updated quotes for ceiling tile replacement in the middle/high school, door and frame replacements in the middle/high school and contract with an engineer to review the locker rooms in the alumni gym. The estimate to complete these projects would be about the amount we add to our sinking fund account each year.

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to allow Mr. Klinger to seek project bids and updated quotes as discussed. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said several bills have been worked on over the last several weeks. SB 687-688 and HB 5404-5405 are setting up a voucher system, have passed and are headed to the Governor’s desk. It is expected that the Governor will veto these bills. SB 601-603 were passed by the Senate, and include a number of health related topics like masking, vaccines, public health, health departments, and local and intermediate school district powers related to health measures. SB 460 and other versions in the House are addressing critical race theory. The House met to listen to a discussion surrounding the potential addition of a half credit for personal finance and the reduction of a half credit for foreign language. There is a bill being discussed that would require MDE to issue teaching certificates to qualified veterans and a bill that was approved by the House Regulatory Reform Committee is supporting a cut in lottery revenues to the School Aid Fund. Mr. Klinger said more information will be forthcoming regarding all of these topics.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said the fall pupil count day was held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. It appears our headcount will be very close to what it was last year at this time. We expect a headcount of approximately 1166 students. We are paid on FTE rather than actual headcount and we anticipate our FTE will be 5 to 7 lower than that because of shared or part-time students. Our February headcount last winter was 1139, so we are up about 27 from that time.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek has written and received a grant to help her purchase the Summer Kids Read Now program for Clara Bolen Elementary students. Mrs. Danek said last summer the 40 lower students in each grade level participated in this program and it was very successful. By securing this grant, all students in the building will have the chance to participate this summer. She said the program develops motivation and comprehension. Students select a book that interests them. They read the book, discuss it with their parent or complete an activity, report that they have completed the book and order another book, which is mailed to the student. If they read 9 books they will receive a surprise when they return to school. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to approve the purchase as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Administration – Mr. Klinger said the OSHA COVID-19 vaccination, testing and face-covering emergency temporary standards (ETS) which apply to many employers with at least 100 employees was published last Friday. He said there are a lot of moving parts and he is waiting to hear MIOSHA’s response to the federal standards. At this point we will need to prepare to collect vaccination information from our staff or inform them that they may need to be tested weekly and show proof of that. We may need to adopt a policy in the very near future to deal with this mandate. Mr. Suttle said the Veteran’s Day assembly will be held this Thursday beginning at 9:44 a.m. The Band Bazaar will be held this Saturday, school will not be in session next Monday for safety day and the Thanksgiving break begins Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Mochty said there were 46 students with perfect attendance in the high school for the first marking period. She said Rachel’s Challenge was presented on October 19<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success. She thanked everyone that was involved in making it so successful. She thanked Mr. Fritz, Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Dzuris for their service to the district. Mrs. Bolen said celebration days have returned to the middle school this year and the first day highlighted fine arts with students being able to choose an activity that interested them. She said 40 middle school students had perfect attendance for the first marking period and 135 students made the honor roll. The students of the month have also been announced for November. Mrs. Danek said the professional development day on November 1<sup>st</sup> was a success

with Day 2 of the Kagan Cooperative Learning program presented. She said parent teacher conferences will be held this Wednesday and Thursday. 64 students achieved perfect attendance for the first marking period. Mr. Mejeur congratulated the varsity volleyball team on winning the district championship against Oscoda last Friday night. He displayed the district trophy for the board. The team plays at Houghton Lake against Beaverton tomorrow night. He said Aaliyah Cota competed in the state cross country meet over the weekend and placed 60<sup>th</sup> out of 257 runners.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds welcomed the new hire and thanked those that are leaving. She congratulated the middle school on their honor. She thanked Mrs. Danek for her great job writing grants. She congratulated the volleyball team on their district championship. Mr. VanderVeen echoed Mrs. Edmonds comments. Mrs. Bruning was pleased to hear the celebration days are returning for the students and that Rachel’s Challenge was a success. Mrs. Lentz said we have a great staff and there are so many opportunities for our students to excel. She thanked the sinking fund and policy committees for their work. She said Rachel’s Challenge is an excellent program and it really does affect change in the students. Mrs. Klenow also thanked Mrs. Danek for her grant writing abilities. She congratulated the volleyball team, Ms. Cota on her great finish at state competition and the middle school on being a “best.”

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mr. Klinger said he would like to schedule a budget committee meeting. It was set for Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.