

Tawas Area Schools  
Special Board of Education Meeting  
July 16, 2024

The special meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Bruning at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Livingston

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

The first candidate interviewed was Dr. Debra Fountain. Dr. Fountain is currently working as a professor/student teacher supervisor at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. She has a bachelor of science degree in education and language arts from Duquesne University, a master of science degree in educational leadership and instructional technology from Nova Southeastern University and a doctoral degree in adult education/teacher training from Capella University as well as over 30 years of experience in education. The board asked about her experience in many different areas, including developing and implementing educational programs, decision making strategies, working with budgets, and leadership style. She shared her experiences and provided answers to their questions.

Motion by Jenkins, support by Klenow to bring Dr. Debra Fountain back for a second round interview. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins for a brief recess until 2:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 2:13 p.m.

The second candidate interviewed was Mrs. Sarah Danek. Mrs. Danek is currently serving as the principal of the Tawas middle/high school and has been in that position for the past 2 years. Prior to that she was the Clara Bolen Elementary principal for 4 years. She has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Saginaw Valley State University, a master of education in principalship from Saginaw Valley State University, an education specialist degree in central office and superintendence from Saginaw Valley State University, and is currently working on obtaining her doctor of education in educational leadership from Central Michigan University. Mrs. Danek has been in education for over 15 years. The board asked Mrs. Danek the same questions asked of Dr. Fountain regarding her experience with developing and implementing educational programs, decision making strategies, working with budgets, and leadership style. She also shared her experience in those areas with the board.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to bring Mrs. Sarah Danek back for a second round interview. Yes: Klenow, Butzin, Jenkins, Edmonds; No: Lentz, Bruning. Motion carried.

Motion by Jenkins, support by Edmonds for a brief recess at 3:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Butzin left the meeting at 3:30 p.m. due to a medical issue.

The meeting reconvened at 3:37 p.m.

The third candidate interviewed was Ms. Ashley McCann-Markham. Ms. McCann-Markham is currently serving as the junior and senior high principal, curriculum director and special education director of Peck Community Schools. She has been in this position for almost 3 years. Prior to that, she was a resource room teacher at Davison Community Schools for 5 years and a special education teacher at Genesee School District for 5 years. She has a bachelor of arts degree from Spring Arbor University, a master of arts in teaching from Marygrove College and an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from University of Michigan. Ms. McCann-Markham has been in the education field for 19 years. The board asked Ms. McCann-Markham the same questions asked of the other two interviewees regarding her experience with developing and implementing educational programs, decision making strategies, working with budgets, and leadership style. She also shared her experience in those areas with the board.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow to bring Ms. Ashley McCann-Markham back for a second round interview. No: Klenow, Lentz, Jenkins, Edmonds, Bruning. Motion failed.

The board then worked on finalizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> round interview questions.

There was some discussion amongst the board about including community members in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round interview.

Motion by Lentz, support by Edmonds to include 2 community members in the second round interviews. Yes: Lentz, Edmonds; No: Klenow, Jenkins, Bruning. Motion failed.

Mrs. Klenow left the meeting at 5:05 p.m. for a medical appointment.

There was discussion regarding reference checks. The board decided that the executive assistant, Mrs. Harvey, would make the phone calls to conduct the reference checks.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.