

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
February 9, 2026

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Jenkins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2026 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Edmonds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Miller, Ulman, Edmonds, Butzin, Jenkins  
Absent: Bruning  
Tardy: Malewska

Administrators Present: Danek, Livingston, Hazen, Clouse

### **POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Prior to the meeting, Mrs. Danek and those members of the Board who wished to go traveled over to Clara Bolen Elementary to see the new intercom system in action. Board members got to witness firsthand how the system functions when there is an emergency.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Jenkins asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. She stated that public comment would be limited to 3 minutes. There was no public comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins, to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the January 12<sup>th</sup> regular and closed session minutes. It also included the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,053,897.31 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$61,573.08. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$15,485.53. Motion carried unanimously.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending that the Board approve the hiring of Mr. Cody Jordan as the Boys' Varsity Soccer Assistant Coach. Motion by Edmonds, supported by Butzin, to hire Mr. Cody Jordan as the Boys' Varsity Soccer Assistant Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said Mr. Mejeur is also recommending Mr. Will Luzar be hired as the Varsity Girls' Track Head Coach. Motion by Edmonds, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Will Luzar as the Girls' Varsity Track Head Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said the Board previously approved Mrs. Stephanie Loew as the 9<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coach. Mr. Mejeur is recommending that the Board approve transitioning Mrs. Loew into the JV Volleyball Coaching position. Motion by Edmonds, supported by Malewska, to approve transitioning Mrs. Stephanie Loew from her position as 9<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coach to JV Volleyball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – The budget committee met this evening prior to our regular meeting to review the general fund budget amendment. The information presented will help take conservative estimates from June of 2025 and provide more actual amounts that discussed pupil FTE, categoricals, salaries, benefits, revenues, expenses and other changes that help give a more accurate picture of the district's financial status. We will have a more formal update under new business with an opportunity to ask questions of Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Huitema.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Danek said there are currently two bills being reviewed by the Senate Education Committee, Bills 4556-4557, which would remove the requirement that students complete the writing portion as part of the Michigan Merit Examination and eliminate the mandate that MME scores be printed on student transcripts. She also informed the Board that House Bills 5310-5312 are before the House Workforce and Education Committee, and these bills would require all Michigan school districts to accept enrollment applications from non-resident students and allow them to fill available spots in the district. Lastly, Mrs. Danek talked about the executive budget recommendations being released last week by the governor.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Danek said as she mentioned earlier, the budget committee met to review the changes to the general fund budget. He said that a conservative 2025-26 budget was adopted in June prior to the governor signing the current state budget. Many estimated numbers have now been amended to reflect actual amounts. Specifically, our pupil FTE is up from an estimated 1,120 to 1,139 and the foundation allowance is up from an estimated \$9,750 to an actual \$10,050 per pupil. Categoricals have also been updated to reflect allocations on the status report. Expenses have been updated to reflect current contracts. Grant allocations have been adjusted to year to date actual. We are presenting an amendment that shows a June prediction of deficit spending - \$54,027 to an amended budget surplus of \$178,806. Per auditor recommendation, we are assigning \$1,613,796 of the fund balance long term to show that we want to protect and sustain positions that were funded through ESSER funds. Although this information gives us a closer picture of the 2025-2026 budget, there are still estimated items. The final amendment will be presented in June. Motion by Malewska, supported by Butzin, to adopt the amended 2025-2026 General Fund Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending the creation of an assistant boys' golf coach position, compensated at 60% of the base wage in accordance with Appendix A, as well as a girls' wrestling coach position, compensated at 80% of the base wage pursuant to Appendix A. These paid coaching positions are intended to support increased student participation and the continued growth of the respective programs. Implementation of these positions is contingent upon reaching a letter of understanding with the union regarding compensation and terms of employment. Motion by Malewska, supported by Miller, to approve the creation of an assistant boys' golf coach position, compensated at 60% of the base wage in accordance with Appendix A, contingent upon the district reaching a letter of understanding with the union regarding compensation and terms of employment. Mr. Butzin questioned where the 60% of the base wage and 80% of the base wage came from. Mrs. Danek said those percentages are based on the length of the season and the number of participants and in comparison with other positions similar in nature. Motion carried unanimously. Second motion by Malewska, supported by Miller, to approve the creation of a girls' wrestling coach position, compensated at 80% of the base wage in accordance with Appendix A, contingent upon the district reaching a letter of understanding with the union regarding compensation and terms of employment. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Axline is recommending that the Board approve the purchase of new devices to sustain our one-to-one Chromebook initiative in the amount of \$94,801.00. She said the quote was included in the board packets. She is recommending that the Board accept and approve this purchase request. Motion by Edmonds, supported by Malewska, to approve the Chromebook purchase in the amount of \$94,801. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek stated that the current band uniforms have been in service for several years and are showing signs of normal wear and tear. In order to maintain a professional appearance and ensure consistency for performances and competitions, Ms. Emma Hilton, the Band Director, is requesting approval to allocate funds toward the purchase of new band uniforms. The proposed expenditure would cover the cost of replacing the existing uniforms and would support the ongoing needs of the band program. Final selection and purchase would be brought back to the Board for approval. Included in your packet is a quote from Fruhauf Uniforms, Inc. in the amount of \$52,644 for the purchase of 75 uniforms, along with an image of the proposed uniforms. As communicated

by Ms. Hilton, the Band Boosters have committed to contributing \$3,000 toward this purchase. Motion by Malewska, supported by Ulman, to approve the allocation of funds in an amount not to exceed \$54,000 for the purchase of new band uniforms, contingent upon Board approval of the final uniform selection. Mrs. Jenkins asked for any discussion. Board members pointed out that the amount of \$54,000 was above the amount asked for by the band and discussed approve an amount up to \$50,000 instead. Mr. Butzin stated that there needs to be a plan put in place to allocate money each year toward uniforms to help with this purchase in the future and so that it is not such a huge expenditure when they need replaced again. A roll call vote was taken. No: Malewska, Miller, Ulman, Edmonds, Butzin, Jenkins. Motion failed. Motion by Malewska, supported by Jenkins, to approve the allocation of funds in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the purchase of new band uniforms, contingent upon Board approval of the final uniform selection. Mrs. Danek clarified that this purchase would not require an RFP due to the cost of one single uniform being under the threshold for bidding. Therefore, the presented design would be the final uniform design. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Huitema, Payroll/Benefits Coordinator, is requesting that the Board approve employer-paid life insurance coverage in the amount of \$10,000 for all non-certified employees. Currently, non-certified staff with medical coverage have life insurance but employees who do not elect medical coverage, do not have life insurance. Non-certified staff are essential to the daily operation of our schools, and this benefit would provide meaningful support at a minimal cost to the district. The coverage would cost less than \$50 per month, or approximately \$600 for the school year. This change would also allow our insurance software system, Employee Navigator, to perform a file feed which would make this process more efficient. If approved, this change would be effective March 1, 2026. Motion by Edmonds, supported by Malewska, to approve employer-paid life insurance coverage in the amount of \$10,000 for all non-certified employees, effective March 1, 2026. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Malewska, Miller, Ulman, Edmonds, Jenkins. Abstain: Butzin. Motion carried.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek said that State Superintendent Dr. Maleyko will be on campus next week and has a full agenda for his visit, which includes visiting classrooms and meeting with administrators. She also said that members of the student counsel attended the Regional Super Connect and advanced to the state finals in Grand Rapids.

Student Representatives – Ms. Kloska affirmed that the Regional Super Connect event was a lot of fun. She also talked about spirit week for Snowcoming and said participation was great. Ms. Hayes said that Snowcoming was very successful and stated that they sold 40 more tickets than last year. She also talked about hosting a Parents Night Out next Saturday, where students will do crafts and activities with kids while parents get to enjoy a night out.

Administration – Mr. Livingston said Mrs. Tiffany and Mrs. Warner were out of town at a conference. He said the middle school took students to the ice skating rink as a reward for students with no discipline issues in the first semester. He also stated that the middle school has had 5 new enrollments since the start of the second semester, while the high school has 4 new enrollments. Mr. Livingston said new leadership teams in the middle and high school have started up and met twice now, as an enhancement to the MICIP teams, and focusing on good teaching practices. He also said that teachers took part in professional development today with a focus on restorative practices and behavioral issues. Lastly, he said that he got to attend the AP Summit with Mr. Hazen. Mr. Hazen shared that Snowcoming was awesome. He said the AP & Dean Conference focused on discipline and not forgetting the good kids. Mr. Hazen also talked about the professional development that teachers attended that focused on knowing the whole child and strategies to de-escalate. He said there are currently 3 students in the high school that they are working through the truancy process with. Mrs. Clouse highlighted the students of the month for the elementary school. She said pupil count day is on Wednesday. Laps for Learning will take

place on February 20<sup>th</sup>. March is reading month. Literacy night will be on March 11. She also talked about starting a behavior team and said they will be digging into intervention strategies.

From the Board – Mrs. Malewska said she got to attend the band solo and ensemble, and it was awesome. She said it was a great experience for the kids. She also congratulated to girls' varsity basketball team on their win. Mrs. Ulman thanked the administration for their work and said she is excited to have more coaches on staff. Mrs. Edmonds gave a shout out to Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Huitema for their work on the budget and making things so easy for them. She also thanked Mrs. Huitema for bringing the life insurance policy for non-certified employees to the board. Mrs. Jenkins thanked Mrs. Huitema and Mrs. McCoy. She said she is glad to see more help with golf and wrestling and congratulated the band.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mrs. Danek reminded the policy committee of the webinar with Thrun on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 11:30 am. She asked if anyone would need an alternate to attend this or if everyone could commit to both sessions. Mr. Butzin said he would need an alternate and Mrs. Malewska said that she could attend one session but not the second one. Mrs. Jenkins said she would work on getting alternates for them.

Mrs. Danek said the student achievement committee would need to schedule another meeting. The meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular board meeting.

Mrs. Danek also mentioned scheduling a meeting with the personnel/evaluation committee to discuss a change in the teacher evaluation tool and salary schedules. She said she would send out an invite once a time and date was decided upon.

At 7:36 p.m., the board took a brief recess.

### **STUDENT 2025-2026-#4 REQUEST TO RETURN**

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Ulman, to enter into a closed session at 7:44 p.m. for a student request to return to school. Mr. Butzin was not in attendance. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenkins, supported by Edmonds, to return to open session at 8:03 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Butzin was still not in attendance.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Malewska, to deny Student 2025-2026-#4's petition to return early. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Butzin re-entered the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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Amy L. Jenkins, President

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Julie L. Ulman, Secretary