

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
February 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Klenow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Danek, Clouse, Livingston

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse will present tonight's positive highlight on the Building the Hope Schools Award. Mrs. Clouse said this is the second year that the Education Trust-Midwest named a cohort of Building the Hope Schools. Five schools in the state received this award, including Clara Bolen Elementary. Data was reviewed from the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. Analysts conducted analyses through in-person visits and interviews of the schools' learning environments before the winners were selected. Clara Bolen Elementary was selected as a Building of Hope School based on its students from low-income backgrounds demonstrating above average academic proficiency rates in both ELA and math for three consecutive years, as well as the school's focus on small-group instruction to meet student needs and its role as an intentional center of community in our town. Each Building the Hope School received a \$3,500 honorarium award. Mrs. Clouse thanked the staff, students and administration for their involvement in the process leading to this award. The board thanked Mrs. Clouse for the presentation and congratulated everyone involved for their part in receiving this award.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Ulman asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. Mr. Jeff Schlagel told the board he is a 1993 Tawas alumni who is proud of his school and its continued academic success. He is concerned with the lack of participation in our school sports programs. He said there are several "club" programs available outside of school that many students participate in. Those programs seem to be successful and he wonders why that isn't translating into our school sport programs. He said it seems our teams aren't winning as many district, regional and state championships as we once did. He understands our student numbers are down but feels there should be more students participating in our high school programs. Mrs. Ulman thanked him for sharing his concerns.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Ulman said that board officers need to be selected for the calendar year. She asked for nominations for President. Mr. Butzin made a motion to nominate Shannon Klenow for President. Mrs. Edmonds made a motion to nominate Julie Ulman for President. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call vote was taken on the nomination for Mrs. Klenow as president. Yes: Jenkins, Bruning, Butzin and Klenow. No: Edmonds and Ulman. Mrs. Klenow was selected as president and then took over the meeting.

President Klenow called for nominations for Vice-President. Motion by Butzin, supported by Bruning to nominate Jennifer Bruning for Vice-President. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call was taken on the motion to nominate Jennifer Bruning as vice-president. Motion carried unanimously.

President Klenow called for nominations for Secretary. Motion by Bruning, supported by Klenow to nominate Julie Ulman for Secretary. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call was taken on the motion to nominate Julie Ulman as secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

President Klenow called for nominations for Treasurer. Motion by Bruning, supported by Butzin to nominate Ami Edmonds for Treasurer. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call was taken on the motion to nominate Ami Edmonds as treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the January 9th, January 23rd special and January 23rd closed session 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 \$864,739.15, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$18,847.05 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$80,355.41. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$16,395.90. Letters of resignation were accepted from cook's helper Derek Hopkins, educational assistant Darion Briggs, Clara Bolen special education teacher Nanette Rousseau (retirement) and boys' assistant track coach Doug Livingston. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said interviews were held to fill the middle school assistant principal vacancy. At this time, he is recommending Mr. Doug Livingston be promoted to fill the position. Mr. Livingston has 17 years of experience teaching in Tawas. He is currently enrolled in MASSP's Educational Leadership program to help him earn his administrative certification. He is a dedicated educator who has proven to keep students' interests first and has earned the respect of staff, students and families. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve Doug Livingston as the middle school assistant principal and approve his administrative contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Sancrant is recommending Ms. Cynthia Zube-Piorkowski be hired as a cook's helper. Ms. Zube-Piorkowski has experience working in food service and has worked at the Iosco County Commission on Aging. Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to hire Cynthia Zube-Piorkowski as a cook's helper. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said last month the policy committee presented a revision to policy 0144.1 on Board Member Compensation, changing the compensation from \$30 to \$50 per meeting. It is the recommendation of the committee that tonight be considered the second reading of this revision to policy **0144.1**. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to adopt the policy change as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said two members of the personnel committee sat in on the second round assistant middle school principal interviews on January 25th. At the conclusion of the interviews, the panel discussed the strengths of each candidate, understanding that the superintendent would make the final decision the following week.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said the Senate has passed revisions to the Read by Grade 3 reading law. He said the governor has presented her proposed budget with \$19 billion dollars marked for school/education funding. The budget is still a work in progress and there will be more updates to come. The governor is also looking at several proposed tax cuts.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said three bids for the LED lighting and energy upgrade were received and opened on January 31st. After a thorough review of all bids, including follow up interviews with the companies, Mr. Lichota is recommending the board approve the bid from Electro-Matic for

\$385,395.22. Mr. Klinger said we expect the project may take 3-4 weeks and should be completed this summer. There are sizable rebates available for the project and the amounts of those rebates may vary based on when the project begins. Mr. Lichota is following up on those details. Motion by Butzin, support by Ulman to accept and approve the lighting bid from Electro-Matic for \$385,395.22. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said two bids were received and opened on February 3rd for the gymnasium floor replacement project at Clara Bolen Elementary. After reviewing the bids, and following up with the companies, Mr. Lichota is recommending the board approve the bid from Bay Area Specialty Flooring, LLC for \$104,050. Mr. Klinger said the floor is over 30 years old and the tile flooring will be replaced with a synthetic rubber product which will provide a secure grip. The project will be completed this summer. Motion by Edmonds, support by Ulman to accept and approve the floor bid from Bay Area Specialty Flooring, LLC for \$104,050. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Clara Bolen literacy coach, Ms. Amy Kennedy, is here to present information regarding the new ELA resource to help support staff at Clara Bolen Elementary. Ms. Kennedy explained the new curriculum and the process they went through to arrive at their top choice. A literacy committee was formed with representatives from each grade level, along with Mrs. Clouse, Ms. Kennedy and Mrs. Tiffany, the Title I teacher. Samples were requested from companies to review, and meetings were held with the companies. The choices were eventually narrowed down to two and visits were scheduled at schools currently using the curriculums. The team observed classrooms in those schools and had the opportunity to ask questions of the teachers. Pros and cons of each were evaluated and the team agreed that HMH Into Reading was the best option. HMH has agreed to allow us to pilot the program with all materials for free for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Danek added that the Readers and Writers Workshop training that staff has already received will flow well into this curriculum. The board discussed the purchasing options in terms of years and decided the 6-year option would be best. Motion by Ulman, support by Klenow to approve the curriculum purchase for 6 years as presented, up to \$300,000. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that MASB has provided information on the candidates running for the seat on the Board of Directors for Region 2. There are three candidates running for one seat. The board reviewed the candidate information for each, and all agreed they would like to cast their ballot for Mr. Doug Parkes. Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to cast the Board's vote for Doug Parkes for the MASB Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said as a part of P.A. 48 Section 98b, the State of Michigan has asked all school districts to provide academic data on K-8 students for both reading and math by February and before the end of the school year. Mr. Klinger said he has provided the board with an achievement/growth data template that outlines our mid-year goals. It also provides the percentages of students who are meeting those goals. Mr. Klinger also presented a slideshow outlining the specific academic areas being focused on in math and reading for each grade level. The board thanked Mr. Klinger for the update and sharing the information.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Student Representatives – Ms. Push said the representatives and advisory committee attended a Super Regional Connect day in January that was excellent. She said other students from districts in the Bay City area attended and it was a student-driven day. They picked up some great ideas for new activities and ways to make improvements to things they are already doing. The committee will soon be reviewing the results of the recent student survey.

Administration – Mrs. Danek said the Reverse Raffle was held over the weekend and was a success. Basketball districts are coming up soon for both girls and boys. Five wrestlers qualified at District competition and will be moving on to Regionals. She said we hosted District band solo and ensemble on February 4th. Our students were involved in 26 events with 11 students

receiving Division II Excellent ratings and 15 students receiving Division I Superior ratings. On January 14th, six middle school and high school students participated in District choir solo and ensemble. Three events were for comments only and one event was scored, with a high school duet earning a score of a One so they will go on to state competition in April. 24 students had perfect attendance for the second quarter and 9 for the entire semester. The annual Snowcoming dance will be held on February 25th. Mr. Livingston said 18 students had perfect attendance for the second quarter and 6 did for the semester. 126 students were named to the honor roll for the semester. He said students enjoyed an ice skating reward day last Thursday for modeling good behavior and another group will go this Thursday. A character education assembly will be held in March for students featuring holocaust survivor, Irene Miller. Mrs. Clouse said a literacy family night will be held on March 8th and a staff and family skate night will be held this Friday beginning at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Klinger said we just underwent an intensive Title I audit that turned out very well. We passed 8 of 9 categories with one small coding issue that the auditor would like us to update. We had very little time to gather documents for the audit but the auditor commented that he was impressed with how prepared we were. Mr. Klinger reminded everyone of the special election on May 2nd for the renewal of the operational millage. He will begin meeting with groups and providing information on the renewal this week. Mr. Klinger thanked Mr. Schlagel for sharing his concerns with the board and said he will be in touch with him to follow up.

From the Board – Mrs. Klenow said she has been on the board for 8 years. Each board member has their own ideas on various topics and they all try to make the best decisions they can, even if they don't always agree with one another. The board hires the superintendent to make decisions on behalf of the district, and they need to support those decisions. The board's job is to set policy and follow it. Tawas is a great district and we should all be proud of that. Mrs. Edmonds congratulated the students making the honor roll and those with perfect attendance. She welcomed Mr. Livingston to his new role and thanked the Clara Bolen team for their curriculum recommendation. She asked that they share future data updates regarding results of the new curriculum. Mrs. Jenkins is excited about the new curriculum purchase and congratulated the athletes and music performers. Mrs. Bruning thanked Mr. Schlagel for sharing his concerns and congratulated the students on their accomplishments. Mrs. Ulman said she attended the CBA 259 class through MASB on creating trust as the key ingredient in school improvement. She said they are always working to foster a strong bond of trust between the board, the staff and the community. She thanked the ELA curriculum team for all the work they put in to research and present the best option for our students. Mr. Butzin welcomed Mr. Livingston and thanked Mr. Lichota for his work with the upcoming projects.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.