

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
February 12, 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, February 12, 2024 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Bruning stated that there was an amendment to the agenda, with the addition of an overnight trip request from the wrestling team under new business (f).

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Ulman, Jenkins, Butzin, Bruning
Absent: Edmonds, Klenow, Lentz
Tardy: None

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

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek will present tonight's positive highlight on the Regional Super Connect Event that took place in Bay City on January 31. Mrs. Danek attended this event with a group of 5 students from the e-Board. She stated that this event was mostly student lead which was awesome to see. Mrs. Danek stated that the group from Tawas presented on 3 key challenges, substance abuse, community involvement and recognizing and addressing student needs. They also spoke about the 3 main goals of SLS, to influence, guide and motivate students. Tawas finished in the Top 3 for their presentation and qualified to go to the state conference in Grand Rapids, MI. Mrs. Danek then asked Ms. Catie Push if she had anything to add. Ms. Push said that the event was a great opportunity to learn from what other schools are doing and to be able to share their ideas and collaborate. Ms. Gabrielle Whetstone also shared about the event briefly.

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 Ulman, support by Jenkins to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the January 15th regular and closed session meeting minutes. It also included the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$962,124.65 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$61,509.36. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$29,160.74 and for the sinking fund in the amount of \$17,853.75. Letters of resignation were accepted from middle school science teacher Angela Bussinger, varsity girls' assistant track coach Aaron Hazen, and educational assistant Traci Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending that Mr. Don Lozen be hired as a Title I educational assistant. Mr. Lozen has a master's degree in business management from Central Michigan University and has been a very consistent and reliable long term substitute in our district. He was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to hire Mr. Don Lozen as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek is recommending that Ms. Marcia Schick be hired to fill the Title I teaching vacancy in the middle school. Ms. Schick has a master's degree in educational technology with endorsements in math and science, as well as many years of experience in the

middle school setting as an intervention teacher. Ms. Schick was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to hire Ms. Marcia Schick as a Title I teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Sancrant is recommending Ms. Amanda Mitchell be hired as a cook's helper. Ms. Mitchell is a resident of the district and has experience working in food service and was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to hire Ms. Amanda Mitchell as a cook's helper. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said last month we had our first reading of a change to policy 0122 board powers and policy 3131 staff reductions/recalls. It is the recommendation of the committee that tonight be considered the second reading of these revisions to policies 0122 and 3131. Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to adopt the policy change as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board governance committee met on January 22nd and again on January 29th to discuss and review several different board operating procedure manuals from other districts. They also reviewed board meeting norms from other districts, and have started to form their thoughts, feelings and potential future recommendations. Our next step this evening during advance planning is to try and schedule the CBA 253 class with Mr. Scott Morrell. During this class, he will help educate us on this process and shape our own manual. He came highly recommended from Ms. Deb Macon during our last CBA class in January.

Mr. Klinger said that the budget committee met prior to the meeting tonight to review the general fund budget amendment. The information presented will help take conservative estimates from June of 2023 and provide more accurate amounts that include pupil FTE, categoricals, salaries, benefits, revenues, expenses and other changes that help give a more accurate picture of the district's financial status. He said a more formal update would be given under new business with an opportunity to ask questions of Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Fisher.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said that the Governor recently presented her budget for 2024-2025 to the Legislature, which he will continue to keep an eye on.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said as he mentioned earlier, the budget committee met to review the changes to the general fund budget. He said that a conservative 2023-24 budget was adopted in June prior to the governor signing the current state budget. Many estimated numbers have now been amended to reflect actual amounts. Specifically, our pupil FTE is up from an estimated 1,128 to 1,135 and the foundation allowance is up from an estimated \$9,550 to an actual \$9,608 per pupil. Categoricals have also been updated to reflect allocations on the status report. Expenses have been updated to reflect current contracts. ESSER funds and grant allocations have also been adjusted to actual. We are presenting an amendment that shows a June prediction of surplus spending \$76,722 to an amended budget surplus of \$678,839. This surplus increase comes from using the balance of ESSER III funds as Continuity of Services for salaries and benefits for the assured continuance of providing core curriculum services to our high school and middle school students. Also, per auditor recommendation, we are assigning \$2,689,660 of the fund balance long term to show that we want to protect and sustain positions currently being funded through ESSER funds as they will expire September 30, 2024. Although this information gives us a closer picture of the 2023-2024 budget, there are still estimated items. The final amendment will be presented in June.

Mr. Klinger said as part of P.A. 48 Section 98b, the State of Michigan has asked all school districts to provide academic data on K-8 students for both reading and math by February and before the end of the school year. Mr. Klinger then reviewed the achievement/growth data template that outlines our mid-year goals and provides the percentages of students who are meeting those

goals. Mr. Klinger also presented a slideshow outlining the specific academic areas being focused on in math and reading for each grade level.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Mejeur is requesting that the board allow the varsity bowling team to take an overnight trip to attend the MHSAA Regional Bowling Tournament for both team and individual bowling in Traverse City on February 22nd and 23rd. Students will miss school on Friday, February 23 and will be expected to get their schoolwork ahead of time. Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to allow the varsity bowling team to attend the MHSAA Regional Bowling Tournament in Traverse City on February 22nd and 23rd. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Bruning is requesting that the board allow the high school robotics team to attend a robotics competition at the Woodhaven District High School from March 7, 2024 until March 9, 2024. Students will miss one day of school. Details of the trip were included with the board packets. Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Bruning is in attendance to answer any questions the board may have. Mr. Butzin asked how many chaperones there would be and Mr. Bruning stated that there would be 5 chaperones. Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to allow the robotics team to attend the robotics competition at Woodhaven District High School from March 7th until March 9th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mrs. Danek is requesting that the board allow the student e-Board to attend the Student State Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids from February 24th until February 26th. Details of the trip, along with an agenda for the conference, could be found in the board packets. Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek was present to answer any questions that board may have. The board did not have any questions. Motion by Ulman, support by Jenkins to allow the student e-Board to attend the Student State Leadership Conference from February 24th through February 26th. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Mejeur is requesting that the board allow the wrestling team to attend the regional tournament in Charlevoix from Friday, February 16 until Saturday, February 17. There are 5 female wrestlers and 5 male wrestlers that have qualified to participate in the regional competition. In the event that any of these athletes qualify for the state tournament, he is also requesting that they be allowed to attend the state tournament at Ford Field from February 29th until March 2nd. Mr. Klinger stated that Mr. Chad Herrick and Emily Loew, along with other volunteer coaches, would be chaperoning this trip and it would be at cost to the district except for the use of the school vans to transport the students because the boosters will cover the cost of the hotel rooms and food. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to approve the request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said that he had a few updates to share with the board. The district is still looking to fill several staffing positions, including a middle school science teacher, 3 educational assistant positions, and several coaching positions. He mentioned that Wednesday, February 14 is our supplemental pupil count day so administration and teachers will be working on necessary documentation for that over the next several weeks. Looking forward, Mr. Klinger said the March meeting will include a presentation of the top 10 students, probation and tenure requests for teachers, and hopefully more hiring recommendations.

Student Representatives – Ms. Push said Snowcoming is this week and students have decorated the hallways as part of a spirit competition. Students are also participating in spirit week this week with the winning grade level to have bragging rights for having the most school spirit. Ms. Whetstone talked about Prom being right around the corner and said that planning for that has begun. She also said that band students competed in the solo and ensemble competition recently and 19 out of 20 events that the district participated in for a Division I rating, which makes them eligible to go to States. Ms. Whetstone also spoke about an SLS leadership event that took place in Alcona last week where the team took part in some team bonding activities and sharing of ideas with other students in the area.

Administration – Mrs. Danek said that there are 4 home events this Friday, so it is a great opportunity for the community to get out and attend an event with so much going on. She congratulated the wrestlers that have advance to regionals. Mrs. Danek also spoke about a presentation that was given to all 9th grade health classes on suicide awareness and recognizing the signs. Mr. Livingston said that students with perfect attendance for the first semester were celebrated with a free lunch from Taco Bell. He said that he attended an Assistant Principal Summit in Mt. Pleasant which was very informative and relevant to some of the things happening in our district. Mr. Livingston said that he also attended a training on difficult discussions with Mrs. Tiffany, which was also beneficial. He has also been working on lining up some training for the college board. Mrs. Tiffany said there is an ice skating trip planned for students with good grades and no missing assignments to reward them. She also said that he spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the D.C. Trip was a huge success, raising over \$1900. Mrs. Tiffany mentioned an upcoming Math Counts Competition on February 21, with Mrs. Jordan Hazen coaching that team. She also highlighted the students of the month for the middle school. Mrs. Clouse said that last Friday students did the Laps for Learning fundraiser which was led by the PTO, and it was very successful. Upcoming events include a literacy night on March 15 and a STEAM night on April 10. Mrs. Clouse also highlighted Clara Bolen's students of the month.

From the Board – Mrs. Jenkins congratulated the e-Board on the top 3 finish at their competition and welcomed the new hires. She also congratulated the band and wished luck to the wrestling and robotics teams at their competitions. Mr. Butzin did not have anything to add. Mrs. Ulman congratulated the e-Board and thanked Mrs. Danek for being the driving force behind that program. She welcomed the new hires. Mrs. Ulman said she thinks all of these trips are awesome and she thinks it is great to see kids getting out of the classroom. She asked how the HMH curriculum is going. Mrs. Clouse said it is going well and that they have another PD day coming up soon to assess the curriculum. Mrs. Ulman said she is glad that administration is attending so many conferences. She also asked the student representatives to ask around about student attendance at extra-curricular events and requested that they report back to the board to get an idea of how to improve in this area. Mrs. Bruning said she is looking forward to hearing about how all of these upcoming competitions go and welcomed the new hires.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said the board will be scheduling a workshop with MASB presenter Mr. Scott Morrell to come and present class CBA 253 "Board Operating Procedures." Mr. Morrell has provided potential dates that he will be available to present this class, either in-person or virtually. Mr. Klinger presented board members with several dates to consider. The board decided on March 14th at 4:00 p.m. They stated that in-person or virtual is acceptable.

Motion by Ulman, Support by Jenkins to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.