

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
October 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 10, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Danek, Clouse, Mochty, Bolen.

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHT**

Mr. Klinger said Ms. Kelli Rau and Ms. Karen Kienitz will present tonight's positive highlight, along with Meg Schwartz from MSU Extension and Brandon Schroeder from the Michigan Sea Grant. Ms. Rau said 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students recently visited Tawas Point State Park where they did some bird watching, learned about birds and monarch butterflies, and how they use the Lake Huron coastline as a migratory corridor and how it serves as a habitat for birds while providing shelter, food and water. They also hiked and explored the park's habitats and woodlands to wetlands with a forester from the Iosco Conservation District. The students also participated in a litter pick-up, focusing on marine debris, picking up 7 pounds of trash. The students learned that by being good stewards of the land and waterways they are contributing to the conservation of those properties in their community. The board thanked them all for the presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the September 12, 2022 minutes. It also included the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,011,977.15, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$16,896.59 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$74,076.05. It also included payment of presented monthly bills from the general fund in the amount of \$11,949.77. Letters of resignation were accepted from assistant technology support specialist, Casey Carpenter, high school special education teacher, Richard Collins, who has worked in the district for the past 29 years, and educational assistant, Wendy Smith, who has worked in the district for 23 years. They also approved a request for an unpaid leave of absence from educational assistant, Thomas Gilbert. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending Mr. Pete Scott be hired as the JV assistant football coach. Mr. Scott has coached for Tawas in the past and has many years of football experience. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Pete Scott as the JV assistant football coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is also recommending the following coaches for winter sports: Todd Kaems for boys' varsity basketball; Amy Edwards for girls' varsity basketball; Scott Herbolsheimer for girls' JV basketball; Jason Woelke for 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball, Reuben Edwards for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball, Anna Dalman for 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball, Kelli King for varsity cheer and Chad Herrick for wrestling. He also recommends the following non-paid coaches: Kim Miller for girls' bowling; Allen Miller for boys' bowling and Mel Rettell for hockey. The JV boys' and 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball coaching positions are still vacant. Motion by Bruning, support by Edmonds to hire the winter coaches as discussed for the 2022-23 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee met on September 26<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 Compensation, Authorization to Use Electronic Transfer of Funds and Automated Clearing House Arrangements, Vendor Relations, Fair Labor Standards Act, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Flags and Displays, School Visitors and Purchasing. Mrs. Ulman said most of the updates are required. Mrs. Edmonds added that updates to the purchasing policy would require board approval for any purchases over \$20,000. 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 ad hoc girls' golf club committee met on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and listened to information presented by both Coach Vainer and Mr. Mejeur regarding the idea of implementing a girls' golf team. At the conclusion of the discussion the committee supported the recommendation to implement a club team to monitor interest, expenses, and long-term sustainability. Mr. Klinger said it was a productive discussion and the information will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Mr. Klinger said the sinking fund committee met to review a project list on September 26<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting, the committee supported his recommendation to pursue the following projects: replace five to seven exterior doors, update the Clara Bolen PA System, make classroom furniture upgrades, replace the Clara Bolen gym floor, upgrade the district lighting system, remove/replace the carpet in Clara Bolen classrooms and improve fencing issues throughout the district. Mr. Klinger said the plan is to complete these projects throughout the current school year. Some general fund monies will need to be used for those projects that sinking fund monies are not allowed to be used.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee met on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with union representatives to discuss enrollment numbers and class sizes. Mr. Klinger said they had a good discussion and more meetings have been scheduled to continue to revisit class sizes and enrollment numbers. Staff retention bonuses and salary adjustments were also discussed. The committee recommended a salary adjustment be made which is an agenda item under new business.

Legislative Report – None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Lichota is recommending that we purchase a used minivan from Zubek Motors for \$24,995. It is a 2020 Chrysler Voyager with 64,491 miles. Two other quotes were also considered, but this was the lowest quote. Mr. Klinger said this van will be an addition to our fleet, giving us a total of three minivans. Motion by Bruning, support by VanderVeen to purchase a minivan from Zubek Motors for \$24,995 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Lichota is recommending that Seymour Carpet and Furniture be hired to install new VCT flooring in two classrooms at Clara Bolen Elementary for \$11,447.05. The existing carpet will be removed and replaced with this flooring. One other bid was received but this was the low bid. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the flooring purchase from Seymour Carpet and Furniture for \$11,447.05 as presented. Yes: VanderVeen, Butzin, Bruning and Ulman. Abstain: Edmonds. Motion carried

Mr. Klinger said a bid opening was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> for unit ventilator electronic control bids. School officials and project manager, Dan LaPan, opened and reviewed four bids ranging from a little over \$180,000 to approximately \$371,000. At the conclusion of the meeting it was determined that follow up phone calls and consultation meetings were needed to find answers to questions that were posed during the review. Mr. Klinger said he expects to have a recommendation ready for the November 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting and will provide more information at that time.

Mr. Klinger said as he mentioned during the committee updates, administration is recommending to add a girls' golf club as a way to gauge interest, track expenses and monitor long-term sustainability and it will be reviewed annually. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the recommendation as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said as discussed in the committee report, a salary adjustment is being recommended for three staff members in central office. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the salary adjustment as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Administration – Mr. Mejeur said district soccer games begin next week and we will be hosting games on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Volleyball districts begin October 31<sup>st</sup> and Tawas will play on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will also be hosting those games. Mrs. Mochty said homecoming week was a success with lots of school spirit shown. She said the Rachel's Challenge group is supporting an anti-bullying campaign and providing awareness and prevention through posters and banners in the building. She said Rachel's Closet will be opening soon and she hopes to have more information on that at next month's meeting. Mrs. Bolen said 47% of parents attended the middle school open house at the beginning of the school year. Staff reviewed NWEA scores and worked with the math accelerator during last Friday's professional development time. Navigate 360 intervention and restorative practices is being used to help students with behavior and discipline issues. She said the fence has been moved and the GaGa pit will go in soon. She said the memorial garden is coming along and they are waiting for edging to go in so mulch can be put down. Mrs. Danek said interviews are ongoing for some of the vacancies in the building and she hopes to bring some new hires to the next meeting. A student board representative is being selected and the other applicants will serve as an advisory committee. Parent teacher conferences will be held October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. High school staff members performed data analysis at the professional development afternoon last week and Kagan training will continue on the next PD day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The marching band competed in the Big Rapids Marching Invitational on Saturday and received first place awards in Class D for best color guard, best percussion, best marching, best music and best overall performance. Mrs. Clouse said after school tutoring began today with 16 students in attendance. Staff concentrated on MSTEP trend data at the professional development afternoon last week and parent teacher conferences will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Klinger said our unofficial count day number came in around 1142 students which is about 24 less than last year at this time. We currently have 136 schools of choice students, 32 of which are new to the district. He hopes to have his evaluation information ready to send to the board by the end of the week and

a closed session meeting will be held after the regular meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> to review the evaluation rubric. The results will be presented at the December meeting. Mr. Klinger said because we receive ESSER III funds, we are required to complete a Return to Learn and Continuity of Service Plan. He said it will explain our commitment to continuing to provide full in-person instruction and the protocols that are followed. He will share the plan on the website and on the Facebook page so it can be viewed by the public and any feedback or suggestions can be provided to him.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds said there are a lot of great things going on in the district and she said the new sign in front of the high school looks great. Mr. VanderVeen agreed that the sign looks great and congratulated the band on their success over the weekend. Mrs. Bruning also congratulated the band and is happy to hear Rachel’s Closet will be opening soon. Mr. Butzin is pleased to hear we are hosting some district tournaments and is glad Rachel’s Closet is close to opening. He thanked everyone for their great work. Mrs. Ulman enjoyed the positive highlight information and how the students were involved in community building activities. She said homecoming week was great and hopes we can boost the middle school open house attendance numbers in the future.

**ADVANCE PLANNING**

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.