

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Bruning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Lentz

Tardy:

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

Mrs. Bruning stated that there have been 2 amendments to the agenda that she wanted to notate prior to beginning. Under action items, item B(2)(a)(4), hire varsity football coach, is being deleted from the agenda. We also needed to add an additional closed session under new business for an attorney/client update B(4)(h). Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to accept the amendments to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mrs. Danek and features the Top Ten of the Class of 2024.

Mrs. Danek said she is pleased to introduce the Top Ten students of the class of 2024. She introduced the students including the valedictorian, Chaison Stuart, and the salutatorian, Deward Kyle Velasco. Rounding out the Top Ten are Kierstin Muckenthaler, Daniel Moon, Catherine Push, Vincent Lin, Kenna Seyfried, Addysen Otremba, Sophia Morand and Kylee Stroemer. Grade point averages ranged from 3.94 to 4.13. Each student told what their favorite school memory was along with their favorite class. They also shared what their future plans include. The board thanked them for attending, congratulated them on their accomplishments and wished them well in their future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Bruning asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ulman, support by Klenow to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the February 12th regular meeting minutes, the February 29th special 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 \$1,227,430.43 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$72,392.43. A letter of resignation was accepted from Kaelene Horn as the junior high track coach. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending Ms. Madison Williams be hired as an educational assistant. Ms. Williams is currently enrolled at Central Michigan University and is taking classes toward her associate's degree in childhood education. She has several years of experience working in different childcare settings and has also worked for Acorn Health. Ms. Williams was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to hire Madison Williams as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said athletic director, Mr. Mejeur, is recommending Mrs. Kaelene Horn be hired to fill the junior varsity softball coach vacancy. Mrs. Horn has coached and volunteered in many different sports for the district and was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to hire Kaelene Horn as the junior varsity softball coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Mejeur is also recommending Mrs. Erin Challenger be hired as the girls' varsity track assistant coach. Mrs. Challenger has coached and volunteered her time in various track programs over the years and has many years of experience in the sport. She was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to hire Erin Challenger as the girls' varsity track assistant coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger told the board that this is the time of year that recommendations are made regarding probation and tenure for our teachers. He indicated that the building principals have been actively working on evaluating their staffs. The process is designed to be a continual improvement process. This involves multiple classroom visits, communications and a minimum of two formal observations before a final evaluation can be administered. Since it is a more thorough and involved process, evaluations won't be complete until late spring. However, administration has completed the required observations and visitations giving them the information needed to make recommendations for the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Klinger said that three teachers, Corie del Rio, Tammy Ahearne and Marcia Schick, were hired mid-year and are being recommended to continue their first year of probation due to their mid-year hiring dates. Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow that Corie del Rio, Tammy Ahearne and Marcia Schick continue on 1st year probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow that ten teachers, Ruby Swales, Adam Davis, Cecilia Tucker, Kohl Coffin, Lindsay Miller, Erika Fox, Leslie Laird, Erin Challenger, Courtney VanderVeen and Patricia Ellisor, be granted a 2nd year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow that two teachers, Kristen Wood and Nicholas Popoff, be granted a 3rd year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin that three teachers, Tricia Briggs, Karen Kienitz and Erica Russo, be granted a 4th year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins that one teacher, Pete Scott, be granted a 5th year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins that four teachers, Brianna Griffiths, Anneke Tuttle, Jordan Hazen and Mandy Sigulinsky, be recognized for tenure under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act effective June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – None.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said that there are a few bills that he is watching currently to see what happens with them. Those bills include a dyslexia bill, a cardiac arrest bill and an organ donor bill. He said he will keep the board updated on those bills as things progress.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said that Mrs. Clouse was at the meeting to present information on the math curriculum purchase for Clara Bolen Elementary School. Mrs. Clouse is recommending a three-year purchase totaling \$86,610.35. Mrs. Clouse presented a slide show outlining the process that has been completed to assist in purchasing this curriculum. This included the formation of a math leadership team as well as the exploration of several demo accounts to look at different curriculums. Ultimately, the team liked the Go Math curriculum since it is the same platform as the reading curriculum they are currently using, making it an easier transition and it can be linked with some of the programs they are already utilizing. This was proposed to the entire teaching staff in February and feedback was collected. Mrs. Clouse explained that they had gotten 3 different quotes, a 1-year quote, a 3-year quote and a 6-year quote, and they did not feel that one year was enough to really dig in and make a fair assessment of the curriculum, so the team decided to go with the 3-year curriculum. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to approve the math curriculum purchase totaling \$86,610.35. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the school calendar has been set for next year and it is ready to be shared out to all stakeholders following board approval. Students first day of school will be August 26th and their last scheduled day will be June 5, 2025. Mr. Klinger said the calendar is created in collaboration with the local ISD and was reviewed by the TAFT executive board. Mr. Butzin asked about MLK Day and stated that he did not think that there should be school on that day. Butzin stated that we have a growing population of bi-racial students and he believes that we need to change the policy on this. Mrs. Ulman asked what the procedure would be to change the calendar and Mrs. Klenow stated that this is a decision the Union would need to make. She requested that the minutes of the meeting be sent to the Union so that they can consider this. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to approve the 2024-2025 school year calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that recently the Alternative Education Academy Board of Trustees has been exploring ways to increase in-person attendance. The Board found that a lack of transportation options was limiting students from attending in person on a regular basis, and asked if the local school districts would entertain contracting out bus services to help improve in this area of need. A copy of the contract that the transportation department and Mr. Klinger created based on the feedback and the need of the students at the Alternative Education Academy was included in board packets. Mrs. Klenow asked if Mr. Klinger thought this could become a burden to the drivers. Mrs. Klinger said he does not believe so. He said drivers will be compensated accordingly and the contract has a clause that says we can end the contract at any time and for any reason. Mrs. Edmonds asked if any other school districts are participating and Mr. Klinger said that Oscoda is doing it and Hale is in the process of getting it in place. Mr. Butzin said that currently the alternative education kids use the transit bus to transport them to and from school but that is not working out for them. Mr. Klinger said it has taken a while to work out the logistics and put everything together but they feel they now have a good plan in place. Mr. Butzin asked if kids on the bus will be subject to Tawas' rules regarding bus transportation and Mr. Klinger said they will be. Mrs. Bruning asked if they expect a lot of kids to utilize this service and Mr. Klinger said he believes that over time it will grow as more and more kids find out about it. Motion by Klenow, support by Ulman to approve the busing contract with the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Bruning is requesting that the board allow the high school robotics team to attend a robotics competition at Sterling Heights High School from March 28 until March 30, 2024. There would be 9 students attending and 4 adult chaperones, including Mr. Bruning. Students would miss one and a half days of school. Details of the trip were provided to board members in their packets and Mr. Bruning was at the meeting to answer any questions from the Board. Motion by Klenow, support by Jenkins to allow the robotics teams to attend the competition at Sterling Heights High School from March 28 until March 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said that the 2 new buses are finally on campus. They are getting radio systems installed and will be on the road very soon. These gas buses have a lot less features which means there are less things that could go wrong and potentially have to repair. He also stated that the pole barn is out for bid. Around spring break we will open the bids and are hopeful for a recommendation at the April board meeting.

Student Representatives – Ms. Push said that recently SLS attended a conference at Shanty Creek. They had speakers presenting to the kids and workshops for them to attend. She said that the Tawas SLS group received 3 out of the 5 awards they handed out. Ms. Push said that student senate met recently to go over Snowcoming. They were very happy with the event as a whole. They have talked about doing something for testing week in April but are unsure at this time what that entails. Lastly, Ms. Push said the e-board would like to propose a mascot to the board of education, Barry the Brave. They are really excited about this possibility and would love to see it come to fruition

Administration – Mr. Livingston said that staff did professional development on March 1st for the second half of the day. High school and middle school staff attended a classroom management session, while another group prepared for digital testing. He said that they are looking into an ELA curriculum for 5th and 6th grades, while 7th and 8th grades want to have a standardized grammar book, which is being researched. Mr. Livingston stated that the high school and middle school bands earned a II-I-I rating, which was an overall superior rating. The junior high band received a II-I-II rating, excellent overall. The choir got an overall I rating and is heading to states. Science Olympics won their regional competition. E-sports has started up their spring season. He ended by announcing that Mrs. Danek has been nominated for principal of the year. Mrs. Danek thanked all of her colleagues for the nomination. She said that the state conference she attended for SLS included over 100 other schools and almost 2,000 students. It took place at the Amway Grand and there were a lot of opportunities for networking for students. The team got 4th place overall. She also went on to congratulate the staff that were recognized for tenure. Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Jorasz did the M3 math challenge with students recently and they are awaiting the results of that. April 9-April 11 will be the dates for high school PSAT and SAT testing. Middle school testing will take place on April 12. And M-Step testing will occur after that. She thanked Mrs. Lichota and Mrs. Wood for attending the conference as well. Mrs. Clouse recognized Clara Bolen's students of the month. She said that this Wednesday from 5-7 is literacy night, with a "Rock n' Read" theme. On March 22 students would be attending a musical spoon motivational assembly and Mike Hoadley, state representative, would be coming to Clara Bolen on March 21 to read to several classes. For professional development, Mrs. Clouse said that they did some HMH digging deeper. She also talked about how she had the opportunity to attend an adaptive schools training, which is for anyone who runs any kind of meeting, and said it was an amazing training and she can't wait to go back in June to learn more. Mrs. Tiffany recognized the middle school students of the month. She said track season is starting soon and the Math Counts team recently competed in Midland, placing 2nd under the leadership of Mrs. Jordan Hazen. Middle school science Olympics had 2 students qualify for state which take place on May 4. The ice skating trip was a success and students had a lot of fun. She also stated that the building trades class will be attending a competition at Delta College on March 14. Mr. Mejeur said that the middle school track coaching position is still open at this time. He said that Brooke McClellan places 49th out of 56 bowlers at the state competition. Trace Reay placed 6th at the wrestling state finals. He said that spring sports started today and is excited that we will be hosting numerous district competitions this spring and a regional semifinal in baseball.

From the Board – Mrs. Bruning asked if the board had anything they would like to say. Mrs. Ulman congratulated Mrs. Danek on her principal of the year nomination.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said he would like to schedule policy and curriculum committee meetings. It was decided they will both be held on April 8th, with the policy committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. and the curriculum committee meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to take a short recess at 8:08 p.m. before going into closed sessions for a student discipline hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow to enter closed session at 8:18 p.m. for a student discipline hearing. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to open session by Edmonds, support by Klenow at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow that student 2023-2024-#7 return to school and be entered into a behavioral contract. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Klenow to enter closed session at 8:41 p.m. for another student discipline hearing. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to open session at 9:01 p.m. by Edmonds, support by Klenow. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Klenow that student 2023-2024-#6 be expelled for up to 180 days with the ability of petitioning the Board at the October 2024 meeting to return at the end of the first marking period of the 2024-2025 school year on a behavioral contract. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to enter closed session at 9:06 p.m. for an attorney/client update and a negotiations discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to return to open session at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to adjourn at 9:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.