

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
May 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Bruning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

Mrs. Bruning said a letter of resignation/retirement from Ms. Perrot will be added under the consent agenda. Motion by Lentz, support by Edmonds to amend the agenda and include the letter of resignation/retirement within the consent agenda.

Mr. Butzin arrived to the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

### **POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight would be the Tawas Area Robotics Team. He introduced coach Thomas Bruning to give a presentation highlighting the accomplishments of the team throughout their season. Mr. Bruning also had 3 students share their experiences with the robotics team.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Bruning asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. Mrs. Anna Dalman stood and Mrs. Bruning informed her that she would have 3 minutes to speak. Mrs. Dalman stated that she was attending the meeting as a parent of 2 daughters who are active in the Fine Arts programs within the district. Mrs. Dalman said that she wanted to address the grade multiplier that is utilized for dual enrollment classes and the unintended consequences of this practice. She talked about how students who are not taking Fine Arts courses are able to take dual enrollment classes earlier in their educational career and boost their GPA, with students in the Fine Arts programs not being able to take as many dual enrollment classes and being taken out of the running for honors due to this. Mrs. Dalman shared that many students are considering dropping out of the Fine Arts programs for this very reason; to be able to take more dual enrollment classes and boost their GPA. Mrs. Dalman asked the Board to consider removing the multiplier.

There was no additional public comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the April 8<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 \$956,333.06 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$78,555.03. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$41,664.63 and the sinking fund in the amount of \$497.86. Letters of retirement were received from 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Cynde Martin and high school teacher Ms. Stacy Perrot, who will both retire at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Letters of resignation were received from Mrs. Olivia Moyer, educational assistant at Clara Bolen Elementary, effective June 6, 2024 and Mrs. Shelby Ploof, high school secretary, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger said we are required to pass resolutions each year if we desire to continue to participate in the schools of choice program. One resolution allows us to participate in Section 105 Schools of Choice, and the other resolution permits us to participate in Section 105C Schools of Choice. Section 105 allows nonresident students who reside within the intermediate school district to attend our district while Section 105C allows nonresident students who reside outside of our ISD in a contiguous intermediate school district to attend our district. Mrs. Bruning read in the form of a motion, the Resolution to opt into Section 105 Schools of Choice within ISD Boundaries and the Resolution to opt into Section 105C Schools of Choice across ISD boundaries. Support to the motion by Jenkins. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending that Mr. Will Luzar be hired as the varsity football coach. Mr. Luzar has 34 years of experience with different age groups in the sport of football and is dedicated to teaching the sport and sharing his passion, while making a difference in the lives of the students. He was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Will Luzar as the varsity football coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek is recommending Ms. Janeen Clark be hired to fill the middle school secretarial vacancy. Ms. Clark has almost 30 years of experience in an office setting and is proficient in areas of time management, oral and written communication, problem solving and computer skills. Ms. Clark has also worked as a paraprofessional in our district in the past and was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to hire Janeen Clark as the middle school secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sancrant is recommending Ms. Crystal Collier be hired for the cook's helper position. Ms. Collier has experience in the food service environment as was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to hire Crystal Collier as a cook's helper. Motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to review new and revised bylaws and policies. Tonight's meeting should be considered a first reading. He said policies reviewed included the following: **1240** Evaluation of the Superintendent; **2410** Prohibition of Referral or Assistance; **2414** Reproductive Health and Family Planning; **2418** Sex Education; **3220** Professional Staff Evaluation; **6320** Purchasing; **6321** New School Construction, Renovation; **6325** Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds; **6350** Prevailing Wage; **6520** Payroll Deductions; **8800** Religious/Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances; **1420** School Administrator Evaluation; and **3142** Probationary Teachers. Mr. Klinger said that all of these new and revised policies were mandatory by law.

Mr. Butzin stated that he had some concerns with the revision to Policy 2414 Reproductive Health and Family Planning and although the revision is mandatory by law he wanted the record to reflect that not all board members are in agreement with this revision but we are required to adopt it.

Mr. Klinger said the curriculum committee also met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the curriculum budget presented by Mr. Livingston. After reviewing all of the information, it was determined that some of the resources needed for next year had a range of costs, and more time is needed to finalize an exact quote. Based on this information, the curriculum committee is recommending that the curriculum budget will not exceed a capped amount so Mr. Livingston can have the ability to continue to finalize all necessary quotes. This recommendation will be made in the form of a motion under new business.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee met on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> with TAFT to work through the negotiation process. The discussions continue to be going well. He said language pieces have been the primary focus and, once completed, they will then work on the financial pieces.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said that everything coming from the legislature is heavily focused on finalizing the state budget and he will keep the board updated as that unfolds.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook. Mrs. Clouse then presented the recommended changes to the handbook which included a change in the truancy process, involving the SRO with that and also changing the language in the attendance policy to make it more consistent. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2024-25 Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook.

Mr. Klinger said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Tawas Area Middle School student handbook. Mrs. Tiffany then outlined the changes to the handbook, which included changes to the dress code, no face paint unless approved by administration prior, the addition of truancy language, adding an AI policy, revision to the consequences for drug possession, and the addition of the use of a handheld metal detector. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2024-25 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook.

Mr. Klinger said that tonight should be considered the first reading of the Tawas Area High School student handbook. Mr. Livingston briefly discussed the recommended changes to the handbook which included cleaning up the language regarding attendance and adding language to involve the SRO with attendance issues, intervention early on when absences reach 9 days, updates to the dress code, updates to the search and seizure policy, including the addition of a handheld metal detector, an AI policy, student driving policy changes, amended language in the transportation section, and revision to the consequences for drug/vape possession/use, adding in the use of restorative practices which include doing a presentation for the first offense and completing a course for the second offense. Mrs. Lentz said that she is very thankful that the restorative practices have been added into policy. She stated that she does not want kids to think they are being “thrown out” but instead they are getting help. Mrs. Lentz also questioned the decision to change the language in the dress code policy. She stated that the committee had discussed allowing yoga pants as long as the student had a top that reached “below the hips.” Mr. Livingston stated that after consideration, administration felt it would be better to use the term “mid-thigh” to avoid confusion and to make interpretation less open to discussion. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2024-25 Tawas Area High School student handbook.

Mr. Klinger said tonight should be considered the first reading of the athletic code of conduct handbook. Mr. Mejeur briefly outlined the changes, which included the addition of the district providing transportation for conference/league competitions that take place on Saturday’s, putting the responsibility on the student to inform their coach if they were absent for any portion of the day, without a doctor’s note and adding consequences for failing to report that information, and clarification of the calculation of 1/3 of the season for athletic suspensions/ineligibility. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2024-25 athletic handbook.

Mr. Klinger said the curriculum committee discussed setting a cap or a limit on the amount that can be spent on the curriculum budget. Mr. Klinger mentioned that Mr. Livingston is looking to purchase 3-year subscriptions rather than 1-year subscriptions, which will save the district money in the long run but is more money up front. After reviewing the figured presented by Mr. Livingston, there was a motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to approve curriculum purchases up to \$245,000 as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that IRESA superintendent, Mr. Jaimie Cain, shared with the local districts the IRESA proposed general fund budget for 2024-25. Local districts are only asked to approve their general fund budget, not special education or vocational education. The fund balance is expected

to increase in 2024-25 by \$485,430. Mrs. Bruning made a motion to approve the Resolution to Support the IRESA general fund budget for the 2024-25 school year. Motion supported by Jenkins. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Butzin asked if all districts in the ISD were required to approve the IRESA budget and Mr. Klinger stated that they would all be following a similar process and taking the resolution before their board.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee is supporting his recommendation to extend the current signing bonus for newly hired employees through the 2024-25 school year. The entire board was in favor of extending the signing bonus. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to extend the current signing bonus through the 2024-25 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that a bid opening was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> for the completion of the door replacement project. School officials, along with project manager Daniel La Pan opened and reviewed three bids; one for a total of \$53,437, another bid for a total of \$61,290, and a third bid for a total of \$68,000. After a thorough review of the bids, Mr. Lichota is recommending that the board approve the bid from Denali Construction for a total of \$53,437. Mrs. Edmonds asked if this project was to replace all internal doors. Mr. Klinger stated that the project was to replace the external doors at this time. Mr. Butzin asked about Mr. La Pan and whether Hendrix would be overseeing the project. Mr. Klinger explained that Mr. La Pan will be retiring from Hendrix once this project has been completed, at which time he will update Hendrix on the gym windows needing to be fixed and pass the project on to them. Mrs. Lentz stated that she is somewhat skeptical that we accepted the lowest bid. Mr. Klinger explained that the Denali bid was the most detailed bid they received. Mr. Lichota and Mr. La Pan spoke to other schools who have used this company in the past and received glowing feedback. He also clarified that this is a district wide project and their bid was all inclusive, including tear down. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to accept and approve the door replacement bid from Denali Construction for \$53,437. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Mejeur is requesting that the board approve all overnight trips for spring sports resulting from postseason play. Mr. Mejeur explained that many of the postseason games will take place prior to the next board meeting, and approving this will give the teams freedom to make their plans accordingly. Mrs. Lentz said she just wanted assurance that these events would be appropriately chaperoned. Mr. Mejeur assured her that they would be. Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to approve the overnight request for spring sports postseason play. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said that he did not want to steal any thunder from the administrators so he did not have anything to report at this time.

Student Representatives – Ms. Push said that there was a student senate meeting last week and they have started talking about Homecoming. This would be her last meeting as student representative, and she thanked the board for allowing her to be a part of everything. Ms. Whetstone said that Prom was last week and although they had a rocky start, it ended up being very nice. She stated that the Fine Arts Festival took place last week with performances by the band and choir. She also said that students would be taking part in a 5K with the Tawas Wellness Warriors on June 13. Ms. Whetstone stated that SLS was starting to close out the year but it planning on doing a trivia night sometime this summer to raise funds for the animal shelter.

Administration – Mrs. Tiffany highlighted the middle school students of the month. She said that M-Step testing is almost completed with only 2 students remaining to test. NWEA end of year testing will begin soon. She said prom went well. Middle School robotics had a competition in Jackson and placed 18<sup>th</sup> out of 33 teams. The DC trip is this week with student departing on Wednesday, early in the morning. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have their trip to Mackinaw on Friday. She also said that band concert was wonderful. Mrs. Clouse said that the “Spoon Man” did an assembly

for the students last week which was very fun and entertaining. Field day for kindergarteners is coming up on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, with other grades having their field day on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Each grade has their field trips coming up as the school year comes to a close. Mrs. Clouse also highlighted Clara Bolen students of the month. Mr. Mejeur said that spring sports are nearing an end. Many sports are having their district competitions held here so they are getting ready for that. Mrs. Danek congratulated the prom king and queen (Ms. Push) and thanked Ms. Push for all of her work as senior class representative. She said that they had 7 applicants to be the junior representative next year, with interviews taking place on Wednesday with the eboard. Mrs. Danek said the Fine Arts Festival was a packed event and highlighted the awards that were given out that evening. Mrs. Danek also gave kudos to Ms. Fox, who was very nervous about teaching ceramics with little experience but has done an outstanding job. She said May 20 is senior awards night, May 21 is middle school awards night and May 22 is NHS inductions, all taking place at 7:00p.m. Science Olympics placed 35<sup>th</sup> in the state competition. Lastly, Mrs. Danek said that the rotary club of Tawas is sponsoring 5 more students this year to attend a leadership camp over the summer. Mr. Livingston wanted to give respect to Mrs. Warner for the work she put forth regarding state testing. He said Coach Luzar has already been in the school, interacting with the kids. Mr. Livingston said that they did Teacher Appreciation Week last week and offered something different to staff each day of the week. Prom was successful. He also congratulated Jerashen, Grove and Fox on the Fine Arts Festival and its success. Mr. Livingston concluded by giving an update on the Smart Pass system, saying it has been very successful so far in increasing seat time and preventing potential meet ups. He said staff was hesitant at first, but have since stated that it has been fairly easy to implement and has great features. The board asked Ms. Whetstone what students thought of it. She said that it can be annoying but she understands students being held accountable. She said students do think it feels a little “jail-esque,” but they are getting used to it.

CBA 253 Workshop Update – Mr. Klinger said he wanted to give board members an opportunity to speak about the board workshop that was presented by Scott Morrell at a special meeting on March 14, 2024. Mrs. Jenkins said that it was a great class and Mr. Morrell did an excellent job. Mrs. Bruning said that the class outlined good parameters for the board to follow and also talked about the Code of Ethics which the board has discussed previously.

Ad Hoc Committee Suggestion- Mrs. Bruning said that she was approached by Mrs. Klenow about doing a job fair at the school She said she is aware that Mr. Colorite is working on this but is running into a lot of roadblocks. Mrs. Bruning said that since the board members know a lot of people in the community, she thought maybe they could form a committee to help get this event up and running. Mrs. Edmonds stated that this is a great idea but doesn't seem like a function of the board. Mrs. Lentz agreed with her statement. Mr. Klinger said he is willing to share contact information with Mr. Colorite of anyone that is willing to help. The board decided not to form an ad hoc committee.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee will meet tomorrow May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and the budget committee will need to meet at 6:00 p.m. on June 10<sup>th</sup> to review next year's projections.

Mr. Klinger stated that the board is required to complete the updated superintendent evaluation course provided by MASB. He asked if the board would like to complete this class collectively as a team, to which they agreed. This training must be in place by September 1. Mrs. Harvey will reach out to MASB to see what we can get scheduled in July or August.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to take a short recess at 8:40 p.m. before going into closed session for superintendent evaluation discussions. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to enter closed session at 8:51 p.m. for superintendent evaluation discussions. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to open session by Butzin, support by Jenkins at 9:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.