Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 13, 2026

President Jenkins called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2026.

Mrs. Edmonds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present:	Edmonds, Malewska, Miller, Butzin, Lesko, Jenkins
Absent:	Bruning
Tardy:	None

Administrators Present: Danek

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS
There was no positive highlight at tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS
Mrs. Jenkins informed those in attendance that individuals wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting would be allotted three minutes each.

The first speaker, Michael Davis, introduced himself and stated that he was attending to express his support for the spring coaching staff, specifically Marcus Doan, the varsity softball coach. Mr. Davis briefly shared his experience with Coach Doan and commended his contributions to the varsity softball program.

The next speaker, Quinn Seyfried, a varsity softball player, also spoke in support of Coach Doan. She shared her personal experience as a player under his leadership and highlighted the positive impact he has had as a coach.

The final speaker, Jeff Seyfried, introduced himself as a close friend of Coach Doan and a volunteer assistant coach. Mr. Seyfried spoke about Coach Doan's dedication to the softball program and his genuine commitment to the student-athletes.

Mrs. Danek said that there was an amendment that needed to be made to the Spring Coach list. In the background information, it should be reflected that Will Luzar is being recommended as the girls' head track coach and the boys' assistant golf coach position is currently open.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin, to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the June 30, 2026 special meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of $1,147,405.87 and the sinking fund expenses in the amount of $154,083.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of $37,291.07. There were no presented monthly bills to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

a. **Hire Teacher**
   Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Clouse is recommending the hiring of Ms. Cora Rattew as a middle school ELA teacher. Motion by Malewska, supported by Butzin, to hire Ms. Cora Rattew as a middle school teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

b. **Hire Spring Coaches**

Mrs. Danek said that administration is recommending the following coaches for spring sports:

- Varsity Baseball – Shane Plank
- JV Baseball – Justin Ulman
- Varsity Softball – Marcus Doan
- JV Softball – Kaelene Horn
- Boys' Head Track – Erin Challenger
- Boys' Assistant Track – Chris Lerczak
- Girls' Head Track – Will Luzar
- Girls' Assistant Track – Nicholas Frees
- Boys' Golf – Paul Vainer
- Boys' Golf Assistant – **OPEN**
- Girls' Soccer – Adrianne Dittenbir
- Girls' Assistant Soccer – Elliott Buchanan
- 7th Grade Track – Jennifer Caldwell
- 8th Grade Track – Kohl Coffin

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Butzin, to hire the spring coaches as presented for the 2026-27 school year.
Mrs. Malewska thanked everyone who shared their support for Coach Doan during the public comment and stated that the Board appreciated their feedback.
Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Committee Reports –** There were no committee meetings to report on.
2. **Legislative Report –** Mrs. Danek stated that the Legislature has approved the new state budget, which includes an increase in the foundation allowance to $10,300 per pupil, which is a $250 increase over last year. She said the budget also continues funding for universal free school meals and preschool, while shifting more at-risk funding into a weighted funding formula that better recognizes districts serving economically disadvantaged students and English learners. The Governor has not yet signed the budget. Mrs. Danek also shared that Governor Whitmer vetoed 9 bills that had been tied up in litigation for more than a year, including House Bill 6058, legislation that would have required public employers to pay a larger share of employee health insurance premiums. She said the Governor indicated that the veto was based primarily on the unique procedural circumstances and the impracticality of implementing legislation with long-expired effective dates, rather then on the underlying policy itself.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution to Adopt Policy 5207 (Anti-Bullying)**
   Mrs. Danek said that on June 30, 2026, the Board repealed its existing policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines, and adopted the Thrun Law Firm Policy Manual. At that time, the Board retained existing Board Policy 5517.01, concerning student bullying, pending the required public hearing on proposed Policy 5207 (Anti-Bullying), which would take place tonight.
   She said following the public hearing tonight, the policy committee in collaboration with the administration recommends that the Board adopt Policy 5207 (Anti-Bullying). Upon adoption, Policy 5207 will immediately replace all existing Board policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines related to student bullying.
   Mrs. Danek stated that a copy of the proposed resolution was included with the Board packets for their review.

Motion by Malewska, supported by Miller, to adopt Policy 5207 (Anti-Bullying), thereby replacing all existing Board policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines concerning student bullying, effective immediately.
Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Consideration of Appointment of Board Secretary**
   Mrs. Danek said that due to the recent resignation of the Board Secretary, the Board must appoint one of its members to serve as Board Secretary for the remainder of the current term. The appointment requires approval by a majority vote of the Board.
   Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to appoint Ami Edmonds to serve as Board Secretary for the remainder of the current term.
   Motion carried unanimously.
   Mrs. Edmonds verbally rescinded her current position as Board Treasurer, effective immediately.
   Due to this resignation, Mrs. Danek said that the Board must now appoint one of its members to serve as the Board Treasurer for the remainder of the current term.
   Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to appoint Allan Miller to serve as Board Treasurer for the remainder of the current term.
   Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Consideration of Shared K-12 Art Position**
   Mrs. Danek shared that the district has been unable to find a qualified, endorsed candidate for the Title I Teacher with ESL Endorsement vacancy. Due to this vacancy, she is requesting that the Board consider the posting of a K-12 art teacher.
   Mrs. Malewska asked if there was room for an art teacher, or if this individual would have to work off a cart. Mrs. Danek said in the high school, this teacher would have a room, but at Clara Bolen the teacher would have to work from a cart which is something to think about.
   The Board gave their approval to post the K-12 Art Teacher vacancy.

<u>INFORMATION & PROPOSALS</u>
Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek said that there was a representative from the Federal Government on campus today conducting a site visit. This was a required step for the district to be able to accept F1 Visa Students. Although the district is waiting on the official approval, she said the visit went very well and the representative from the government indicated that we should not have any problems with approval.
Mrs. Danek also mentioned that the district has had a student term custodial vacancy posted since April, but has yet to be filled. She has received feedback indicating that this position may attract more qualified applicants if it is changed to a school term custodian position, which would cost the district approximately $14,000.
Motion by Malewska, supported by Edmonds, to revise the current custodial vacancy to a school term custodial vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.
Mrs. Danek updated the Board regarding the roofing project. She said Phase 2 has been completed and Phase 3 is planned for the upcoming year.
Lastly, Mrs. Danek told the Board that we have received 9 applicants for the Athletic Director vacancy, which they hope to begin interviewing for next week.

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

Administration –There were no administrators present at this meeting.

From the Board – Mr. Buztin thanked everyone who came to support Coach Doan and the Board. Mrs. Edmonds also thanked everyone who came out for the meeting and thanked Mrs. Danek for staying on top of things and keeping the Board up-to-date with information. Mr. Lesko reiterated that the Board's job is to set budget, policy and hire/fire the Superintendent. The Board is not here to hire/fire any individual employees in district or to entertain gossip or drama in the community or to usurp Mrs. Danek. He also thanked those who attended the meeting. Mrs. Jenkins thanked the public for showing up. Mrs. Jenkins said she wanted to address a matter that has generated significant public interest and concern within the community. She said recent reports and discussions have involved allegations concerning a member of the Board. At this time, it is important to remember that allegations are not findings of fact. As of today, no criminal convictions have been filed and every individual is entitled to due process. She said as elected officials, we also recognize that public confidence in the district is essential. Our responsibility is to ensure that the Board continues to conduct its business professionally, ethically, and in compliance with Michigan law while allowing the legal process to proceed without interference or speculation. She said the school board is committed to maintaining transparency, protecting the integrity of the district, and keeping our focus where it belongs – on the education, safety, and success of our students. Mrs. Jenkins stated that we are asking the community to allow the appropriate authorities to conduct their work and avoid spreading rumors or misinformation before the facts are known. Should additional verified information become available that affects the Board's responsibilities, we will address it in accordance with our legal obligations and district policies.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mrs. Danek said that she would like to schedule a Board workshop regarding Board Relations. The Board decided to schedule this for Monday, July 27th, at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Danek also said she has a message in to Brad Banasek to schedule something regarding the Open Meetings Act, but she has not heard back from him yet.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Jenkins to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.