

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mr. VanderVeen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

Mr. Butzin arrived at 7:01 p.m.

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Mochty will present tonight's positive highlight. Mrs. Mochty said as this is the "season of giving" many students and families have received meals, gifts and other necessities through various groups including the Spanish Club, Student Senate, Holy Family Catholic Church's Quilter's Club, Iosco PRIDE and Jostens. Items provided include personal care items, free meals and gifts, quilts, backpacks and other donations. Following the Rachel's Challenge presentation, a "Friends of Rachel" (FOR) Club was formed. Five main themes were organized with groups of students focusing on their theme. Themes include Look for the Best in Others, Dream Big, Choose Positive Influences, Speak with Kindness, and Start Your Own Chain Reaction. Each themed group have projects they will work on including creating complimentary locker signs and hallway posters, providing new student tours, making birthday boards/postcards, posting a "potty press" in the restrooms and assigning paper chain monitors/collectors. The groups meet once a month to work on their projects and/or to have a team activity. The board thanked Mrs. Mochty for the presentation and are pleased to see the positive results of the Rachel's Challenge program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on ESSER funding. There were no comments. Mr. Klinger added that this is a new item under public comments on the agenda and will be on the next few months' agendas. He said that stakeholder feedback was solicited through a survey in November, but he wants it known that he is available by phone or email to answer questions regarding the ESSER funds that anyone may have. Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. There were no comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to approve the special meeting minutes of December 2, 2021 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by VanderVeen to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$850,805.69 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$59,350.65. There were no sinking fund bills to be paid. He also moved to approve payment of presented bills

for the general fund in the amount of \$39,290.08 and for the lunch fund in the amount of \$64,053.95 as funds become available. There were no sinking 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 three letters of resignation. First is a letter from Clara Bolen educational assistant, Carla Carrigan. Mrs. Carrigan plans to pursue her teaching degree in special education. Her last day of work will be January 10th. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to accept Carla Carrigan's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger also received a letter of resignation from assistant JV football coach, Pete Scott. Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to accept Pete Scott's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Finally, we received a letter of resignation from head varsity football coach, Aaron Hazen. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to accept Aaron Hazen's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Suttle held interviews to fill the upcoming secondary English and Spanish teaching vacancy. He is recommending Mrs. Mandy Sigulinsky for this position. Mrs. Sigulinsky has a Bachelor's degree in secondary education with a major in Spanish and a minor in English. She also has her Master's degree in educational administration. She has several years of teaching experience and was selected as the top candidate for the position. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Mandy Sigulinsky as an English/Spanish teacher. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek has interviewed candidates to fill a special education educational assistant vacancy and is recommending Ruby Swales for this position. Mrs. Swales holds a Bachelor's degree in healthcare and is currently seeking her teaching certificate. She has been subbing in this position since the school year began. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to hire Ruby Swales as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said athletic director, Jonathan Mejeur, is recommending the following spring coaches for hire: Jim Gorman – varsity baseball; Derek Hopkins – JV baseball; Marcus Doan – varsity softball; Pat Fritz – JV softball; Paul Aylett – girls' soccer; Paul Vainer – golf; Scott Jorasz – boys' head track; Doug Livingston – boys' assistant track; Brianna Griffiths – girls' head track; Aaron Hazen – girls' assistant track; Jenifer Caldwell – 7th grade track; Kaelene Horn – 8th grade track. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire the coaches as presented by athletic director Jonathan Mejeur. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee presented new and revised board policies at the meeting last month. The following policies were discussed at that meeting and it is the recommendation of the policy committee that we consider tonight as the second reading of these new and revised board policies: **0100** Definitions (Revised); **0142.7** Orientation (Revised); **0167.3** Public Participation at Board Meetings (Revised); **3120** Employment of Professional Staff (Revised); **5722** School-Sponsored Publications and Productions (Replacement); **6114** Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds (Revised); **6152** Student Fees, Fines and Supplies (Revised); **7450** Property Inventory (Revised); **8310** Public Records (Revised); **8320** Personnel Files (Revised); **8330** Student Records (Revised).

Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to adopt the presented changes to board policy as presented by the policy committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said he continues to monitor the status of the court proceedings surrounding the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard. As a district, protective steps have been taken to be prepared if the ETS becomes an official mandate, including adopting policy, setting administrative guidelines and collecting medical information from staff. Mr. Klinger said the House passed legislation regarding the addition of a half credit of personal finance and the reduction of a half credit of foreign language. Mr. Klinger said language has been introduced that may require staff training on seizure protocols. He will continue to follow this legislation.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said we need to pass a standard resolution every year prior to January 1st 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 Butzin to adopt the Annual Summer Tax Resolution as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said this past June time was spent reviewing the ESSER II and ESSER III allocations and ideas of how to utilize this money to support our students within the district. The United States Department of Education has released grant money which local education agencies (K-12) can apply for in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These ESSER grants will provide school districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had on our students. These funds are designated for one-time or short-term expenditures. In November, we solicited important stakeholder feedback through a survey. This information was reviewed by the administrative team and was included in our expenditure plan. Based on the survey feedback, the top five responses included social/emotional supports and instructional supports for reading, ELA, and math; instructional learning materials for learning recovery; additional learning opportunities; indoor air quality improvements; services and staff for interventions for students with disabilities. Other ideas included technology upgrades and improvements, purchasing custodial supplies for disinfecting, staff professional development, and purchasing buses with improved ventilation. Mr. Klinger encouraged any stakeholder to contact him directly if they have questions surrounding this topic, so he can address them personally.

Mr. Klinger said he has been working with maintenance supervisor, Mr. Couch, and they have an estimate for the ceiling tile replacement project of approximately \$70,000 plus the removal of the old tiles. Mr. Klinger said there are plans to complete a boiler project, a FOB upgrade and the installation of a new sign outside of the middle/high school building. He said the \$70,000 estimate is a large scale project based on square footage. He said the sinking fund committee had also discussed a door replacement project but the information he has collected so far indicates each door could cost up to \$5,000 and there are about 50 doors and frames to replace. That project will not be able to be completed at this time if we choose to complete the other projects that have been planned. The board asked Mr. Klinger if there would be enough money to complete the other projects if the ceiling tile replacement was done. He confirmed that. The board agreed that we should move forward and collect bids for the ceiling tile project. Motion by Butzin, support by Edmonds to collect bids for the ceiling tile project. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Klinger said heartfelt sympathy, along with thoughts and prayers are extended to Oxford Community Schools following the tragic event there two weeks ago. He said student and staff safety remains our top priority. He said the Emergency Preparedness team met again recently and he met with 7 law enforcement officials last week from state, county and local agencies. The radio booster project completed last year is working great as all of the law enforcement officials said they have great reception inside our buildings now. He said our camera system server is currently being upgraded and those officials have access to our cameras. The state police have asked if we would be interested in having a school campus police liaison officer in the district. There is potential legislation that may recommend that. He said a safety practice drill is scheduled this summer in Hale similar to the one we hosted a few years ago. Mr. Mejeur said winter sports are underway. Mrs. Mochty thanked the counseling office for their work compiling a list of families to provide donations to. Mrs. Bolen said the students of the month have been named and thanked Mrs. Martin for bringing plays and music back to the classrooms. She said NWEA testing begins this week in the middle school. Mrs. Danek thanked Mr. John Bolen for the fantastic work on the new sign in front of Clara Bolen Elementary. She said US News and World Report has named Clara Bolen a “best” school ranking 122 out of 3,181 elementary schools. She said 47 students have been supported with donations and thanked Mrs. Garrison for her work on that. Mr. Suttle congratulated the middle school students that received I and II ratings at the recent Solo and Ensemble competition. There is a middle school band concert tomorrow night and a high school band and choir concert Thursday night. The first semester ends January 14th with exams being held that week.

From the Board – Mr. Butzin thanked everyone for their hard work and thanked Mrs. Mochty for the FOR presentation. Mrs. Lentz said she is thankful that we had the Rachel’s Challenge program recently and is sure it helped our students cope with the Oxford incident. She welcomed the new hires, thanked the exiting employees and thanked the administrative team for their long hours and hard work. Mrs. Bruning said she is happy to hear there will be a safety practice drill next summer so we are sure all entities are prepared if an emergency ever arises. She congratulated Clara Bolen on being designated a “best” elementary school. Mrs. Ulman is also grateful we were able to present the Rachel’s Challenge program and we are seeing great results already. She welcomed the new hires and thanked Mr. Klinger for the ESSER funds update. She also congratulated Clara Bolen for being recognized as a “best” school. Mr. VanderVeen was pleased to hear about the safety meeting with law enforcement officials and that there are ongoing safety measures in place. Mrs. Edmonds thanked the community and agencies for their donations to support our students in so many ways. She asked Mr. Klinger how many responses were received to the ESSER survey. Mr. Klinger said he received 213 responses. Mrs. Edmonds told everyone to enjoy their Christmas break and thanked everyone for all they do. Mrs. Klenow congratulated the students of the month, the middle school solo and ensemble participants, and thanked Mrs. Mochty for the FOR presentation.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said a budget committee meeting has been scheduled for January 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to take a short recess at 8:00 p.m. before going into closed session for a student discipline hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Edmonds to go into closed session for a student discipline hearing at 8:12 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Ulman to return to open session at 8:47 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by VanderVeen that student 2021-2022-#2 be expelled for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Yes: Butzin, Lentz, VanderVeen, Bruning and Edmonds. No: Ulman and Klenow. Motion carried.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Edmonds to return to closed session at 8:51 p.m. for superintendent evaluation discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Ulman to return to open session at 9:09 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.