

Tawas Area Schools  
Special Board of Education Meeting  
August 23, 2021

The special meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 23, 2021 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. Ms. Amy Jenkins thanked the board for continuing to support mask wearing as an optional and individual decision.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Ulman to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 board meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Ulman, Edmonds, Lentz, VanderVeen and Klenow. Abstain: Bruning (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Mr. Butzin arrived at 7:02 p.m.

**RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending the board hire Mr. Kevin Hazen to fill the current varsity assistant football coaching vacancy. Mr. Hazen is a Hope College graduate where he played four years of football. Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to hire Kevin Hazen as a varsity assistant football coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Sancrant held interviews to fill the 3-hour cook's helper position. She is recommending Mr. Derek Hopkins for this position. Mr. Hopkins has food service experience and subbed in the kitchen last year. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to hire Derek Hopkins as a cook's helper. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee met on August 12<sup>th</sup>. He introduced our new athletic director and they discussed several athletic related topics including athletic director leadership and setting expectations for coaches and athletes; supporting coaches with opportunities to improve their coaching skills; increasing school spirit and student-athlete leadership; updating the coaches' evaluation form to highlight coaches' strengths and areas of improvement and discussion to address concerns and make future recommendations; athletic equipment inventory review, organization, and the athletic director's idea on how to best utilize the storage space between the locker rooms. Mr. Mejeur will also plan to attend the regular monthly board meetings to provide an athletic department update.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said PA 48 was recently passed which requires districts to establish academic goals expected to be achieved for the 2021-22 school year. Those goals need to be established no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>. A template will be released by September 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be very similar to the template we used last school year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Brandon Jerashen is requesting permission for a fine arts trip next spring. Mr. Jerashen said the trip is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> to Chicago. He said the cost would be \$642 per person based on 52-54 participants for quad occupancy. It would be about \$790 per person if only 34-36 participants attend. Some of the activities include visiting the Shedd Aquarium, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Blue Man Group, the Magnificent Mile and Navy Pier. Mr. Jerashen was asked if he plans to use the same travel company, which he confirmed. He was asked if he has considered other travel companies to check for price comparisons and he said he has not. Mrs. Bruning said she likes the idea of our students going on trips but was concerned whether the students can get a full refund if the trip were to be cancelled. Mr. Jerashen said students would not get a full refund, but there is insurance available to purchase for an extra \$30, which would provide a 95% refund. He was asked who could attend the trip and he said it is open to band, choir, visual arts and theater students first, and if there were remaining spaces, other students could join. Mrs. Edmonds asked if there are other travel companies to choose from. Mr. Jerashen said there are. Mrs. Lentz said she will abstain from the discussion and voting since she is employed by the travel company being recommended, but wanted to be sure if the board would like Mr. Jerashen to get price comparisons, he should be sure the company is comparing apples to apples. Mr. VanderVeen suggested having Mr. Jerashen get other prices and come back to the next board meeting. He said he is not against the idea but just wants to be sure the students are getting the best value. Mrs. Ulman made a motion to approve the fine arts trip as presented. There was no support and the motion failed. The board asked Mr. Jerashen to secure other travel company price comparisons and bring the request back to the board at the next meeting.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Huizar is recommending the renewal of our Go Guardian software. The software allows the technology department to provide safety and security for our staff and students by filtering and documenting potential inappropriate content. It also provides staff with the ability to monitor the student's use on their device during classroom activities and disable any search that is not directly related to the assignment. The renewal cost for Go Guardian is \$11,400. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the technology purchase as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he continues to have weekly meetings with the local health department. He said there is nothing new at this time and we are moving forward with the back to school plan that has been discussed at the last few meetings.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Administration – Mr. Klinger said we are moving full speed ahead with the first student day being next Monday. Professional development begins tomorrow for staff, open houses will be held Wednesday evening and fall sports are underway. Mrs. Bolen said middle school orientation was held last week and a makeup orientation is scheduled ahead of Wednesday night's open house. Mrs. Danek said enrollment at Clara Bolen is currently at 435 with more continuing to come in. She thanked the maintenance and technology teams for all they do behind the scenes to be sure everything is ready to go. Mrs. Mochty said staff professional development begins tomorrow with three full days scheduled. Mr. Suttle said the counseling office has been working hard with new enrollees and the high school is up 21 students as of today compared to the end of last school year.

A makeup orientation session will be held for both middle and high school students Wednesday evening prior to the open house.

From the Board – None.

**ADVANCE PLANNING**

The board entered into a work session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss the projects list and the new quotes that were collected. Following a brief discussion regarding the boiler project, unit ventilators project, and window film for the four new windows installed last year, Mrs. Lentz made a motion to proceed with these projects. Support to the motion by Ulman. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The board then walked through the list to review each project. Throughout the discussion, five projects were identified as needing current quotes. These projects include a new sign for the high school and middle school building, exterior door fobs in all buildings, a phone upgrade for both buildings, a P.A. system for Clara Bolen Elementary School, and the board requested a presentation by the fine arts department regarding the need for an acoustical shell.

As other items came up for discussion, president Klenow requested that the board do a walk-through of both buildings prior to the start of the September 13, 2021 board meeting. The walk-through will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.