

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 10, 2023

Vice President Bruning called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023.

Mrs. Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

There was no positive highlight got tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Lentz, support by Edmonds to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the June 26, 2023 special meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,514,003.59 and the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$33,053.75 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$87,796.34. There were no presented monthly bills to be paid. Letters of resignation were received from high school teacher, Barbara Whetstone, who will be retiring after 26 years, effective September 29, 2023 and payroll/benefits coordinator, Carrie Huitema, who will be retiring after 20 years of service, effective August 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said that Mts. Danek is recommending that Nicole Siebert be hired to fill the media center educational assistant vacancy. Ms. Siebert has degrees in networking/security/PC troubleshooting and repair and has experience utilizing her IT skills. She was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to hire Nicole Siebert as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger gave his recommendation to transfer Mrs. Janice Tiffany from her current Title I teaching position to the vacant middle school assistant principal position. Motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to transfer Mrs. Tiffany to the middle school assistant principal position. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mrs. Danek held interviews to fill the secondary art education teacher vacancy and is recommending this position be filled by hiring Ms. Erika Fox. Ms. Fox is a graduate of Michigan State University and Marian University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts in teaching. Ms. Fox has 12 years of teaching experience in the art department and has been selected by Mrs. Danek as the top candidate. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Ms. Erika Fox as a secondary art education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said that the personnel committee met on Friday, July 7 to conduct an interview for the middle school assistant principal position. Mr. Klinger read a narrative from board President, Shannon Klenow, regarding this process. In her written correspondence

Mrs. Klenow stated that after the third interview with Mrs. Janice Tiffany she was in support of Mr. Klinger's recommendation to shift her to the middle school assistant principal position. She expressed gratitude to Mr. Klinger for requesting board approval and thanked Mrs. Tiffany for reapplying. After reading the narrative, Mr. Klinger did state that he had contacted Thrun Law to ensure that reading this correspondence from Mrs. Klenow was not a violation of any communication policy, which he confirmed was not.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger stated that the legislature had finalized the state budget for 2023-2024. There was a 9.4% increase in state spending of the school aid fund balance. One of the main highlights of the budget was a per pupil increase to \$9,608 per student. He mentioned increases to many other categoricals in the budget and stated that this was a positive step forward for our students and classrooms.

Mr. Klinger said that the prohibited subjects of bargaining legislation passed and he is seeking follow-up to this legislation to ensure proper steps are taken in response to this.

Mrs. Lentz inquired as to the special education reimbursement being raised to 100% and wanted to know what it was before. Mr. Klinger responded to this and said that it was 28%.

Mr. Klinger also mentioned that in the budget there was money set aside to offset declining enrollment.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said that he will share more in his weekly update but did mention that construction projects had slowed down due to the holiday but things are progressing nicely at this time. He also stated that the material has been ordered to even out the new floor in the Clara Bolen gym before the new flooring is laid and that this may incur an increase in time and material costs but was necessary in order to have the floor warrantied.

Mrs. Lentz asked if there was any mold found during the tearing up of the old floor and Mr. Klinger explained that Mr. Lichota had done mold testing one year ago and there were no mold concerns in the gym.

Student Representatives – There were no student representatives at the meeting.

Administration –None

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds asked for an update regarding the transportation department. Mr. Klinger stated that Ms. Michelle Russo filled the transportation clerk vacancy. Mrs. Edmonds went on to congratulate Mrs. Tiffany on her new position. Mrs. Jenkins welcomed Mrs. Tiffany and all the new hires. Mrs. Lentz thanked Mr. Klinger for re-posting the middle school assistant principal position and following the hiring process. She stated that this ensure transparency in the process and thanked Mrs. Tiffany for re-applying. Mrs., Bruning welcomed Mrs. Tiffany.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said a personnel committee meeting will be scheduled in the future.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.