

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2025 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Ulman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Jenkins, Malewska, Butzin, Bruning, Miller, Ulman
Absent: Edmonds
Tardy: None

Administrators Present: Danek, Livingston, Hazen, Tiffany, Clouse

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Tonight's positive highlight was a presentation on cooperative learning coaching. Cady Rabbage, Isabelle Sapikowski, and Kelli Doan gave a presentation on the benefits of coaching and spoke about why they are passionate about this program.

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 Malewska to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the March 10th regular and closed session meeting minutes as well as the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,009,731.52. the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$523.90, and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$71,386.10. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$48,674.17. A letter of resignation was received from Mrs. Carla Carrigan, with her last day being June 5, 2025, contingent on any make-up days that may occur for any reason. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Danek said athletic director, Mr. Mejeur, is recommending Mr. Scott Menard be hired as the Varsity Football Assistant Coach. Mr. Menard has coached and volunteered in different football programs for many years and was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Bruning, support by Miller to hire Mr. Scott Menard as the Varsity Football Assistant Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending Mr. Dustin Falls be hired to fill the current JV Football Head Coaching vacancy. Mr. Falls has coached and volunteered in the Tawas football program over the past year and was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Malewska, support by Miller to hire Mr. Dustin Falls as the JV Football Head Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending that Mr. Brad Hatcher be hired as the Junior High Football Head Coach. Mr. Hatcher has coached and volunteered in the Ravens football program over the past few years and has volunteered as a coach in various other sports in the community. Mr. Hatcher was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Mr. Brad hatcher as the Junior High Football Head Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending that Mrs. Cassandra Thoryk be hired as the Middle School Cheer Coach. Mrs. Thoryk was a cheerleader in high school and has experience with the sport. She was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Malewska, support by Jenkins to hire Mrs. Cassandra Thoryk as the Middle School Cheer Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mrs. Danek said the policy committee met on April 7th to review new and revised bylaws and policies. She said tonight's meeting should be considered a first reading. The bylaws and policies that were reviewed included bylaws and policies (0131.1), immunization (5320), use of medications (5330), epinephrine auto-injectors (5330.01), student health, well-being and suicide prevention (5350), personnel files (8320), food services (8500), and wellness (8510).

Mrs. Danek said that the curriculum committee met on April 7th to review the curriculum budget presented by Mr. Hazen. After reviewing the information presented, the curriculum committee is recommending that the Board of Education support an allocation of up to \$275,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. This recommendation will be made in the form of a motion under New Business.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Danek talked briefly about House Bill 4156, which would be going through its second reading in the House on April 15th. This bill would affect music education and threatens to deprioritize music and arts education in favor of other subjects by expanding the required credit in visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts to include a variety of classes that would satisfy this requirement, as well as proposing an additional 2 credit requirement for high school students to complete ½ credit in personal finance and ½ credit in workplace development, and the remaining 1 credit would be fulfilled from a list of courses in ELA and Science. The bill also recommends that students complete the 2 credit foreign language requirement sometime between K-8 and would increase the science requirement from 3 credits to 4 credits. Mrs. Danek said she is keeping an eye on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Danek said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook. Mrs. Clouse then presented the recommended changes to the handbook which included changes to the transportation service section and bus riding policy, and changes to disciplinary measures, as well as the inclusion of the BRAVE matrix. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2025-26 Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook.

Mrs. Danek said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Tawas Area Middle School student handbook. Mrs. Tiffany then outlined the changes to the handbook, which included changes to disciplinary measures and the addition of a new policy regarding derogatory remarks. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2025-26 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook.

Mrs. Danek said that tonight should be considered the first reading of the Tawas Area High School student handbook. Mr. Livingston briefly discussed the recommended changes to the handbook which included changes to the discipline policy, the addition of a policy outlining the consequences of tampering or manipulating safety equipment, addition of bus rules, addition of a discipline policy regarding derogatory remarks, GPA multiplier change, and two options for grading academic seminar and how the two options would affect the GPA calculation for students. Motion by Malewska, support by Ulman to change the grading scale for academic seminar to state that students enrolled in academic seminar will receive a traditional letter grade (A-F). This verbiage would make academic seminar count towards the students overall Grade Point Average and all students would have a GPA based on 7 classes. No: Jenkins, Butzin, Bruning, Miller, Ulman. Yes: Malewska. Motion failed. Therefore, the handbook shall stay as is regarding academic seminar, remaining a Received Credit/No Credit (RC/NC) course. It was the general

consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2025-26 Tawas Area High School student handbook.

Mrs. Danek said tonight should be considered the first reading of the athletic code of conduct handbook. Mr. Mejeur briefly outlined the changes, which included changes to the pay to play fee as well as changes to the athletic participation fee guidelines, changes to the guidelines and contract for student regarding social media, and changes to the middle school eligibility clause and activity conflicts for students who are actively involved in more than one extracurricular activity occurring at the same time. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2025-26 athletic handbook.

Mrs. Danek said the curriculum committee discussed setting a cap or a limit on the amount that can be spent on the curriculum budget. Motion by Malewska, support by Bruning to approve curriculum purchases up to \$275,000 as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that the school calendars for the next 2 school years have been completed and are ready to be shared with all stakeholders once they are approved by the board. The calendars are very similar to this past year's calendar. Motion by Bruning, support by Malewska to approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school year calendars as presented. Yes: Jenkins, Malewska, Bruning, Miller, Ulman. No: Butzin. Motion carried.

Mrs. Danek said that last year the Board approved a busing contract with the AEA of Iosco County in an effort to help improve in-person attendance at the AEA. That contract expires in June of this year. In order to be able to continue to provide this service to the AEA, the contract must be approved for renewal. Motion by Malewska, support by Bruning to approve the renewal of the busing contract with the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that a bid opening was held on April 1st for the installation of video recording systems on district school buses. School officials opened and reviewed one bid in the amount of \$68,513. Mr. Lichota is recommending that the Board approve the bid from ProVision Solutions, LLC for a total of \$68,513. Motion by Bruning, support by Jenkins to accept and approve the vehicle camera installation bid from Pro-Vision Systems in the amount of \$68,513. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that she is recommending that all expired administration contracts be extended out through June 30, 2027. The contracts will reflect a 3% wage increase for 2025-2026 and there will be a wage opener for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning to approve the administration contracts as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said she is requesting approval from the Board to enter into an agreement with Iosco Substance Free Coalition authorizing Tawas Area Schools to serve as the fiduciary for the coalition. Motion by Malewska, support by Butzin to approve the agreement assigning Tawas Area Schools as the fiduciary for the Iosco Substance Free Coalition. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek stated that Mr. Mejeur is requesting approval to enter into a contract with FinalForms to enable the athletic department to collect signatures from parents/guardians electronically on required forms and documents. Motion by Ulman, support by Malewska to allow Tawas Area Schools to enter into a contract agreement with FinalForms as presented for one year, at which time the Board will review this agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek stated that she is hearing a lot of positive feedback about Mr. Don Axline.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Student Representatives – Ms. Whetstone spoke briefly about different fundraising activities that have been taking place to raise money for Project Graduation. Ms. Kloska talked about SAT and MStep testing, and stated that the Spanish Club is going to Saginaw Valley on the 17th of this month.

Administration – Mr. Livingston said that testing had started for middle and high school students and thanked his team for all of their hard work. He also stated that YAC provided a nice day for students after testing was completed. Mr. Hazen talked about updates to the policy handbook and also highlighted a student who received the “Caught Being Awesome” award. Mrs. Tiffany spoke about the middle school students getting to go roller skating as a reward for behavior and highlighted the students of the month. Mrs. Clouse highlighted students of the month in the elementary school and said STEAM night was great. She also stated that they currently have 62 students signed up for kindergarten next year. Mr. Mejeur talked about 3 students who have signed with colleges to play college sports.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mrs. Danek reminded board members of the Special Board Meeting on April 28th at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Brad Banasik would be presenting a workshop to the board on Closed Sessions.

Mrs. Danek said that they needed to schedule a board governance committee meeting to review the board operating manual. This meeting was scheduled for April 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., right after the special meeting.

Mrs. Danek said a health center committee meeting also needed to be scheduled so that they can review the consent form after Alcona Health Center makes the changes requested. The board decided to wait to schedule this meeting and schedule through text at a later time.

Motion by Bruning, support by Malewska to enter into a closed session for a student discipline hearing at 8:40 p.m. A roll call vote was taken the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to return to open session at 8:55 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to expel Student 2024-2025-#8 for 180 days with the opportunity to petition the board at the regular board meeting in January of 2026 for possible reinstatement. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Jenkins, Malewska, Butzin, Bruning, Ulman. No: Miller. Motion carried.

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to enter into a closed session regarding contract negotiations and the superintendent evaluation discussion at 9:05 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to return to open session at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Malewska to approve a one-time bonus in the amount of \$2,000 each for Mrs. Beverly McCoy and Mrs. Lindsay Harvey. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.