

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 12, 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, July 12, 2021 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Edmonds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger presented the positive highlight. He shared a spreadsheet with the board showing several staff members who are involved in a wide variety of activities throughout the year, including department heads, club sponsors, mentors and mentees, crisis prevention intervention team members, MiCIP team members, special education testing proctors, rapid testing volunteers, CISM team members, after school tutoring and summer school teachers. He stressed how important all of these individuals are in providing our students with a positive, safe educational experience through their leadership efforts. The board thanked everyone for their involvement and dedication to our students.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. She indicated that with restrictions recently being lifted, board meetings are once again being held in-person. Those wishing to speak during public comments are expected to do so in person. The link to join virtually is available for those that wish to listen to the meeting, but will not be allowed to participate during public comments. There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Lentz, support by Ulman to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2021 board meeting 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 \$852,762.83, and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$35,264.51. There were no sinking fund bills to pay. There was no general fund, sinking fund or lunch fund presented 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 of resignation from high school special education teacher Katy Jagelewski. Mrs. Jagelewski has accepted a position at IRESA as Special Education Designee/Monitor. Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to accept Katy Jagelewski's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Next is a letter of resignation from elementary special education teacher, Autumn Spencer. Ms. Spencer has accepted a position at IRESA as a special education teacher. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to accept Autumn Spencer's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Finally, Mr. Klinger received a letter of resignation from elementary teacher Amy Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy has accepted a literacy coach position with IRESA. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to accept Amy Kennedy's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek conducted interviews for the 1st grade teacher vacancy. She is recommending Karen Kienitz be hired to fill this position. Ms. Kienitz is a graduate of SVSU and pursued her teaching certification through the Accelerated Certification with Residency program. She holds a Bachelor's degree from SVSU and is certified to teach K-5 All Subjects, K-8 Self-Contained Classroom and K-8 math. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to hire Karen Kienitz as a 1st grade teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said we have three non-certified staff to hire. Mrs. Danek held interviews to fill the special education secretary vacancy. She is recommending Peggy McKeever be hired to fill this position. Ms. McKeever has secretarial experience and has many skills that will make her a good fit in the position. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to hire Peggy McKeever as the special education secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Conklin is recommending Tisha Thompson be hired to fill the bus driver vacancy. Ms. Thompson began substitute bus driving for us in May and has seven years of experience. Motion by Bruning, support by Ulman to hire Tisha Thompson as a bus driver. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Couch is recommending Charles Watts be hired to fill the custodian vacancy. Mr. Watts has worked in maintenance and custodial positions for several years and has a great deal of experience in floor care as well. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to hire Charles Watts as a custodian. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – None.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said the governor is expected to sign HB 4411 this week. A supplemental bill, HB 4421, was recently signed which will increase the amount that Michigan schools will receive. The funding is expected to be worth more than \$17 billion, with about \$4.4 billion in federally appropriated money that was part of the COVID-19 relief package. The bill includes a 7% increase in per-pupil funding for most districts bringing the foundation amount up to about \$8,700.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said he and Mr. Couch opened five bids for the backup boiler replacement project a week ago. After reviewing the bids, and looking at the scope of work including removing and disposing of the old boiler, placement of the new boiler, permits and connections for venting, gas, electrical and water, they are recommending that Sweet Heating and Cooling be awarded the bid. The bid is for \$28,800 and was the low bid. Mrs. Lentz asked about the difference in prices between the five companies, and if we knew why they varied so much. Mr. Klinger said he and Mr. Couch did check into that and followed up with Sweet Heating and Cooling on the scope of

work to be performed, to be sure everything in the low bid was comparable to the other bids and they felt comfortable that everything was very comparable. Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to award the boiler bid to Sweet Heating and Cooling as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that over the last several weeks he has been working on a communication to share with staff, students and families regarding next school year. Since many mandatory requirements have been rescinded including face masks, testing, health screening, social distancing, gathering restrictions, etc. on June 22nd, he was able to share the communication on the website and on the district Facebook page. The communication was drafted with the most current information at the time with the understanding that if new mandates come into play, we will have to adjust. To date, nothing has changed but we will continue to watch for any new mandates that may be implemented.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Klinger said the technology and maintenance departments are working hard and are on track with their summer tasks. He said he continues to work on the sinking fund project list and is waiting for some answers regarding allowable expenditures. He expects to have more information to provide the board sometime in August. ESSER II funds need to be spent by September 2022 and ESSER III funds by September 2024. Boilers and unit ventilators are high on the list along with safety measures for windows. He indicated we will likely need to involve an engineer to look at the boiler project prior to seeking bids. Mr. Klinger said the front entry here at Central Office is still on hold as we wait for upgraded parts for the system and the BDA project is expected to resume later this week once new parts arrive.

From the Board – Mrs. Bruning welcomed the new hires and said she is glad the administrators are enjoying some time away from work this summer. Mrs. Ulman thanked Mr. Klinger for sharing the list of staff involved in all the extra events and thanked them all for their involvement. She thanked the exiting staff for their service and welcomed the new hires. Mr. VanderVeen welcomed the new hires and is disappointed to see our other staff leaving. Mrs. Edmonds welcomed the new hires and thanked the exiting staff for their years of service. She thanked the teachers overseeing the credit recovery courses this summer. Mrs. Lentz congratulated the exiting staff and wished them luck in their new positions and welcomed the new hires. She thanked Mr. Klinger for organizing projects and creating lists so things that are currently being considered and discussed aren't forgotten down the road if they aren't placed at the top of the list. She also thanked him for the great letter he drafted and shared for staff, students and families to view. She thanked Mr. Couch and his maintenance crew for their hard work and thanked the summer school teachers for their dedication to our students. Mrs. Klenow also thanked Mr. Klinger for sharing the list of staff involved in many events and offerings and thanked him for his due diligence in thoroughly reviewing the boiler bids. She also welcomed the new hires and thanked the exiting staff for their service.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Motion by Lentz, support by Ulman to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.