

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
And
Public Hearing of the Proposed 2022-2023 Budgets
June 13, 2022

Mr. Klinger convened the Public Hearing of the proposed 2022-2023 budgets at 7:05 p.m. He presented the proposed budgets.

Mr. Klinger said we anticipate we will receive approximately \$15,081,416 in revenue for the 2022-2023 school year. The revenue amount includes monies from local, state, and federal sources along with incoming transfers and other small transactions.

We expect our expenditures to be about \$15,313,556 in the next year. That means we will have an excess of expenditures over revenue of about \$232,140. Our projected fund equity in the general fund on June 30, 2023 is estimated at \$4,525,929.

Considering that the state budget has not been signed we have used a conservative scenario for budget predictions. Using the 90/10 student blend, the revenue budget is based on an estimated 1116.68 FTE (full time equivalents) next year which is down 40 FTE from the current 1156.20 FTE. Revenue estimates include a \$400 per pupil increase in the foundation grant. We have used current year allocations for next year's grants and Categoricals and included the portion of the ESSER II and ESSER III Federal Funds which have been released so far. The expense budget has been built based on assumed contractual obligations and expense estimates. Mr. Klinger said we also need to set the tax millage for the 2022-23 school year. He said we plan to levy 18.0000 mills for general fund operational, 1.0000 mill debt retirement to meet our eighth year of payments on our current bond issue and .4963 mills sinking fund for a total millage of 19.4963 mills.

Mr. Klinger then presented the Lunch Fund Budget. He said we anticipate total revenue of \$715,653 and total expenditures of \$783,087 leaving an estimated fund balance on June 30, 2023 of \$145,515 with a proposed program loss of \$67,434.

Mr. Klinger presented the Debt Retirement budget. We are expecting total revenue of \$552,178 based on the debt retirement tax levy of 1.00 mill. After paying our bond payment of \$582,563 it is expected that we will end the year on June 30, 2023 with \$95,697 in fund balance.

Mr. Klinger presented the Sinking Fund budget. We are anticipating total revenue of \$274,097 based on the sinking fund tax levy of .4963 mills. Expenditures of \$255,000 are estimated leaving a fund balance of \$460,504 on June 30, 2023.

Mr. Klinger presented the Student/School Activity Fund budget. Revenues of \$332,221 are expected with estimated expenditures of \$325,337 leaving a projected fund balance of \$280,362 on June 30, 2023.

Mrs. Lentz asked if the student/school activity fund included all activity accounts. Mrs. McCoy said it does and the revenue and expenditures are estimates based on past activity. Mr. VanderVeen asked if anything new has been added to the committed and assigned fund balance. Mrs. McCoy said no, nothing has been added. A building trades lot was removed from inventory when the middle school building was sold. There were no other questions.

Secretary Bruning called the regular meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. VanderVeen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: VanderVeen, Lentz, Butzin and Bruning

Absent: Ulman, Klenow, Edmonds

Tardy: None

Administrators Present: Klinger, Suttle, Mochty, Bolen, Danek

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Suttle introduced Ms. Mounts who is presenting tonight's positive highlight. Mr. Suttle said that Ms. Mounts taught the yearbook class this year and she will share information about the class. Ms. Mounts said along with producing this year's yearbook, the class of about 14 students also produced a newspaper. She said there were three editions and it was assembled and edited by the students. The newspaper highlighted students that were involved in athletics, art, and many other student events and activities. She hopes to increase readership next year and would like to have a monthly newspaper published. The Board thanked her for the presentation and is pleased to see the great work being done.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Bruning asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. Mrs. LaJoice announced that she is the new TAFT president. There were no other comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 board meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to approve the closed session minutes of May 9, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

In the absence of board treasurer Mrs. Edmonds, a motion was made by VanderVeen to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,001,879.36, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$2,880.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$65,844.61. He also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$9,372.89, 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 four letters of resignation. First is a letter of resignation/retirement from high school secretary, Shannon Loeffler. Mrs. Loeffler has worked in the district for the past 29 ½ years and her last day of work will be July 29th. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to accept Shannon Loeffler's letter of resignation, thank her for her years of service and wish her well in her retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a letter of resignation from cook's helper, Terri Trinklein. Ms. Trinklein's resignation was effective June 8th. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to accept Terri Trinklein's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger received a letter of resignation/retirement from bus driver, Brenda Toska. Mrs. Toska has worked for the district for the past 13 years and her resignation is effective June 30th. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to accept Brenda Toska's letter of resignation, thank her for her years of service and wish her well in her retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

Finally, Mr. Klinger received a letter of resignation from cook's helper, Cheryl Whitford. Mrs. Whitford's resignation was effective June 1st. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to accept Cheryl Whitford's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said with the resignation of our former maintenance supervisor in May, he has held interviews to fill the vacancy. During the process he found a candidate who has experience in both transportation and maintenance. He is recommending Mr. Brandon Lichota to fill the position of Transportation/Maintenance Supervisor. Brandon has several years of experience, holds several certifications and has a great work ethic and leadership skills according to his current employer. Mr. Klinger is recommending a one-year contract for Brandon so his contract will align with other salaried employees in the district. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Brandon Lichota as the Transportation/Maintenance Supervisor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger also interviewed candidates to fill the vacant custodial position. He is recommending Mrs. Shelly Guthrie to fill this position. Mrs. Guthrie has worked in custodial and maintenance positions for several years in the school setting and is held in high regard for her work ethic and attendance by her former employer. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Shelly Guthrie as a custodian for Tawas Area Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee met on May 4th and 11th to continue negotiations discussions. A financial package for TAFT was discussed on May 4th, and a tentative agreement was reached with that group. The TAFT negotiations team presented the information to their group on May 9th, and the group then voted and ratified the contract on May 11th. The negotiations committee met again on May 11th and a financial package was completed for non-certified and administrative staff. The personnel committee also met on June 8th to discuss the applicants for the Clara Bolen Elementary Principal position. Several candidates have been selected for interviews and dates are being scheduled to conduct the interviews.

Mr. Klinger said the ad hoc term length committee met on May 23rd to discuss whether the board should consider keeping term lengths at four years, or lengthening them to six years. The committee discussed pros and cons between the two options, reviewed survey data that showed over 86% of stakeholders are in favor of keeping terms at four years, and discussed former board member perspectives on the topic. At this time, the committee has concluded that the term lengths should stay at four years, and that the policy committee can review ways to support new members.

Mr. Klinger said the budget committee met prior to Monday night's meeting to discuss the 2022-2023 budgets. The current numbers are estimates based on the information we have at this time. Those numbers will change, and will be addressed through the amendment process. The current June budget adoption is necessary so the tax levy can be set by the June 15th deadline.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said he has been following the Let MI Kids Learn Initiative, which has been a focus topic recently. He said this is a two-part proposal that would allow tax write-offs for contributions to scholarship-granting organizations, and create school opportunity scholarships for parents to use in certain private educational settings. This is another attempt at

providing educational vouchers. These programs would divert hundreds of millions of tax revenue away from public schools each year and could mean that \$1 billion could be taken away annually within the next five years. Mr. Klinger said this is not on the ballot to be voted on but he will continue to watch for updates. He said the House and Senate are proposing HB 5190 which would require students to take a half credit of personal finance as part of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The proposal has moved on to the governor's desk.

NEW BUSINESS

The board meeting schedule for the 2022-23 school year was presented and reviewed by the board. The regular meeting of the board will be held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the administration building. If another meeting is needed during the month, a special meeting will be called with proper notification. Mr. Klinger is requesting the November meeting be moved up one week to November 7th. The board was fine with the schedule as presented. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to adopt the meeting schedule as discussed and as set forth in the board packets. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger explained that Huron Community Bank has been our depository for a number of years and he sees no reason to change. They have been very accommodating and have provided excellent service. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin that Huron Community Bank be designated as the depository for the Tawas Area Schools for the 2022-2023 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the Board needs to designate the Federal Programs Director for the coming year. Mrs. Danek was assigned to oversee our Title programs four years ago and was named as our Federal Programs Director. Mrs. Danek has done a great job with the consolidated grant and has learned the system and rules of the program. The plan is for Mrs. Danek's replacement to transition into this role as the year progresses and that person is able to learn the responsibilities. For now, Mr. Klinger is recommending that Mrs. Danek be named again as the Federal Programs Director. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz that Sarah Danek be designated as Tawas Area Schools' Federal Programs Director. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Lentz expressed concern that it may be too much for Mrs. Danek to be the middle/high school principal and continue as the Federal Programs Director. Mrs. Danek said the grant timelines have been delayed this year and she feels comfortable at this time with continuing in this role.

Mr. Klinger said the 2022-23 budgets have been presented and reviewed and asked if there are any more questions. There were no other questions at that time. Mr. Klinger said there are still many unknowns and the budgets are based on anticipated numbers. Board secretary, Mrs. Bruning, made a motion to approve the Resolution for Adoption of the proposed 2022-23 budgets of Tawas Area Schools and set the 2022-23 tax levies as presented. The 2022-23 tax levies will be as follows: 18.0000 mills for General Fund Operations, 1.0000 mills for the Debt Retirement Fund, and .4963 mills for the Sinking fund, for a total millage to be levied of 19.4963 mills. Support to the motion by Butzin. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board is required to adopt a resolution each year to allow us to officially become a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the next school year. This allows Tawas Area Schools to participate in MHSAA meets and post season tournaments. Mrs. Bruning made a motion to approve the Resolution to Participate in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the 2022-23 school year as presented. Support to the motion by VanderVeen. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said as part of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, the State of Michigan has asked that the district provide academic data on our K-8 students for both reading and math by the conclusion of the year. Mr. Klinger then reviewed the Achievement/Growth Data Template that outlines our mid-year and end of the year growth goals, and it provides the percentages of students who have met these goals. He said this data is being used to help determine how to support our students as we move forward. He said we will continue to administer our State approved assessments moving forward so we can collect data to provide the necessary interventions for the next several years. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to approve the information as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that TAFT voted to ratify the tentative agreement that was presented on May 4th. The negotiation process addressed wages only. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to approve and ratify the contract with TAFT per the tentative agreement. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The negotiations committee discussed the non-certified handbook on May 11th, which included a wage package for those employees. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to approve the non-certified handbook as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The negotiations committee also discussed a wage package on May 11th for administrative contracts. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to approve the administrative contracts as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said last June the personnel committee met with him to develop his merit goals for the year. The merit goal was created to help provide learning opportunities that supplement academic growth, exposure to fine arts and academic enhancements beyond our tutoring programs for the school year. An additional goal was also created for a possible new summer program for academic achievement. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to approve the merit pay for Mr. Klinger as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he has monitored the athletic department this past school year and he is recommending that Mr. Mejeur's contract be extended by one year. This will then align his contract dates with other salaried employees within the district. Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur has done a great job this year and he has been a positive addition to the staff. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to extend the athletic director's contract for one year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said for the last few decades, Tawas Area Schools and the surrounding districts have supported each other in times of unusual circumstances outside of the more common special education support services provided by IRESA. A resolution has been provided which allows us to participate in the process, and to share expenses for uncommon interventions like extra health care support outside of the normal day, transportation to special programs outside of our area, or sign language interpreters. He is recommending that we adopt this resolution for a period of five years, starting with the 2022-2023 school year and ending with the 2026-2027 school year. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to adopt the resolution for a shared cost agreement as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Huizar has presented information regarding our safety software. Mr. Huizar is requesting permission to change from our current provider, Go Guardian, to a new product called Aristotle. His research has shown that Aristotle will provide the same safety features we currently

have but at a reduced price. He inquired if Go Guardian's price would be less if we signed a 3-year contract, but it did not meet the price per year we are being offered through Aristotle. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to purchase Aristotle K12 through Sergeant Laboratories, Inc. for a price not to exceed \$11,500.00. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Klinger said even though the school year has wrapped up things are still moving at a fast pace. The maintenance staff is busy working on summer projects. He thanked the maintenance crew for all their hard work this year. He is looking forward to the new E-Sports program that we hope to offer sometime this next school year. Mr. del Rio has been working to get the program in place in conjunction with Mr. Huizar. Mr. Mejeur said our student athletes placed highly at the state track meet on June 4th both individually and in team events. He said summer camps are already underway and it will be a busy summer of athletics. Mrs. Danek said academic awards were handed out to Clara Bolen students and five students had perfect attendance for the year. Summer school began this week for a 3-week period, and another 3-week course will begin in August. Mrs. Mochty said five students achieved perfect attendance for the year, including one senior. Scholar letters and pins were awarded to the underclassmen and treats were provided. Rachel's Challenge has continued to go strong with 175 active FOR members at the end of the year. The members provided birthday treats and postcards to all students, welcomed new students with tours, etc. and the connecting chains were completed in the hallway with two days left in the school year. Rachel's Closet will open this fall for students. Part II of Rachel's Challenge will be held September 13th. She thanked Mrs. Loeffler for her years of service and said she will be missed. Mr. Suttle concurred with that comment. He welcomed the new hires and thanked the exiting employees. Middle school summer school began this week and high school summer school will begin July 6th and will continue for six weeks. He thanked Mrs. Warner for doing a great job this school year in the counselor position. Mrs. Bolen said the students of the month for June were named and a middle school award assembly was held in May. Students were rewarded for their NWEA testing and were treated with a field trip and an ice cream day. 5th and 6th grade students traveled to Alpena to the Shipwreck Museum and 7th graders enjoyed roller skating, pizza and kickball games.

From the Board – Mr. Butzin thanked everyone for their hard work and great job this year and thanked Mr. Suttle for his service to the district. He said the students did a great job on the yearbook and newspaper. Mrs. Lentz welcomed the new hires and thanked the exiting employees. She thanked Mr. Klinger for keeping the board up to date and said Mr. Mejeur has been a great addition to the district. She thanked Mrs. Mochty for continuing to promote Rachel's Challenge and wished Mr. Suttle good luck and thanked him for his service. She agreed that the newspaper looks great and thanked Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Huitema for their work on the budget. She also thanked the teachers that are working on the curriculum mapping. Mr. VanderVeen agreed with the prior comments and wished everyone a great summer. Mrs. Bruning reiterated the other comments and said Project Graduation was great with all students participating and encouraging one another. She thanked Mr. Mejeur for his good work this year and looks forward to the new ESports program.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said there will be a special board meeting on June 27th at 7:00 p.m., a budget committee meeting that same day at 6:00 p.m. and the personnel committee will meet on June 21st to conduct elementary principal interviews.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.