

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 11, 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, July 11, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Klenow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: VanderVeen, Bruning, Klenow, Lentz and Ulman
Absent: Edmonds
Tardy: Butzin

Administrators Present: Klinger

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2022 board meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

In the absence of board treasurer Mrs. Edmonds, a motion was made by VanderVeen to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,130,804.84, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$41,532.60 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$33,070.85. There was no general fund, sinking fund or lunch fund presented bills to be paid. Motion supported by Klenow. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Butzin arrived at 7:03 p.m.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Klinger said he has received two letters of resignation. First is a letter of resignation from varsity baseball coach, Dr. Jim Gorman. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to accept Jim Gorman's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger also received a letter of resignation from our recently hired 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Heather Hukill. Motion by Lentz, support by Klenow to accept Heather Hukill's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said after conducting interviews for the Clara Bolen Elementary principal vacancy, he is recommending that the board hire Mrs. Amy Clouse. Mrs. Clouse has 13 years of experience in education. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education and Mathematics from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Arts in Elementary and Secondary Administration from Saginaw Valley State University. Mrs. Clouse has had many experiences as a lead teacher in her district, including classroom teaching, Title I interventionist, literacy coach,

curriculum director, school improvement team leader, and pupil accounting. Based on the information collected through the interview process and her references, Mrs. Clouse was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to hire Mrs. Amy Clouse as the Clara Bolen Elementary School principal. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Lichota is recommending David Ferguson be hired to fill the bus driver vacancy created when Mrs. Toska retired. Mr. Ferguson began substitute bus driving for us in the spring and has done a nice job. Motion by Klenow, support by Butzin to hire David Ferguson as a bus driver. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger is recommending the board hire Mr. Nicholas Popoff to fill the current middle school science vacancy. Mr. Popoff has a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University in Elementary Education and Integrated Science. He has recently worked in the private sector, but recently returned to education through the Welcome Back Proud Michigan Educator's program and has most recently been teaching in Perry, Michigan. Mr. Popoff was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Butzin, support by Klenow to hire Nicholas Popoff as a science teacher. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – None.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said the legislature finalized the 2022-23 budget and has sent Senate Bill 845 to the governor's desk for signing. Highlights include a \$450 per pupil increase taking the foundation allowance to \$9,150 per pupil, increases to the 31A, At-Risk categorical, a substantial increase to special education funding, a significant investment in Michigan Future Educator Programs and financial commitments to mental health initiatives, and school safety. He said HB 4375 revises the law to allow retirees to return to work nine months after retirement while simultaneously drawing their pension. The bill also removes the requirement for the retiree to be hired in a critical shortage position.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said the district has been using Stephenson and Company, P.C. for many years to perform our annual school audit. The current contract expires with the completion of this year's audit and he is recommending the district enter into a five-year agreement with Stephenson and Company, P.C. Mr. Butzin asked if we typically seek bids for our auditing needs. Mr. Klinger said we have not bid it out recently as we have a great working relationship with them and they have proven to be very fair and dependable. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to enter into a five-year contract with Stephenson and Company, P.C. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Klinger said the ceiling tile project is moving along every well and the results look great. The door fob project is nearing completion as well. He said the transportation clerk position will be filled by one of our current bus drivers, Ms. Tisha Thompson, who has several years of experience as a clerk at a previous district. He said Mr. Huizar and the technology department are busy with summer projects and Mrs. Sancrant will likely need to purchase some new appliances in the near future. Mr. Klinger said the old sign in front of the middle/high school building has been taken down and we expect the new sign will be up by the end of July or the first week of August. Our two new buses have finally been delivered and we will likely order another bus in August. He said we may also need to purchase another mini-van in the near future.

From the Board – All of the board members welcomed the new hires. Mrs. Lentz thanked Dr. Gorman for his years of coaching baseball and encouraged the new hires to take advantage of the experienced staff in their buildings.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said there will be a personnel committee meeting tomorrow at 3:45 p.m. and a special board meeting/board work session on July 25th at 6:00 p.m. He also suggested the board meet ahead of the August 8th meeting to do a building walk-through to see the updates that have been completed.

Motion by Klenow, support by VanderVeen to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.