Tawas Area Schools Regular Board of Education Meeting And Public Hearing of the Proposed 2024-2025 Budgets June 10, 2024

Mr. Klinger convened the Public Hearing of the proposed 2024-2025 budgets at 7:00 p.m. He presented the proposed budgets.

Mr. Klinger said we anticipate we will receive approximately \$15,355,953 in revenue for the 2024-2025 school year. The revenue amount includes monies from local, state, and federal sources along with incoming transfers and other small transactions.

We expect our expenditures to be about \$15,899,791 in the next year. That means we will have excess expenditures over revenue of about (\$543,838). Our projected fund balance in the general fund on June 30, 2025 is estimated at \$5,764,575.

Considering that the state budget has not been signed we have used a conservative scenario for budget predictions. Using the 90/10 student blend, the revenue budget is based on an estimated 1127 FTE (full time equivalents) next year which is down 11 FTE from the current 1138 FTE. Revenue estimates include a \$200 per pupil increase in the foundation grant. We have used current year allocations for next year's grants and Categoricals. The expense budget has been built based on assumed contractual obligations and expense estimates.

Mr. Klinger said we also need to set the tax millage levy for July, 2024. He said we plan to levy 18.00 mills for general fund operational, 0.92 mills debt retirement to meet our tenth year of payments on our current bond issue and .4938 mills sinking fund for a total millage of 19.4138 mills.

Mr. Klinger then presented the Lunch Fund Budget. He said we anticipate total revenue of \$899,797 and total expenditures of \$889,746 leaving an estimated fund balance on June 30, 2025 of \$174,522 with a proposed program profit of \$10,051.

Mr. Klinger presented the Debt Retirement budget. We are expecting total revenue of \$591,225 based on the debt retirement tax levy of 0.92 mills. After paying our bond payment of \$581,963 it is expected that we will end the year on June 30, 2025 with \$133,012 in fund balance.

Mr. Klinger presented the Sinking Fund budget. We are anticipating total revenue of \$339,382 based on the sinking fund tax levy of .4938 mills. Expenditures of \$353,437 are estimated leaving a fund balance of \$493,487 on June 30, 2025.

Mr. Klinger presented the Student/School Activity Fund budget in compliance with GASB 84. Revenues of \$281,112 are expected with estimated expenditures of \$255,956 leaving a projected fund balance of \$268,791 on June 30, 2025.

Mr. Klinger asked if there were any questions and there were none.

President Bruning called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mrs. Bruning said that there were a couple amendments that needed to be made to the agenda. The first amendment was under New Business, item (h.) Designation of Sarah Danek as Federal Programs Director. This item needed to be amended to name Amy Clouse as Federal Programs Director. Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow to amend item (h.) as described. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Bruning stated that there also needed to be an amendment to item (n.) under New Business, non-certified wages, step increases and insurance approval. This item needed to be amended to include administrative wages and insurance with the non-certified wages, step

increases and insurance. Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to amend item (n.) under New Business as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ulman stated that she wanted to make a motion to make another amendment to the agenda. She moved to add "From the Board" under Information and Proposals, item (4.) Support by Lentz. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Butzin, Ulman, Edmonds, Lentz. No: Klenow, Jenkins, Bruning. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None Tardy: None

Administrators Present: Klinger, Livingston, Clouse

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mrs. Kelly Shufelt, coach of the Tawas High School Science Olympiad team. Mrs. Shufelt shared some of the highlights of their year as a team, which included 1st place at regionals, which took place at Alpena Community College, and placing 35th in the state on March 4, 2024, at Western Michigan University. Mrs. Shufelt shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of the successes they had this year and then concluded by asking team member Kenna Seyfried if she wanted to say anything. Kenna shared that this was her 7th year in science Olympics and she is so grateful to go out on a high note.

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 Klenow, support by Jenkins to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the May 13th 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 \$1,229,598.01, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$25,200.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$54,831.50. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$52,252.36. Letters of resignation were received from Superintendent John Klinger and teachers Tawny Collins, Peter Scott, Brandon Jerashen and Scott Jorasz. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said athletic director, Jonathan Mejeur, is recommending the following coaches for fall sports: Will Luzar – varsity football head coach; Shane Plank – 7/8 football coach; Marcus Doan – 7/8 football assistant coach; Ken Cook – varsity boys' soccer coach; Carol Elowsky – varsity volleyball coach; Erica Russo – JV volleyball coach; Stephanie Loew – 9th grade volleyball coach; Brianna Griffiths – cross country coach; Melissa Kendall– cheerleading coach; Tricia Briggs – 7/8 volleyball coach. Two varsity football assistant coaches, a JV football head coach and a JV football assistant coach positions are still open. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to hire the fall coaches as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending Ms. Mykel Michaud be hired as a 2nd grade teacher at Clara Bolen Elementary. Ms. Michaud was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to hire Ms. Mykel Michaud as an elementary teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mrs. Danek is recommending Mrs. Mandee Thiell be hired to fill the 6-12 English Language Arts teacher vacancy at Tawas Area Schools. Mrs. Thiell has a master's degree in educational curriculum and certificate endorsements in English and history 6-12. She was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Mrs. Mandee Thiell as a teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said last month we had our first reading of a change to policies 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. It is the recommendation of the committee that tonight be considered the second reading of these revisions to these policies. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to adopt the policy changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee met on May 14th, May 21st, May 28th and June 4th to work through the negotiation process. On May 14th both parties were able to tentatively agree on the language components of the contract and the TAFT team provided their initial financial package. The committee met on May 21st to review the TAFT proposal and put together a three-year counter proposal to present to the TAFT team.

When the negotiation discussion concluded on May 21st, the committee also reviewed the Superintendent's merit pay, which was based on goals that were established last year, and the committee determined that these goals had been met successfully.

On May 28th, the committee met with the TAFT team again to review TAFT's updated proposal based on the district's counter offer that was shared electronically. After reviewing the proposal, the district team countered one final time and both sides tentatively agreed to the final package. It was discussed that Mr. Dan Martin from Thrun would help provide language for the in lieu of insurance stipend.

On June 4th, the committee met again and reviewed several pieces regarding the financial numbers included in the most recent tentative agreement. The committee also reviewed different ideas regarding the search for a superintendent like holding their own search versus MASB leading the search, posting timelines, the vetting process, interview team, etc. After considering these things, the committee decided that the details of the search should be discussed by the entire Board. A workshop has been added at the end of the meeting to discuss this matter.

On June 5, 2024, TAFT presented the tentative agreement to their members and the agreement was ratified and is now being presented to the board for approval later on the agenda.

Mr. Butzin asked if the district and the union were able to reach a 3-year deal. Mr. Klinger said that a 3-year deal was agreed upon for the teachers.

Mr. Klinger said the budget committee met prior to Monday night's meeting to discuss the 2024-2025 budgets. It was explained that the current numbers are estimates based on the information we have at this time. Those numbers will change and they will be addressed through the budget amendment process. The current budget adoption is needed so the tax levy can be set by the June 15th deadline. Mrs. Lentz asked if the state budget would likely be higher or lower than the projections. Mr. Klinger said there is a lot of uncertainty due to the fact that the state budget has not been adopted yet, but he heard that it may be higher than predicted. Mr. Butzin asked if the uncertainty was due to the upcoming presidential election. Mr. Klinger said it was not due to the election and that it has more to do with the state process.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said he is waiting on the adoption of the final budget. There is a dyslexia bill in progress that he is watching closely and will update on as he knows more. Mr. Klinger also stated that there are Title IX updates coming soon and the policy committee will need to meet right away to discuss these updates. He also discussed the possibility of having to waive the second reading of policy and only have one due to timing and the nature of these policies.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said that Ms. Amy Kennedy was at the meeting tonight to give a presentation on the work that she has been doing as a literacy coach for the district. Ms. Kennedy shared a brief PowerPoint highlighting her history within this position and different activities that she has been a part of that promote literacy. Ms. Kennedy also spoke about her coaching focus for the upcoming school year and shared some of the statistics that have come out of the elementary school related to literacy. She asked if there were any questions at the conclusion of her presentation. There were no questions. Mrs. Edmonds said the numbers speak for themselves and told her she was doing a good job.

Mr. Klinger said the first reading of the 2024-25 Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook was held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. He asked if there were any questions and Mrs. Ulman said she noticed that many changes were made to the attendance process and in the changes to the process it referenced reporting absences by 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Ulman wanted to know if an absence would automatically be unexcused if a parent did not call in before 9:30 a.m. Mr. Klinger said that was not the case but they were trying to encourage parents to call in earlier in the day because the later in the day they report the absence, the more difficult it is to coordinate everything. Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to adopt the changes to the 2024-25 Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the first reading of the 2024-25 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook was held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. He asked if there were any questions and there weren't any. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to adopt the changes to the 2024-25 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the first reading of the 2024-25 Tawas Area High School student handbook was held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. He asked if there were any questions and there weren't any. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to adopt the changes to the 2024-25 Tawas Area High School student handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the first reading of the 2024-25 athletic student handbook was also held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. He asked if there were any questions and there were none. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to adopt the athletic student handbook for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

The board meeting schedule for the 2024-25 school year was presented and reviewed by the board. The regular meeting of the board will be held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the administration building. If another meeting is needed during the month, a special meeting will be called with proper notification. The board was fine with the schedule as presented. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to adopt the meeting schedule as discussed and as set forth in the board packets. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger explained that Huron Community Bank has been our depository for a number of years. They have been very accommodating and have provided excellent service. He is recommending, with support from the business office, to continue with Huron Community Bank. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz that Huron Community Bank be designated as the depository for the Tawas Area Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the Board needs to designate the Federal Programs Director for the coming year. For the past several years, Mrs. Danek has been working with Mrs. Clouse to transition her into this role. Mr. Klinger is recommending that Mrs. Clouse be named as the Federal Programs Director. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin that Amy Clouse be designated as Tawas Area Schools' Federal Programs Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the 2024-25 budgets have been presented and reviewed and asked if there are any more questions. There were no other questions at that time. Mr. Klinger said that in two weeks the board will be presented with the 2023-24 budgets which will include the original projected budgets from June 2023 along with the general fund amendment in January 2024 and the final budget amendments for all funds. Board secretary, Mrs. Klenow, made a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 budgets and to set the property tax levy as presented. Support to the motion by Jenkins. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board is required to adopt a resolution each year to allow us to officially become a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the next school year. This allows Tawas Area Schools to participate in MHSAA meets and post season tournaments. Mrs. Klenow made a motion to adopt the membership resolution to participate in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the 2024-25 school year as presented. Support to the motion by Jenkins. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said as part of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, the State of Michigan has asked that the district provide academic data on our K-8 students for both reading and math by the conclusion of the year. Mr. Klinger then reviewed the Achievement/Growth Data Template that outlines our mid-year and end of the year growth goals, and it provides the percentages of students who have met these goals. He said this data is being used to help determine how to support our students as we move forward. He said we will continue to administer our State approved assessments moving forward so we can collect data to provide the necessary interventions for the next several years. Mr. Klinger presented a slideshow with specific data for each grade level, K-8, showing areas that need to be academically focused on. Mr. Butzin stated that the statistics for some of these categories seemed low and asked I the district is happy with those numbers. Mr. Klinger said that the NWEA is a very difficult test. He said if you compare our results with the results of the schools around us it will show that we did fairly well. Mr. Klinger said we definitely aren't where we want to be though. Mr. Livingston stated that the NWEA is a test that sets more individualized goals and measures student performance based on those goals, so the score doesn't necessarily reveal the whole story. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to approve the information as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said last June the personnel committee met with him to develop his merit goal for the year. The merit goal was created to provide leadership opportunities for students that support peer to peer mediation, conflict resolution, responsible decision-making, etc. and to provide administrative mentorship to each individual administrative team member. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to approve the merit pay for Mr. Klinger as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that TAFT voted to ratify the tentative agreement that was presented on June 5th. The negotiation process addressed both language and a wage and benefits package. Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to approve and ratify the contract with TAFT per the tentative agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

The negotiations committee discussed the non-certified handbook on May 28th, which included a wage and benefits package for those employees. They also addressed wages and benefits for administrative personnel. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to approve the non-certified wage increases, step increases and insurance as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Klenow, Jenkins, Ulman, Edmonds, Lentz, Bruning. Abstain: Butzin. Motion carried. Motion by Lentz,

support by Jenkins to approve the wage and benefits package for administrative personnel. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Lichota is recommending that we hire John Henry Excavating, Inc. to reconstruct the existing catch basin in the driveway of the bus drop off area and to add a new sanitary collection manhole behind the bus garage along with replacing the drainage piping. This portion of the project will cost \$9,500. Mr. Lichota is also recommending that we hire Hunt Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc. to repair the eroded asphalt and apply new concrete to the driveway around the new catch basin. The cost for this portion of the project is \$11.358.50. The total cost of this project would be \$20,858.50. Mrs. Jenkins asked if any of this project was going to be subcontracted out to a 3rd party. Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Lichota will oversee the project and the 2 companies named will be doing all of the work. Motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to approve the parking lot drainage and catch basin project for the amount of \$20,858.50. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending that the district switch to a digital ticketing platform called GoFan for all sporting events. This platform will eliminate the need for multiple ticket takers at sporting events and would limit the transfer of cash and the liability that comes with it. Mr. Mejeur has proposed a transition plan that will allow for cash acceptance for the first year as fans become acclimated with the new system. Mr. Klinger turned it over to Mr. Mejeur, who said that the MHSAA already uses GoFan so many fans are already aware of this platform. GoFan send him a card reader to try out at the beginning of the year and the process was very easy and smooth. Mrs. Bruning expressed concern about kids who may not have a credit/debit card to use. Mr. Mejeur said that parents can still purchase passes for their kids and GoFan allows for parents to purchase tickets and transfer them to their kids via text message. Mrs. Klenow asked how much this would cost. Mr. Mejeur said that there is a service fee of \$1 per ticket sold. The Board expressed much concern with people not having the ability to utilize this platform and with students in particular not being able to afford tickets if they raised the price of tickets to cover the service fee. Mrs. Ulman stated that students having to pay for their own tickets is concerning in itself. She said if 8,000 tickets are sold in a year, that is \$40,000 in revenue and \$8,000 in fees. With a loss of that magnitude, she questioned if we could just afford to take the loss and not charge for admission. Mr. Klinger pointed out that the revenue in ticket sales is part of Mr. Mejeur's budget and we would have to find another way to counteract that loss. Mr. Livingston stated that there had been conversations about student's receiving a shirt as their pass to get into events which would help to collect more data on how many students are attending and what grades, etc. Mr. Butzin asked if there were other options. Mr. Mejeur said that MHSAA already uses GoFan so he thought having one system all across the board would be more helpful then using 2 platforms. Motion by Lentz, support by Klenow to use GoFan in addition to cash sales for the 2024-25 school year and re-visit this at the end of the year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ulman made a motion, with support by Butzin, to put ticket sales for students on the budget committee's agenda and review how these sales affect the athletic budget. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said business is not slowing down. The pole barn project is underway. Denali was here recently measuring doors to complete the door project. The floors at Clara Bolen are set to be completed this summer as well. Mr. Klinger also said he wanted to give kudos to the technology department and the maintenance department for all of their hard work when school got out. Mr. Butzin asked if there were any updates on the windows. Mr. Klinger said not at this time. The board expressed concern with some of these projects that have been discussed falling off the radar with Mr. Klinger's departure. Mr. Klinger said that he has a list of projects that he will pass on to make sure we don't lose sight.

Student Representatives – None present

Administration – Mr. Mejeur said that on June 2 Izzy Urban took 3rd place at the Division 3 state track finals. The golf team took 6th as a team in Big Rapids at the state meet, with Austin Baker individually placing 4th in the state. He said the physical clinic took place last week with over 130 kids attending. He thanked the Kloska's for their work. Mr. Livingston said the new junior representative that will be attending next year's meeting will be Abby Kloska. He said they are setting up interviews for some of the open positions. Mr. Livingston said they got to celebrate the retirements of Collins, Martin, Perrot and Bingle. He is working on purchasing curriculum and has some staff who are already working on curriculum for next year. Mrs. Clouse said she is excited for some upcoming conferences she gets to attend and is grateful for the opportunity. She highlighted the students of the month. She said she got to meet the new school social worker for next year, Rachelle Blazic, and she is excited to bring in a therapy dog next year. Ms. Blazic has met with Mrs. Clouse already and is excited to start.

From the Board – Mrs. Klenow said she wanted to explain that she said no to bringing back the "From the Board" section on the agenda because she feels it should be done earlier in the meeting because so many people leave early. She thanked the teachers and said graduation was great. Mrs. Klenow congratulated the retirees and welcomed the new hires. Mrs. Edmonds asked which grade levels Mrs. Kennedy would he helping in middle school next year and Mrs. Kennedy said 5th and 6th grade. Mr. Livingston stated that 7th and 8th grade are getting a new ELA curriculum. Mrs. Edmonds also asked if the union had discussed MLK day at all and Mr. Klinger said that there has been some discussion but nothing definitive. There have been surface level conversations. Mrs. Lentz asked if Mr. Luzar is helping with the search for JV football coaches. Mr. Mejeur assured her that Mr. Luzar is involved with this process. Mrs. Lentz went on to thank Bev and Victoria for all of their work on the budget. She said the success of the science Olympics team was great to hear about. She wished luck to those who are leaving the district and welcomed the new hires. Mrs. Lentz said that she is glad the negotiations are over and that they went well. She also thanked Mrs. Kennedy for her work and said the expectations we have for students is mind-boggling and our teachers are doing a great job. She thanked Mr. Klinger for keeping digital records. She is looking forward to Abby Kloska joining the board meetings and wanted to give a big shout out to the teachers who are working on curriculum. Mrs. Jenkins had nothing to add. Mr. Butzin said thanks to everyone and stated that he is hearing great things about the new football coach. Mrs. Ulman said she got to work on the negotiation team and the budget committee and she is thankful for the collaboration. She asked Mrs. Kennedy about the PLC's and said she has heard great things about those teams. She said she is happy to see so many kids getting their physicals at the clinic. Mrs. Ulman said she is excited for those who are coming and going from the district and is grateful for Mr. Klinger's work and wishes him the best. Mrs. Bruning said she also appreciates Mr. Klinger and everything he has done. He is very diligent and organized. She also stated that she did not remove the "From the Board" section from the agenda unilaterally. She had heard from multiple board members that they wanted to take it off but due to tonight's conversation, she would add it back on and just ask if anyone had anything to say.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said there will be a special board meeting on June 24th at 7:00 p.m., with a budget committee meeting that same day at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Klinger said that board members are required to complete the new superintendent evaluation training. The district would be scheduling a workshop with MASB to complete this training. Mr. Klinger offered multiple dates for the training to occur. The board settled on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Bruning and Mr. Butzin are not able to attend the training that day so that will get the training scheduled online prior to the deadline.

WORKSHOP-SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

The personnel/negotiations committee decided that the search for a new superintendent should be something that is worked out by the entire board. The workshop was to the logistics of this and determine how the process would take place. The board discussed forming committees to complete the different steps of the hiring process but decided that the whole board should be a

part of the interview process, not a committee. They discussed who would be on the interview panel and talked about bringing outside people in, like a staff member, administrator, community member). They also discussed how long the posting for the superintendent should be open. They talked about keeping names off of the applications to prevent bias but ultimately decide this would not be a good practice because they wouldn't be able to search the applicants online. They talked about whether they would carry out the search themselves or involve MASB with this process, and said they would only involve MASB if they were unable to find someone after searching themselves. The Board also discussed how the applications would be reviewed in open session and stated that the applications should be numbered as they come in so that they do not have to refer to people by name in open session.

The Board ultimately decided the following:

- The full Board will be involved in the vetting, interviewing, and recommendation process. The Board will run their own search.
- The posting will go up on June 11, 2024, and candidates can apply until July 5th.
- The posting will have sign-on bonus language added to it...something like, "A sign-on bonus is available, and will be discussed further during the hiring process."
- The applications will be numbered so when the Board discusses the applicants during the open sessions, they can refer to their number, not their name.

They will then have a workshop on July 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. to go over the applications.

Mr. Butzin left the meeting at 9:35 p.m. due to a medical issue. Motion by Klenow, support by Edmonds to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.