

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
September 9, 2024

Vice President Ulman called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2024.

Mrs. Ulman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Miller, Jenkins, Edmonds, Lentz, Ulman  
Absent: Bruning  
Tardy: Butzin

Administrators Present: Danek, Livingston, Tiffany, Clouse

Motion by Ulman, with support from Lentz to make an amendment to the agenda with the addition of a closed session regarding the superintendent evaluation and to discuss an attorney-client privileged communication prior to advance planning. This amendment would make (D.) Closed Session, (E.) Advance Planning and (F.) Adjournment. Motion carried unanimously.

### **POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Kohl Coffin did a presentation highlighting last year's Washington D.C. Trip. He briefly spoke about all of the numerous attractions the students got to visit, including the Flight 93 National Memorial, the Holocaust Museum, the National Archives, a tour of D.C., Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian, Mount Vernon, and Gettysburg. He concluded by thanking the Board for approving the trip.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Ulman asked if there was anyone with public comment. There was no one on the public comment sign-in sheet but she verified that no one wanted to speak during public comment. There was no public comment.

Mr. Butzin arrived to the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Jenkins, support by Edmonds to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the August 12, 2024 regular meeting minutes, the August 29, 2024 special meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$974,444.71, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$36,829.80 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$21,843.62. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$65,359.02, the sinking fund bills in the amount of \$21,100.00 and the lunch fund bills in the amount of \$6,654.25. Letters of resignation were received and approved for Cecilia Tucker, special education teacher, who resigned as of August 13, 2024, Alexis Stanley and Christina Moran, educational assistants at Clara Bolen, who resigned as of August 19, 2024, Jason Woelke resigned as JV boys' basketball coach as of August 20, 2024, wrestling coach, Chad Herrick, resigned effective immediately, and middle school cheer coach, Abigail Sevenser resigned effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs. Danek said that she is recommending Mr. Dru Carson be hired to fill the K-12 PE/Health Instructor vacancy. Mr. Carson is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a major in physical education and a minor in health. He has 3 years of teaching experience in another district and a strong work ethic. Mr. Carson was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Jenkins, support by Lentz to hire Mr. Dru Carson as a PE/Health teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Clouse is recommending Mr. Craig Prescott be hired as a Title I educational assistant at Clara Bolen Elementary. Mr. Prescott has an associate's degree in general studies from Northwestern Michigan College and is currently working toward completing his bachelor's degree through Western Governors University. Mr. Prescott has been a substitute teacher at Clara Bolen for the last 2 years and was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to hire Mr. Craig Prescott as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Clouse is recommending that Mrs. Alicia Thompson be hired as a special education, educational assistant at Clara Bolen. Mrs. Thompson has a bachelor's degree in business from Saginaw Valley State University and is currently working on her teaching certification for grades 3-6 through the Teachers of Tomorrow program. She was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to hire Mrs. Alicia Thompson as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Clouse is also recommending Mr. Kenneth Cannoy be hired as a special education, educational assistant at Clara Bolen. Mr. Cannoy has 5 years of experience as a one on one aide for West Branch Rose City Schools and was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Jenkins to hire Mr. Kenneth Cannoy as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending that the Board of Education hire Ms. Kendra McClaine as the middle school cheer coach. Ms. McClaine is a Tawas alumni and has past experience with cheerleading and coaching cheer with the Raven's program. She was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to hire Ms. Kendra McClaine as the middle school cheer coach. Motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Danek said that the personnel committee met on August 26<sup>th</sup> to review the applications that were received for the MS/HS principal vacancy. After discussion, the committee decided to interview three of the applicants, which took place on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The committee brought one candidate back for a second round interview on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Danek asked if anyone from the personnel committee wanted to speak and they all declined to comment.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Danek said she had no legislative update for the Board at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Danek said Ms. Cindy Scott from Stephenson & Company P.C. will present the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2024. The general fund increased year end fund

balance by \$1,084,591, which was largely the result of an increase in federal revenue. The lunch fund increased year end fund balance by \$52,849 due to increased state reimbursements and federal revenues. The sinking fund decreased year end fund balance by \$34,375 due to current year capital projects exceeding the property tax revenue. The debt retirement fund increased year end fund balance by \$18,748 due to current year property tax revenue exceeding current year principal and interest debt repayments.

Cindy Scott then began the audit report presentation. She began by referring to the audit opinion letter and stated that the district received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance. She then referred to the management's discussion and analysis which recaps the current year activity and encouraged the board to read through it when they get a chance. She then went on to the government-wide financial statements which combines all funds of the district. These statements incorporate all long-term activity such as fixed assets, long term debt, etc. She noted that these are the only statements where the GASB 68 Net Pension Liability and GASB 75 Net OPEB Liability are recorded. The district's ending net position is (\$3,444,725) because of the liability that is required to be recorded. Most districts in the state are in this same situation. She said there were some big changes from last year, with cash increasing about \$2,440,000 due to decreased receivables and increased unearned revenues. Total revenues increased by \$2,720,000 and total expenses increased by \$450,000. The net pension liability decreased by \$618,000 based on the proportionate share assigned to us by the state and the net OPEB liability decreased by \$1,176,364 also based on the proportionate share assigned to us.

Ms. Scott said the fund financial statements are made up of one major fund, the general fund and four non-major funds, including the sinking fund, the lunch fund, the student activity fund and the 2015 school building and sites bond fund. She said the general fund ended the year with a fund balance of \$6,714,165. Of that amount \$3,018,472 is unassigned which equates to about 19.66% of our current year expenditures. She said we have \$3,233,498 in assigned fund balance, \$415,000 in committed expenditures, and \$47,195 in non-spendable funds. Ms. Scott displayed various charts and graphs comparing the last three years' revenues and expenses which were very comparable from year to year, noting increases in both local and federal revenues. She said approximately 79.31% of our expenses are made up of salaries and benefits, which is typical for schools.

Ms. Scott indicated there were several commitments at year end which included an 84-passenger bus, a 77-passenger bus, Go Math curriculum and the cold storage building project with a sum total of \$401,614. There was also one material event after year end that needed to be disclosed, the purchase of an 83-passenger bus for \$145,088.

Ms. Scott said that the single audit had no findings or questioned costs related to the major federal award program audit.

The Management Letter is made up of two appendixes. There were no comments in the first appendix. The second appendix shows no material weakness, no significant deficiency and states that the only other written matters are regarding the student activity fund bank reconciliations.

Ms. Scott said that the single audit finding from the previous year regarding allowable costs and cost principles (ESSER III) has been corrected.

She asked the board if they had any questions, which they did not, and they thanked Ms. Scott for her presentation.

Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to accept the 2023-24 audit report as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously

Selection/certification of voting delegate to MASB fall conference – MASB's 2024 Delegate Assembly will begin on Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lansing Center in Lansing. Delegates must be certified by Friday, October 4. MASB allows a school of our size to have one voting delegate and one alternate. Mrs. Jenkins expressed interest in attending the conference and Mrs. Lentz volunteered to be the alternate. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to certify Amy Jenkins as the delegate and Tracee Lentz as the alternate from Tawas Area Schools.

8<sup>th</sup> grade trip request – Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Kohl Coffin and Mrs. Kerri Buysens are requesting permission to take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class on a field trip to Washington D.C. in the spring of 2025. This trip will be similar to the trip the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have taken in the past. The trip is still in the process of being planned and finalized. The Board expressed that they would like more information about the trip and quotes for travel before full approval. Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to allow Mrs. Buysens to move forward with planning the Washington D.C. trip. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Superintendent Contract – Mrs. Ulman said that the personnel committee met on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the superintendent contract. She said a copy of the final contract could be found in the board packets. Mrs. Ulman then made a motion, with support by Jenkins to approve the superintendent contract as presented. Mrs. Lentz asked when Mrs. Danek officially took over as superintendent. It was agreed upon that she took the reins on August 6, 2024. This is reflected in her contract. Mrs. Ulman stated that although she took over in August, her pay could not be retro activated by law. Therefore, her new salary did not go into effect until the approval of the contract that night. Mrs. Lentz said that they needed to do something to compensate Mrs. Danek for the difference in pay from August 6<sup>th</sup> until current. Mrs. Ulman suggested doing an addendum to the contract to give Mrs. Danek a bonus amounting to the difference in pay over the time period from August 6<sup>th</sup> until September 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed with this and stated that it would be brought to the Board at the next meeting, on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chromebook Purchase – Mrs. Danek said Mr. Huizar is recommending that the Board approve the purchase of new devices to sustain our one-to-one Chromebook initiative in the amount of \$92,960. Mrs. Danek notated that this purchase would be made using unallocated ESSER funds, which the district will lose if they do not use and will offset technology purchases in the future. Motion by Jenkins, support by Edmonds to approve the Chromebook purchase in the amount of \$92,960. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek said she had a few updates. The All Class Reunion will take place on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am until 4:00 p.m. There are currently 250 attendees that have RSVP'd. The Youth Advisory Committee vacancy has been filled by Mrs. Dalman. Also, a middle school robotics coach is still being sought.

Student Representatives – Ms. Gabrielle Whetstone said that Homecoming is next week and the Student Senate has already had 2 meetings to plan. Also, the Powderpuff Game is coming up soon. Ms. Abby Kloska added that SLS is having a kick-off event on September 20<sup>th</sup> before the Homecoming game, where they will have a tailgating event.

Administration –Mrs. Clouse said that Clara Bolen had a great turnout for their open house. She also talked about Jonathan Rand coming to speak to students on September 27. Mrs. Clouse said that they were excited to have the “secret shop” this year, where students will have the ability to shop for Christmas gifts for family members. She stated that current enrollment at the elementary school is 438 students.

Mrs. Tiffany said that the middle school had an 87% turnout for orientation and 47% turnout for Open House. They also had their first Braves Parent Counsel meeting which went very well and had good attendance. There mum sale to benefit the Memorial Garden is this Friday. NWEA testing will be finished up this week as well. On September 12, there are some teachers attending an adaptive teaching refresher. After school tutoring has also started up again for the year. Mrs. Tiffany said that Erin Klinger is the new representative for the Junior National Honor Society, which they were excited about. Mr. del Rio is now doing e-Sports for the middle school as well as the high school with the help of Mr. Davis. She also talked about creating a framework for positive behavior intervention supports and having an advocate come in weekly to help with that.

Mr. Livingston said the Rachel’s Challenge Assembly with the freshman class is this Thursday. They are still tabulating the standardized testing scores for the high school and will present an update at a later meeting. He also talked about AP classes. In 2023 58 AP tests were given, in 2024 there were 106 tests given. He talked about the addition of AP Calculus boosting this increase. 30% of what determines a schools score for the U.S. News Best Schools Award is based on the number of students taking AP classes. The high school was ranked 78<sup>th</sup> in the state of Michigan out of 651 schools and nationally the high school was ranked 2,381 out of 25,000 schools. Mr. Livingston also talked about the On To College initiative that would be starting in the high school. This initiative provides time, resources and assistance to prepare students to take standardized tests. This initiative will be rolled out in the academic seminar classes this year. Mrs. Ulman asked if Mr. Colorite was part of the On To College initiative. Mr. Livingston said him and Mrs. Warner have both been made aware of it. Mr. Butzin asked about helping kids with the FASFA, Mr. Livingston talked about how the high school did a FASFA night last year and had a good turnout and would love to do it again this year. He also said that this Saturday there would be a community event to support the Jagelewski family at 7 p.m.

Mr. Mejeur said the Powderpuff football game is on September 18. Elliott Buchanan moved the soccer ticket booth closer to the field so that ticket takers can watch the game. He also stated that he is having ticket-takers keep track of how many students are attending games by using a clicker to track it.

Mr. Livingston added in that he had his first student get a reduction in punishment using restorative practices which also resulted in the vaping incident not being reported to law enforcement.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds said the audit was great and said that Mrs. McCoy did a good job. She said it was awesome to see the benefits of the AP curriculum. Mr. Miller had nothing to add. Mrs. Jenkins welcomes the new hires and thanked Mr. Klinger for his

years of service to the district. Mr. Butzin thanked Mrs. Dalman for taking over the YAC position. Mrs. Lentz commended all staff and administration for a great start to a new year. She said the number of current staff who are alumni of Tawas truly makes us Tawas Strong. She thanked the community for the support of the Jagelewski family. She thanked Mrs. McCoy for her work on the budget and Mrs. Dalman for stepping up to oversee YAC and thanked Mr. Coffin for the positive highlights from the D.C. trip. Mrs. Ulman said she is excited about the vaping initiative and restorative practices; to see the impact it will have on students. She said it is wonderful to see staff stepping up for extra positions and loves the Braves Parent Counsel. She also stated that she looks forward to hearing about the all class reunion.

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 8:44 p.m.

Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to go into a closed session to discuss the superintendent evaluation and attorney/client privilege communication at 8:53 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to return to open session at 9:52 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, with support by Butzin to hire Douglas Livingston as the middle school/high school principal and immediately start looking for his replacement as assistant principal. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Butzin, Edmonds, Lentz, Miller, Ulman. No: Jenkins. Motion carried.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mrs. Danek said the board governance committee needed to schedule a meeting. The meeting was set for October 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Danek stated that the CASBA meeting would be held on October 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. and encouraged members of the ISD committee to attend if possible.

Motion by Butzin, support by Miller to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.