

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
December 12, 2022

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Mochty, Danek, Clouse, Bolen.

### **POSITIVE HIGHLIGHT**

Mrs. Ulman said the board took a brief tour of Rachel's Closet in the high school building prior to the start of tonight's meeting. She said some of the Friend of Rachel (FOR) group members were there that have been involved in getting the closet set up. The Closet is fully stocked with a variety of essentials including clothing items, shoes and hygiene items, and are available to any student in need of these items. The board was impressed with everything available in the Closet and appreciates the hard work that has gone into making this accessible to our students.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Ulman asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. There were no comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the November 7, 2022 regular and closed session minutes and the November 21, 2022 special meeting minutes. It also included the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$885,119.86 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$69,301.09. There were no sinking fund bills to be paid. It also included payment of presented monthly bills from the general fund in the amount of \$16,337.64. Two letters of resignation were accepted; the first from middle school special education teacher, Mrs. Bobie Reser, whose last day of work will be January 20, 2023, and the second from assistant middle school principal, Mrs. Christine Bolen, whose last day of work will be January 2, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek is recommending Mrs. Tammy Childs be hired to fill the special education secretary position. Mrs. Childs has over 20 years of secretarial experience in a school setting and is familiar with Skyward, Microsoft and Google applications. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to hire Tammy Childs as the special education secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said he and Mrs. Klenow, who is a member of the ISD committee, attended the CASBA meeting held last Monday in Oscoda. Each district shared positive highlights about the programs they offer and Mr. Hutchison presented information regarding a possible future special education millage. Mrs. Klenow added that the group took a tour of Oscoda's buildings which was very interesting.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said there hasn't been much going on recently other than a few farewell speeches by outgoing officials. Things are expected to get busy soon after the beginning of the year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said we need to pass a standard resolution every year prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> so that we may collect taxes during the summer months. This provides funds so we don't need to borrow money to meet our expenses. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to adopt the Annual Summer Tax Resolution as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mrs. Ulman said Mr. Klinger's evaluation was completed recently with each board member scoring him in seven different areas. Mr. Klinger received an overall evaluation rating of 89.8%, which is in the highly effective range. Mr. Klinger said he had the opportunity to speak with each board member to get feedback on their individual scores, which was very insightful and useful moving forward. Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to accept Mr. Klinger's evaluation as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Ulman made a second motion to extend Mr. Klinger's contract for an additional year. Support by Bruning. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur has provided information regarding overnight athletic trips. Mr. Mejeur said the hockey team is requesting permission to stay overnight on December 30<sup>th</sup> following a game in Adrian and prior to a game in Ann Arbor. The golf team is also requesting an overnight stay on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Big Rapids. The team will participate in a two-day golf invitational. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to approve the overnight trip requests as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said over the last several months he has been updating the Emergency Operations Plan for the district. This plan provides procedures on how to handle many different potential emergency situations that may occur on campus and/or within the community. The plan is updated annually and involves approval from many different stakeholders including law enforcement, fire service, the county emergency manager and the district. Motion by Klenow, support by Butzin to approve the Emergency Operations Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Student Representatives – Ms. Schaaf said several students helped out at the Santa Breakfast this past Saturday at Clara Bolen. She said the Student Senate is planning a Christmas party next Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, after school for students. There will be games and activities, movies, hot chocolate and treats for the students. The final details are still being worked out. She said there will be a tip night soon at the Lodge restaurant to support Project Graduation activities.

Administration – Mrs. Clouse said The Education Trust – Midwest recently presented Clara Bolen Elementary with a check for \$3,500 for being a "Building the Hope School." The school was selected based on students from low-income backgrounds demonstrating above average academic proficiency rates in both ELA and Math for three consecutive years as well as the focus on small-group instruction to meet student needs. Mrs. Clouse said the building also received an additional time grant of \$21,000 for providing additional instructional time for students in grades K-3 who have been identified as needing additional supports and interventions in order to be reading at grade level by the end of grade 3. Some Clara Bolen Elementary teachers will be visiting Standish-Sterling Schools tomorrow and Wednesday to review the reading curriculum they are using. Staff have also visited Auburn Elementary to review their curriculum and they hope to have a recommendation in the near future on their curriculum choice. Mrs. Mochty thanked the board for visiting Rachel's Closet prior to tonight's meeting and thanked Mrs. Gronda for her years of service as she will be retiring at the end of next week. Mrs. Bolen said new donuts are available at Neiman's honoring the November students of the month. She said there are

several Christmas activities going on in the middle school and that end of unit testing is coming up in mid-January. Mrs. Danek said a new resource has become available through Up North Prevention which is geared to advance substance abuse prevention in northern lower Michigan. This resource will provide a proactive approach to education and advocacy for students regarding choices related to tobacco use, vaping, prescription abuse and underage drinking. Mrs. Danek said the first student advisory board committee meeting was held and they discussed student surveys that will go out at the semester. The middle school band and choir concert will be held tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. and the high school band and choir concert will be Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Mejeur said middle school sports are wrapping up next week. He said we hosted a wrestling meet last week which was very well attended. There will be two more home meets this season. The varsity girls' basketball team will be playing at Little Caesar's Arena this Friday against Alpena. The softball field on Newman Street is coming along nicely and the Athletic Booster's Reverse Raffle will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Klinger shared the journalism class's most recent newspaper with the board and said there are some great articles within. He thanked Mr. VanderVeen, who was unable to attend tonight, for his four years of committed board member service and said he greatly appreciates his dedication. He welcomed Mrs. Amy Jenkins, who will be joining the board in January and thanked Mrs. Gronda for her years of service to the district. He thanked Mrs. Bolen for her service as well, and wished her luck in her new position. He said the Education Foundation will hold their Tree of Learning tree lighting ceremony this Thursday night at halftime of the boys' varsity basketball game.

From the Board – Mrs. Bruning thanked Mrs. Bolen for her service, welcomed Mrs. Jenkins to the board and thanked Mr. VanderVeen for his service and commitment to the board. Mr. Butzin echoed her comments and said the wrestling meet was great last week. Mrs. Lentz thanked Mrs. Mochty for her work with Rachel's Closet and for keeping the FOR group active. She thanked Mrs. Bolen and Mrs. Gronda for their service to the district. She is excited about the new reading series at Clara Bolen, thanked Mr. VanderVeen for his service to the board and is pleased to hear about the new resource through Up North Prevention. Mrs. Klenow echoed the other comments and told Mrs. Mochty to let the board members know if they need items donated for Rachel's Closet. Mrs. Ulman thanked the student representatives for their update and agreed that Rachel's Closet was awesome to see. She also thanked Mrs. Bolen, Mrs. Gronda and Mr. VanderVeen for their service.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mr. Klinger said he needs to schedule committee meetings for policy, personnel, curriculum and budget committees. The budget committee meeting will be held prior to the January 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting and will begin at 6:00 p.m. The other three committee meetings will be held next Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, with the policy committee meeting at 5:00 p.m., the personnel committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. and the curriculum committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.