

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
And
Public Hearing of the Proposed 2025-2026 Budgets
June 9, 2025

Mrs. Danek convened the Public Hearing of the proposed 2025-2026 budgets at 7:00 p.m. She presented the proposed budgets.

Mrs. Danek said we anticipate we will receive approximately \$15,760,878 in revenue for the 2025-2026 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 \$15,814,905 in the next year. That means we will have excess expenditures over revenue of about (\$54,027). Our projected fund balance in the general fund on June 30, 2026 is estimated at \$5,710,548.

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 1120 FTE (full time equivalents) next year which is down 8 FTE from the current 1128 FTE. Revenue estimates include a \$142 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.

Mrs. Danek said we also need to set the tax millage levy for July, 2025. He said we plan to levy 18.00 mills for general fund operational, 0.85 mills debt retirement to meet our eleventh year of payments on our current bond issue and .4889 mills sinking fund for a total millage of 19.3389 mills.

Mrs. Danek then presented the Lunch Fund Budget. She said we anticipate total revenue of \$911,091 and total expenditures of \$913,495 leaving an estimated fund balance on June 30, 2026 of \$172,118 with a proposed program loss of (\$2,404).

Mrs. Danek presented the Debt Retirement budget. We are expecting total revenue of \$577,241 based on the debt retirement tax levy of 0.85 mills. After paying our bond payment of \$582,063 it is expected that we will end the year on June 30, 2026 with \$133,105 in fund balance.

Mrs. Danek presented the Sinking Fund budget. We are anticipating total revenue of \$347,737 based on the sinking fund tax levy of .4889 mills. Expenditures of \$400,000 are estimated leaving a fund balance of \$741,062 on June 30, 2026.

Mrs. Danek presented the Student/School Activity Fund budget in compliance with GASB 84. Revenues of \$295,000 are expected with estimated expenditures of \$275,000 leaving a projected fund balance of \$323,489 on June 30, 2026.

Mrs. Danek asked if there were any questions and there were none.

President Ulman called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Livingston would introduce the positive highlight for the evening. Mr. Livingston introduced members of the Student Council. Students gave a brief presentation reviewing the different events they did over the year and also discussed their future goals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Jenkins, support by Butzin to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the May 12th regular meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,407,518.60. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$47,544.40 and for the lunch fund in the amount of \$101,370.74. Letters of retirement were received from teachers Veronica Schlosser and Michael Caldwell. Letters of resignation were received from Madison Williams, educational assistant at Clara Bolen, effective June 6, 2025, and junior high football coach Marcus Doan, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Danek said athletic director, Jonathan Mejeur, is recommending that Mr. Shane Plank be hired as the JV Football Assistant Coach. Mr. Plank has coached and volunteered in the football program for several years and was previously the junior high head coach and was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Jenkins, support Butzin to hire Mr. Shane Plank as the JV Football Assistant Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mejeur is also recommending the following coaches for fall sports: Will Luzar – varsity football head coach; Nick Frees – varsity football assistant coach; Scott Menard – varsity football assistant coach; Dustin Falls – JV football head coach; Shane Plank – JV football assistant coach; Brad Hatcher – 7/8 football coach; Ken Cook – varsity boys' soccer coach; Cody Jordan – varsity boys' soccer assistant coach; Carol Elowsky – varsity volleyball coach; Erica Carson – JV volleyball coach; Stephanie Loew – 9th grade volleyball coach; Tricia Briggs – 8th grade volleyball coach; Barbara Frieden – 7th grade volleyball coach; Brianna Nelson – cross country coach; William Redman – junior high cross country coach; Melissa Kendall – cheerleading coach; Cassandra Thoryk – junior high cheerleading coach; Paul Vainer – girls' varsity golf coach. A 7/8 assistant football coach position is still open. Motion by Edmonds, support by Malewska to hire the fall coaches as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mrs. Danek said the budget committee met prior to Monday night's meeting to discuss the 2025-2026 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.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Danek said that the Michigan Department of Education recently opened grants funded through the School Aid Act of \$87 million for literacy and dyslexia support. She also stated that the Michigan House passed House Bill 4285 allowing optional firearm safety/hunting courses as an elective. The curriculum for this course was developed by MDE and the DNR collaboratively. Mrs. Danek also stated that while the state budget has not been approved yet, she is following it closely and will keep the board up to date.

NEW BUSINESS

The board meeting schedule for the 2025-26 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 Bruning, support by Jenkins to adopt the meeting schedule as discussed and as set forth in the board packets. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek explained that Huron Community Bank has been our depository for a number of years. They have been very accommodating and have provided excellent service. She is recommending, with support from the business office, to continue with Huron Community Bank. Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins that Huron Community Bank be designated as the depository for the Tawas Area Schools for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said the Board needs to designate the Federal Programs Director for the coming year. For the last year, Mrs. Clouse has been assigned to oversee our "Title" programs and was named our Federal Programs Director. She said Mrs. Clouse continues to learn the system and rules of the program and has done a nice job. Mrs. Danek is recommending that Mrs. Clouse continue in this role as director of the Federal Programs Director. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin that Amy Clouse be designated as Tawas Area Schools' Federal Programs Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said the 2025-26 budgets have been presented and reviewed and asked if there are any more questions. There were no other questions at that time. Mrs. Danek said that in two weeks the board will be presented with the 2024-25 budgets which will include the original projected budgets from June 2024 and the final budget amendments for all funds. Board secretary, Mrs. Jenkins, made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 budgets and to set the property tax levy as presented. Support to the motion by Malewska. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mrs. Danek 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. Jenkins made a motion to adopt the membership resolution to participate in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the 2025-26 school year as presented. Support to the motion by Bruning. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said as part of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, the State of Michigan had asked that the district provide academic data on our K-8 students for both reading and math by the conclusion of the year. Mrs. Danek said that although this is no longer required, it is considered best practice and she will continue to present the information throughout the year. She said this data is being used to help determine how to support our students as we move forward. Mrs. Danek presented a slideshow with specific data for each grade level, K-8, showing areas that need to be academically focused on. Mrs. Ulman asked who set the goals for the students. Mrs. Tiffany explained that the teachers set the goals based on NWEA Testing at the beginning of the year. Mrs. Tiffany also mentioned that the testing progressively gets harder as the year goes on. Motion by Jenkins, support by Malewska to approve the information as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said last November the personnel committee met with her to develop her merit goal for the year. In her first year as Superintendent, she focused on establishing a clear leadership foundation while supporting an administrative team with limited experience. She stated that this year was about building trust, clarifying roles, and setting expectations for collaboration and accountability. While meaningful progress was made, Mrs. Danek said it became clear that the focus moving forward must include strengthening conflict resolution skills, improving team communication and ensuring more timely and effective staff evaluations. Motion by Butzin,

support by Malewska to approve the merit pay for Mrs. Danek as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that the Tawas Area Band Boosters had submitted a request to initiate a discussion regarding the potential purchase of new band uniforms for the Tawas Area Schools band program. Matthew Fields, a Tawas Area graduate, with the help of some current students, gave a presentation regarding this request. The current uniforms are 20 years old. They are deteriorating and falling apart. Matthew stated that the outdated design of the uniforms does not align with the band standards and contributes to student discomfort, which affects morale and performance. Matthew said the estimated cost of the new uniforms would be around \$47,000. He had a student model the proposed new uniforms. Mrs. Ulman said that the price of the uniforms was above the threshold and would have to go out to bid. She asked if the Boosters would be willing to meet with the Board to discuss the funding of new uniforms. They said they would be willing to do that. Mr. Butzin shared that his biggest concern is storage of the uniforms. Matthew said that they now have a storage closet in the old gym where they would be stored and that they would all have garment bags to protect the uniforms. It was decided that this matter would be discussed at the Sinking Fund Workshop that will take place in July and Mrs. Ulman asked the Boosters to present through email what they would be able and willing to contribute to this purchase and the Board would review it at the workshop.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Don Axline is requesting Board approval for the purchase of new computers from Inacom TSG in the amount of \$22,091.16. A significant number of computers across the district lack the necessary hardware to support an upgrade to Windows 11. Given that Microsoft will discontinue support for Windows 10 in October, replacing these devices is the most viable and responsible course of action to ensure continued functionality and security. The Board asked where the funds for this would come from and Mrs. Danek said it would come from the Technology Department's budget. Motion by Malewska, support by Butzin to approve the purchase of new computers from Inacom TSG in the amount of \$22,091.16. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that a bid opening was held on June 3 for the paging system upgrade project. One bid was received and reviewed from Rauland SoundCom Systems in the amount of \$92,550. A copy of the full bid could be found in board packets for reference. Mrs. Danek said she is recommending that the Board approve the bare minimum upgrade with the a la carte options discussed at the last meeting. After some discussion, the Board decided to table this request until the next board meeting on June 23rd. Mrs. Danek said the bid was likely only good for 30 days so she would recommend coming to the next meeting prepared to take action on this.

Mrs. Danek said that at the regular June board meeting last year, the Board approved a request from Mr. Mejeur to implement GoFan, a digital ticketing platform, for all athletic events, while continuing to offer cash sales as an option. The motion included a stipulation that the Board would revisit the matter after one year. Mr. Mejeur was introduced to provide an update on the implementation and usage of GoFan over the past year. Mr. Mejeur said that most people paid with cash over the last year. He said there were approximately \$8500 in GoFan ticket sales, while cash sales were about \$66,233. GoFan was used the most during football and basketball seasons. Mrs. Ulman said the question now is whether we continue to use GoFan. Mr. Mejeur said he would like to continue to do GoFan and cash sales for convenience. He said GoFan does not cost the district any money to use, but they receive \$1 for every ticket sold through the platform. Board members were questioning the price of tickets and comparing them to other districts. Mrs. Ulman said that are 2 separate issues being discussed. One being the continued use of GoFan and the other being the price of tickets. The price of tickets is a procedural issue and not a policy issue. Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to continue to use GoFan and cash for the next calendar year and reevaluate after one year. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek said that on June 16th the company installing the ADA bleachers will be on campus to start work. 3 out of 4 of her administrators will be attending EdCon in June in Traverse City. She also said that on August 5th and 6th the administration team and herself will attend the Mackinaw Summer Leadership Institute held at Mission Point Resort. August 11th is when the active shooter drills will take place at Clara Bolen. She also introduced Eryn Hayes, the junior class representative.

Student Representatives – Abby Kloska said they had NHS inductions in May and Eryn Hayes stated that she would be attending the rotary leadership camp this weekend.

Administration – Mr. Livingston said he will be travelling to Lansing, MI to be a part of the the M-Step Standard Setting Committee for social studies. He also stated that the summer school staff for the high school is all set. Mrs. Tiffany talked about students participating in “A Minute to Win It” games and Field Day, as well as the staff vs. student dodgeball game. She said summer school has started for the middle school. She said they are currently seeking new teachers to fill the vacancies of those that have retired. Mr. Mejeur said he attended the golf state competition at GVSU. The golf team placed 11th in the competition, with all members of the team placing within the top 100. He also stated that next year Tawas will be hosting volleyball districts and boys’ basketball districts. Mr. Hazen said that Project Graduation went very well and the kids had some awesome gifts donated by the community. He said all of the volunteers did great. 3 students in the high school ended the year with perfect attendance. He also wanted to give a shout out to the staff for preparing students well for exams and keeping them focused for the last few weeks of school. Mrs. Clouse highlighted the students of the month at Clara Bolen. She said she had 2 students who had perfect attendance all year. Mrs. Clouse also said that Summer Boost started today but that they were having a hard time getting kids to attend, she believes, due to transportation issues.

From the Board – Mrs. Jenkins thanked the administration team and told them to enjoy their summer. Mrs. Bruning also said to enjoy summer. Mr. Butzin thanked Mr. Caldwell for his service and said everyone did a great job this year. He said commencement was great. Mr. Miller thanked everyone and said that the band presentation was nicely done. He welcomed Ms. Hayes. Mrs. Malewska thanked everyone for a great year. She thanked everyone who pulled off the Mackinaw Island trip and said the band presentation was great. Mrs. Malewska also stated that the growth in the student council is exciting to see and hopes to see more of it. Mrs. Edmonds said she is excited to get the ADA bleachers at the football field and congratulated the staff. Mrs. Ulman thanked everyone for being great leaders. She said she just attended CBA 304: Empowering Education, which was about ways to focus on student leadership and achievement. She said she learned about some great ideas for how the Board can help with improving student achievement processes. She said she wanted to form an Ad-Hoc Student Achievement Committee for this purpose. Malewska, Jenkins and Ulman all volunteered to be members of this committee. Mrs. Ulman also thanked all the retirees and welcomed Ms. Hayes.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mrs. Klinger said there will be a special board meeting on June 23rd at 7:00 p.m., with a budget committee meeting that same day at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Danek stated that the Red Line Club, which is the fundraising unit for the hockey team, has requested to meet with the district to revisit contract language. She is recommending an Ad-Hoc Hockey Committee to discuss this matter. Members of this committee will be Butzin, Edmonds and Bruning.

Mrs. Ulman stated that she would like to plan a full board workshop in July to review the balance of the sinking fund and discuss which projects are on the list to use these funds for. This workshop will take place on July 14th after the regular board meeting.

At 8:20 the Board took a brief recess.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to enter into a closed session for an attorney/client update regarding camera access for central dispatch. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenkins, support by Edmonds to return to open session at 9:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jenkins, support by Butzin to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.