

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
April 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2023 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Ulman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Livingston, Mochty, Danek, Clouse

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mrs. Kelli Doan, on behalf of Marcus Doan, the varsity softball coach. Mrs. Doan provided a Power Point with pictures of the newly renovated girls' softball field. She indicated that many improvements have been made to the field and surrounding area, including stripping and refinishing the infield, painting the foul poles, updating the dugouts and adding a wind screen and fence topper. The players have worked on the field improvements along with Coach Doan and many other volunteers. The players are writing thank you notes to many people who have donated time or money to the project. The first home game will be held on the field this week. The board thanked Mrs. Doan for sharing the pictures and the updates and look forward to seeing the field themselves.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the March 13<sup>th</sup> regular and closed session meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$849,043.88 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$56,108.14. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$15,274.02. A letter requesting an unpaid leave of absence was approved for educational assistant, Emma Herstine. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending Mrs. Cecilia Tucker be hired to fill the special education vacancy at Clara Bolen Elementary. Mrs. Tucker has 25 years of teaching experience and has a Bachelor's degree with a certification to teach students with Cognitive Impairments K-12. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Cecilia Tucker as a special education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek is recommending Mrs. Leslie Laird be hired to fill a special education teaching vacancy. Mrs. Laird has her Bachelor's degree in English Literature and has endorsements in ELA and social studies, and will be enrolling in special education coursework to receive her special education endorsement. Mrs. Laird will begin teaching in the district next school year. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Leslie Laird as a special education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Clouse is recommending Mrs. Teri Korczowski be hired as an educational assistant. Mrs. Korczowski has experience as a lead teacher in a Childcare Center. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Teri Korczowski as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said athletic director, Mr. Mejeur, is recommending Mr. Justin Ulman be hired to fill the J.V. boys' baseball coach vacancy. Mr. Ulman is dedicated to coaching the sport and showing his passion for the game. Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning to hire Justin Ulman as the J.V. boys' baseball coach. Yes: Jenkins, Bruning, Edmonds, Butzin and Klenow. Abstain: Ulman. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee met on April 4<sup>th</sup> to review new and revised bylaws and policies. Tonight's meeting should be considered a first reading. He said policies reviewed included Student Assessment, Procurement of Federal Grants/Funds, School Safety Information, Web Accessibility, Content, Apps, and Services, Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan, Information Security, Information Management, Advertising and Commercial Activities, Use of Tobacco by Administrators, Professional Staff, Support Staff and Students, Use of Tobacco on School Premises and Public Attendance at School Events. There were no questions from the board. It was the general consensus of the board to consider this the first reading of new and revised bylaws and policies.

Mr. Klinger said the policy committee also reviewed recommendations on building handbook changes for next year and evaluated a new athletic handbook, which they supported. They also discussed the current grade point multiplier and the committee supported Mr. Klinger's recommendation to keep the current policy in place, while monitoring it for the next two years. If the committee decides further board level discussions are needed, they will revisit it at that time.

Mr. Klinger said the curriculum committee also met on April 4<sup>th</sup> to review the curriculum budget presented by Mrs. Mochty. The committee is recommending that the board support an annual allocation of \$145,000 for the 2023-24 school year, and will be discussed under New Business. Mrs. Mochty also presented a recommendation to turn our current Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus class into AP Pre-Calculus. The committee supported the recommendation and it will be addressed later on the agenda.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said the Legislature has been on break so there hasn't been much news recently. He believes there will be changes coming in regards to the Right to Work Law that has been repealed and he will continue to inform the board as updates are received.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said the school calendar has been set for next year and it is ready to be shared out to all stakeholders following board approval. Students first day of school will be August 28<sup>th</sup> and their last scheduled day will be June 6, 2024. Mr. Klinger said the calendar is created in collaboration with the local ISD and was reviewed by the TAFT executive board. Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to approve the 2023-2024 school year calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said tonight should be considered the first reading of the building student handbooks for next year. He said Clara Bolen and the middle school don't have any changes to make other than updating names, dates, phone numbers, etc. The high school handbook has very few changes. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2023-24 student school handbooks.

Mr. Klinger said tonight should be considered the first reading of the athletic code of conduct handbook, prepared by Mr. Mejeur, which will be implemented next school year. The board has had the opportunity to review the handbook prior to tonight's meeting and they are happy with the

new handbook. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2023-24 athletic handbook.

Mr. Klinger said the curriculum committee is recommending that curriculum purchases may be made up to \$145,000 as discussed at the committee meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning to approve the curriculum purchases up to \$145,000 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur has worked with Coach Rettell to find a league for our hockey program to join. The league they are interested in is the Mid-Michigan Hockey Conference and is made up of teams from Freeland, Essexville Garber, Swan Valley and Fenton. The conference is looking to expand and would like Tawas to join. Joining a conference will allow our program and student-athletes to earn league recognition along with competing in state level tournaments. Mr. Mejeur said Sandusky has also been invited to join and Gladwin may be joining the following year. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the Tawas Hockey program to join the Mid-Michigan Hockey Conference as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board has been provided with a copy of the district's Continuity of Service Plan which prioritizes full, in-person instruction, and provides the greatest benefits to our students. The plan, as described in Public Act 149, Section 98a, is required to ensure a successful and safe return to school and our learning environments. The plan outlines recommended prevention and mitigation strategies during low, medium, and high transmission rates. Mr. Klinger said this plan is generally updated twice a year, although the federal government has announced its intent to end the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, which may affect the necessity to continue to update this plan. Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning to approve the Continuity of Service Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the curriculum committee discussed and supported adjusting the Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus class to make it AP Pre-Calculus. It is the recommendation of the committee that the board adjust our course offerings by changing Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus to AP Pre-Calculus. Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning to make the adjustment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said IRESA will be holding their biennial election on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Local district's must read a resolution prior to that date, but no sooner than May 15<sup>th</sup>, designating their representative to vote at the election, along with an alternate. They must also name the individual(s) that they want the representative to vote for on their behalf. Mr. Klinger said our regular board meeting is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, but asked if the board would like to move it back a week to May 15<sup>th</sup>, so they can take care of that business during our regular meeting. The board agreed that would be a good idea so a special meeting wouldn't be necessary. Mr. Klinger said he has met with Sheriff Frank and Undersheriff Allen regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) we expect to have in place for next school year. Things are moving along well and a Memo of Understanding and contract language for the agreement is being reviewed by our legal counsel. Mr. Klinger has been working on securing a SRO for a year and a half now and it will provide another layer of safety for the district. Mr. Klinger said a former community member has made a generous donation to the Community Foundation to create and fund a Career Development Coordinator position. This person will work with our high school counseling department to help provide professional advising and academic support services to our students and help them plan for their post high school years. NEMCSA will employ the individual who will then be contracted with us to provide the services to the district. Mr. Klinger has been involved in this discussion and planning for more than two years. A job description has been prepared and NEMCSA is taking applications for the position. This will be a great resource for our students. Mr. Klinger reminded everyone that the Operating Millage renewal election will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and encouraged everyone to get out and vote. He has presented information to several local groups to educate and provide awareness of the renewal.

## **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Student Representatives – Ms. Push said 142 students participated in the student survey and the results will be reviewed soon. She said 20 NHS students participated in Project Green recently to clean up the community.

Administration – Mrs. Clouse said the STEM/STEAM night is coming up this Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Several activities are planned for all that attend. Kindergarten roundup will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> and M-STEP testing will begin at the end of the month. She said the gymnasium floor is being replaced this summer and the gymnasium may be painted before the new floor is installed. Mrs. Mochty said the health review curriculum was presented over a 3-day period, following the Michigan Model of Health. Topics covered included legal aspects, sexual reproduction, and social/emotional related topics along with wellness and CPR information. Mr. Mejeur said spring sport events are underway. We will be hosting a 12-team track invitational this Friday and we will be hosting golf Regionals at the end of May. Mr. Livingston said discipline referrals have decreased slightly and an open gym is now available for students before school to burn off some extra energy. PSAT testing will be held this week and M-STEP testing will begin next month. Mrs. Danek said Trooper Noble presented an assembly for middle school students on cyberbullying, along with information on vaping hazards and the dangers that go along with that. She said we started a mentorship program two years ago to provide assistance to our new staff. She has received positive feedback from those involved that it has been very helpful. The jazz band recently competed and received a II Excellent rating. The juniors are beginning M-STEP testing and will take the ACT Work Keys Test this week. Seniors will enjoy a “Senior Day Out” this Wednesday and will travel to Alpena to play laser tag. A motivational speaker will address middle and high school students next week, the Fine Arts night will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the NHS induction will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

From the Board – Mrs. Ulman welcomed the new hires and is pleased to hear about a hockey league and that the School Resource Officer is falling into place. She will be anxious to hear the results of the student survey and would like to see continued education on social and emotional health topics. Mrs. Bruning agreed with her comments and is happy to hear the mentorship program has been successful. Mrs. Jenkins welcomed the new hires and congratulated the jazz band on their Excellent rating. Mrs. Edmonds said the renovated softball field looks great and is happy to hear the seniors will have a “day out” spending time together. Mrs. Klenow is happy to hear about the new Career Coordinator position and thinks it will be a great benefit to our students. She said the open gym in the morning is a great idea and is happy to hear of the progress on finding a SRO.

## **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mr. Klinger said there will be a special meeting/board CBA workshop on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The personnel/negotiations committee will meet ahead of that meeting beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to take a short recess at 7:55 p.m. before going into closed session for student discipline hearings. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to enter closed session at 8:05 p.m. for student discipline hearings. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to open session by Edmonds, support by Jenkins at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Butzin, support by Ulman to go into closed session for superintendent evaluation discussion at 9:06 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to open session by Bruning, support by Jenkins at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Ulman that student 2022-2023-#4 be expelled for up to 180 school days. The student may petition the Board for potential reinstatement at the January 2024 board meeting to possibly return at the beginning of the second semester of the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin that student 2022-2023-#5 be expelled for up to 180 school days. The student may petition the Board for potential reinstatement at the January 2024 board meeting to possibly return at the beginning of the second semester of the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Jenkins to reinstate student 2022-2023-#6 immediately under a behavior contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins that student 2022-2023-#7 be expelled for up to 180 school days. The student may petition the Board for potential reinstatement at the January 2024 board meeting to possibly return at the beginning of the second semester of the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Edmonds to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.