

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 8, 2024

President Bruning called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2024.

Mrs. Ulman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Danek, Livingston

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

There was no positive highlight at tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz, to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the June 24, 2024 special meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,152,951.96 and the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$61,900.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$73,109.06. There were no presented monthly bills to be paid. A letter of resignation was received from high school teacher, Kelly Shufelt, who will be retiring after 26 years, effective August 29, 2024. Mrs. Klenow stated that she wanted to congratulate Mrs. Shufelt on her retirement.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said that Mrs. Clouse is recommending that Ms. Kacindra McComb-Hardin be hired as a special education, educational assistant. Ms. McComb-Hardin has 12 years of experience as a paraprofessional at South Lyon Community Schools. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to hire Ms. Kacindra McComb-Hardin as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mrs. Clouse is recommending that Ms. Arianna VanderVeen be hired as a special education, educational assistant. Ms. VanderVeen has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Grand Valley State University and has experience as a school success liaison and as a registered behavior technician. She is currently enrolled in the Teachers of Tomorrow program to be a certified Pre K – 3rd grade teacher. Motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to hire Ms. Arianna VanderVeen as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mrs. Clouse is also recommending that Mrs. Jackie Schoendaller be hired as a special education, educational assistant. Ms. Schoendaller has completed her LPN and has several years of experience in the medical field. She is actively involved in the community and has children who attend Tawas Area Schools. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to hire Ms. Jackie Schoendaller as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Danek is recommending Ms. Maureen Schick be hired as a secondary math teacher. Ms. Schick has a bachelor of science in mathematics from Michigan Tech with endorsements in mathematics, computer science, physics and grades 7-8 all subjects. She has

36 years of teaching experience. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to hire Ms. Maureen Schick as a secondary math teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek is recommending that Mr. Nicholas Frees be hired to fill the middle school special education vacancy. Mr. Frees is a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University with a bachelor of art in secondary education. He will be renewing his certification endorsements in history and political science and will actively seek certification in the special education field through a credentialed program. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to hire Mr. Nicholas Frees as a middle school special education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek is also recommending that Mrs. Katherine Stratz be hired to fill the secondary business teaching vacancy. Mrs. Stratz is a graduate of Ferris State University with a bachelor of arts in business administration, with double majors in marketing/finance and accounting. Mrs. Stratz will actively seek certification in secondary education through Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow. Motion by Lentz, support by Ulman to hire Mrs. Katherine Stratz as a long term substitute teacher until she completes the Teachers of Tomorrow program and passes the MTTC test, at which time she will become a fully-certified TAFT member. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said that the policy committee met prior to tonight’s meeting to review a new bylaw and policy. This policy is required to be in compliance with the 2024 Title IX regulations, which become effective on August 1, 2024. Mrs. Lentz stated that the current Title IX policy must stay in place due to the statute of limitations. Any infraction that occurred prior to August 1, 2024 will follow the current policy and any infraction that occurred after August 1, 2024 will follow the new policy. Mr. Klinger stated that he did inquire as to the length of the statute of limitations but was unable to get a straight answer on that. Mr. Klinger also said that the committee discussed the fact that a resolution must be passed to waive the 2nd reading policy and there must be a “compelling reason” to do this. The compelling reason would be the fact that the legislation is effective August 1, 2024. Due to this timeline, the Board must pass a resolution to waive the second reading of the policies and adopt them after one reading. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to recognize that there is a compelling reason to adopt the new Title IX policy that addresses recent revisions to the Title IX regulations after one reading under Bylaw 0131.1 to ensure the Board’s policies comply with 2024 Title IX regulations effective August 1, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Policy 2264 – Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities was reviewed. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to adopt Policy 2264 in the interest of complying with 2024 Title IX regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger stated that nothing has been finalized as far as the state budget goes, but it is likely that the Governor will sign the proposed budget. Mrs. Ulman asked if there was a way to explain to the general public that there was not an increase in the per pupil foundation allowance, but there was a \$400/pupil increase due to the reduction in the MPSERS rate of 5.8%. Mr. Klinger said he will look into this and will follow up with the board. Mr. Butzin asked if we planned for this. Mr. Klinger said we did not plan for this. We estimated a per pupil increase of \$200.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said that he wanted to give kudos to the technology and maintenance departments for their hard work and the completion of many projects. He said the pole barn project is going well. The siding and roof materials are on order and they are currently working on the mezzanine. Mr. Klinger said the door project is estimated to begin at the end of

July. He also stated that Hendrix & Sons, the construction company who completed the addition to the school, was able to get in touch with the project architect, Madonna, and they are in the process of scheduling a virtual meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the issues that the district is having with the windows in the new gym. Mr. Klinger also mentioned that the packets for the July 10 special meeting would go out on Tuesday, July 9. There were 10 total applicants for the Superintendent position. All of the information submitted would be included with the packet so that the Board would have time to review the applications prior to the workshop. He stated that the Board would need to focus on reviewing candidates, scheduling interviews and finalizing interview questions at the workshop.

Mrs. Ulman stated that since the window project is just now being scheduled for a meeting, what would happen if this issue carried over into the time period when Mr. Klinger has retired. She wanted to make sure it didn't fall to the wayside. Mr. Klinger stated that Mr. Lichota has taken the lead on this and will continue to do so and he will make sure that the next Superintendent is aware of the situation.

Student Representatives – There were no student representatives at the meeting.

Administration –Mr. Livingston said that he was happy to report there was a \$50,000 surplus in the curriculum budget from the prior year so that money was able to be used toward this year's curriculum. He was able to schedule all of the purchase orders for the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Livingston also spoke about attending the EdCon Conference in Traverse City with Mrs. Clouse. This conference is offered by MASSP. He said that Mr. Gerry Brooks, who is a principal and has become Tik Tok famous, was one of the main presenters at the conference and said he had a great time. Mr. Livingston said he learned about some good resources for curriculum and made connections with new people. Mrs. Danek said that High School summer school/credit recovery started today. They had a good turn out today. She also mentioned that she spoke with Mr. Jerashen and he informed her that he felt the parade went well and the transition with Ms. Hilton seemed like a good one.

From the Board – Mrs. Ulman asked if the application period is closed for the Superintendent position. Mr. Klinger stated that it closed on July 5. Mrs. Lentz congratulated Mrs. Shufelt on her retirement and thanked Mr. Livingston and Mrs. Clouse for attending the EdCon Conference. Mrs. Klenow thanked Mr. Klinger for keeping the Board on track and also thanked Mr. Livingston and Mrs. Danek for their work on the curriculum. Mrs. Edmonds reiterated the comments made prior.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger reminded the Board that there would be a board workshop on July 10 at 5:30 p.m. to review applications for the superintendent position.

Mr. Klinger also reminded the Board of the Superintendent Evaluation Training Workshop on Wednesday, August 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.