

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Klenow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Tardy: None

Administrators Present: Klinger, Danek, Mochty, Suttle, Bolen

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will showcase Clara Bolen Elementary and will be presented by Ms. Krista Loeffler. Ms. Loeffler said the 1st Annual STEAM night was held at Clara Bolen Elementary on April 13th. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math, so there was a good variety of projects from those categories. This event replaces the former Art and Science fair to include several other categories and activities. She said over 275 guests signed in but she believes there were close to 350 in total. Mrs. King and Mrs. Loucks supervised the projects in the gymnasium area. Ms. Grover's student's art projects were displayed in the hallways throughout the building and 5 math activity centers were featured in the library. Ms. Loeffler said the teacher cadet students were also very involved with hands-on activities. She thanked Hungry Howies' for providing 250 student achievement award pizza coupons and Northland Area Federal Credit Union for providing activities and prizes for the students. She said it was a very successful event overall. The board thanked Ms. Loeffler for sharing the presentation and are excited to know it's planned again next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

Mrs. Ulman said there is one addition to the agenda which will come under New Business and will be regarding the hockey co-op. The closed session will be moved to the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the April 11, 2022 minutes as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the closed session minutes of April 11, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the special meeting minutes of April 21, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Edmonds to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$813,823.43, and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$62,568.96. There were no sinking fund bills to be paid. She also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$77,710.09 as funds become available. There was no sinking fund or lunch fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by VanderVeen. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Klinger said he has received several letters of resignation. First is a letter of resignation from middle/high school principal, Toby Suttle. Mr. Suttle has worked in the district for the past 6 years and his resignation will be effective June 30th. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to accept Toby Suttle's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he received a letter of resignation from J.V. volleyball coach, Jennifer Busch. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to accept Jennifer Busch's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger also received a letter of resignation from 7th/8th grade volleyball coach, Carol Elowsky. Since the middle school volleyball season is being moved to the fall it will conflict with the varsity season, which will cause Mrs. Elowsky to be unavailable to coach the middle school team. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to accept Carol Elowsky's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger received a letter of resignation from custodian, Paul Fairbanks. Mr. Fairbanks has worked in the district for the past 7 years and his resignation will be effective June 10th. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to accept Paul Fairbanks' letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger also received a letter of resignation/retirement from Transportation Supervisor, Michelle Conklin. Mrs. Conklin has worked in the district for the past 24 years. Her resignation is effective June 30th. Motion by Lentz, support by Klenow to accept Mrs. Conklin's letter of resignation, thank her for her years of service and wish her well in her retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger received a letter of resignation from cook's helper, Christina Jordan. Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to accept Christina Jordan's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger received a letter of resignation from Maintenance Supervisor, Martin Couch. Mr. Couch has worked in the district for the past 3 years and has accepted another job. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to accept Martin Couch's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said we are required to pass resolutions each year if we desire to continue to participate in the schools of choice program. One resolution allows us to participate in Section 105 Schools of Choice, and the other resolution permits us to participate in Section 105C Schools of Choice. Section 105 allows nonresident students who reside within the intermediate school district to attend our district while Section 105C allows nonresident students who reside outside of our ISD in a contiguous intermediate school district to attend our district. Motion by Bruning to adopt the

Resolution to opt into Section 105 Schools of Choice within ISD Boundaries and the Resolution to opt into Section 105C Schools of Choice across ISD boundaries. Support to the motion by Klenow. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Couch interviewed candidates to fill the vacant custodian position and is recommending Ms. Kimberly Heinrich for the position. Ms. Heinrich has several years of experience in custodian and housekeeping duties and was recently contracted through Hale Area Schools. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to hire Kimberly Heinrich as a custodian for Tawas Area Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee presented new and revised board bylaws and policies at the meeting last month. The following bylaws and policies were discussed at that meeting and it is the recommendation of the policy committee that we consider tonight as the second reading of these new and revised bylaws and policies: **1616** Staff Dress and Grooming (New); **3216** Staff Dress and Grooming (Revised); **4216** Support Staff Dress and Grooming (Revised); **5511** Dress and Grooming (Revised); **6110** Grant Funds (Revised); **6114** Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds (Revised); **6325** Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds (Revised); **0141.1** Student-Body Representatives (New); **6550** Travel Payment & Reimbursement (Revised).

Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to adopt the presented changes to board bylaws and policies as presented by the policy committee. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee has met several times recently to discuss contract negotiations. The process has progressed nicely and a tentative agreement has been reached with TAFT. He said the committee will meet again this week to work on agreements with all other staff. Mrs. Ulman added that it was a good process and TAFT had a great team to work with. Mr. Klinger agreed and said they appreciated the polite and respectful relationship throughout the process.

Mr. Klinger said an Ad Hoc Term Length committee was formed following the April 11th meeting to discuss whether board member terms should remain at 4 years, or if they should transition to 6 years. The committee met on April 25th and will meet again on May 23rd. They have been collecting feedback from their survey data and plan to present a recommendation to the board at the June meeting. At this time, the results show 86% of the respondents prefer to continue with 4-year terms.

Mr. Klinger said an Ad Hoc Hockey committee was formed at the last meeting and they met tonight prior to the board meeting. Hale Schools contacted Mr. Mejeur to ask if they would be allowed to join the hockey co-op for next school year. The committee discussed whether they should entertain the idea or wait until next year when our first 2-year cycle is complete. The committee decided they would like Hale to be able to join the co-op and asked Mr. Mejeur to contact MHSAA to see if they could join under the current co-op or if we would need to reapply and start a new 2-year cycle. An agenda item regarding this item has been added for further discussion.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said both the House and Senate have passed their versions of the K-12 budget. The Legislature will now debate until the May Revenue Conference on May 20th. It is expected that the State will have the budget complete by the end of June or early July.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said the first reading of the 2022-23 building student handbooks was 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 Butzin, support by Lentz to adopt the changes to the 2022-23 building student handbooks. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Hutchison has shared with the local districts the IRESA proposed general fund budget for 2022-23. Local districts are only asked to approve IRESA's general fund budget, not special education or vocational education. The general fund budget includes an increase in salary of 2% for certified staff. Support staff employees are being given a fifty cent per hour raise, which equates to a 3% salary increase on average. Fund balance is expected to increase in 2022-23 by \$29,120. Mrs. Bruning made a motion to approve the Resolution to Support the IRESA General Fund Budget for the 2022-23 school year. Motion supported by Klenow. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger and Dan LaPan met with Dave Sweet of Sweet Heating and Cooling to revisit the federal wages within his bid for the boiler/unit ventilator project. After reviewing their proposal and adding in the federal Davis Bacon wages, a change order was generated in the amount of \$73,940. Mr. LaPan still recommends proceeding with Sweet Heating and Cooling for the project as the total cost is still \$81,000 lower than the next bid proposal. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the boiler/unit ventilator change order for \$73,940 as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board met in a special meeting on April 21st with Dr. Rod Green to discuss the self-evaluation process. That data was used to create a board goal that includes a code of conduct, objectives and future training opportunities. The board goal is "We will follow board code of conduct and continue to enhance our boardsmanship." The board will meet again in July with Dr. Green to continue the process. Motion by Klenow, support by Butzin to approve the board goal as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said five official bids were received from companies for a new digital sign in front of the middle/high school building. Mr. Klinger is recommending the bid be approved from Barrett Sign Company for \$33,065.19. This bid was the lowest and the company is from Saginaw. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to approve the bid from Barrett Sign Company for \$33,065.19 as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Huizar has been working on purchasing new devices to continue our one-to-one Chromebook initiative as well as making some smart board purchases. Mr. Huizar said he would like to purchase 350 Chromebooks and warranties, along with 200 cases and 100 licenses totaling about \$90,806. He would also like approval to purchase about six smart boards, if needed. That total would be about \$10,350. Mr. Klinger said he would like to have all of these purchases approved by the board so Mr. Huizar can get things ordered as soon as possible. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the technology purchases as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Brandon Jerashen is requesting approval for a trip to Cedar Point in June. Mr. Jerashen said since school will be out on June 8th, he would like to plan the trip for June 9th. The cost is \$89 per person for the bus transportation and \$40 for admittance to the park. Several senior students would like to use their fundraising money and this would be a way to do that. The trip will be open to fine arts students in the high school and if there are still seats available the 7th

and 8th grade students will be invited. Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to approve the band trip as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the Ad Hoc Hockey committee met earlier this evening and have asked Mr. Mejeur to contact MHSAA and submit the necessary paperwork so Hale students can join the co-op hockey program for next school year. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to add Hale Schools to our co-op hockey program. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mrs. Danek thanked Ms. Loeffler for her STEAM night presentation and said it was very successful. She said Mrs. Nichole Plank was the winner of the World’s Finest Chocolates Facebook giveaway. She received the most “likes” and won \$1,000 for her classroom and \$1,000 for the school. Two extra-large 5-lb. chocolate bars were presented as well. 3rd grade students completed their testing on Friday and 4th grade testing will start soon. Field day will be held the end of the month, an academic celebration will be held for the 4th grade students, field trips are scheduled, and a kindergarten celebration will be held June 6th among other activities scheduled prior to the end of the school year. Mr. Suttle said the fine arts fair was held May 3rd and was awesome. Senior awards night will be May 23rd, seniors last day will be June 2nd, along with a band awards ceremony, project graduation will be June 3rd and graduation ceremonies will be June 5th at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Mochty said Mr. Suttle covered everything at the high school. Mrs. Bolen said NWEA and M-STEP testing is complete, students of the month have been named, field trips are scheduled and the middle school awards night will be held May 24th. Mr. Mejeur said we hosted a junior high track meet this afternoon and the new timing system worked great. District and Regional competition will get started around the end of the month for soccer, softball, baseball, track and golf. Mr. Klinger said the high school has been named a “best” high school, ranking 134th in the state by U.S. News and World Report. Clara Bolen and the Middle School are also ranked in the state and he gave kudos to all the staff for the great results achieved. Mr. Klinger attended the CASBA meeting at Whittemore-Prescott last week along with Mrs. Edmonds and Mrs. Klenow. They had the chance to collaborate with and hear updates from other local districts. Mr. Klinger said Ms. Mounts’ high school journalism class published a newspaper which has been provided to each board member tonight. Ms. Mounts will provide the positive highlight at the June board meeting to showcase results of the journalism/yearbook class she taught this year. Mr. Klinger said the district is granted forgiveness for up to 6 cancelled days in the school year and this year we have cancelled 7 days. He applied for a waiver to forgive the extra day and it has been approved, so school will end as planned on June 8th.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds said the CASBA meeting was very good and she enjoyed the collaboration. She also attended the STEAM night at Clara Bolen and said it was great! Mrs. Bruning thanked the staff that are leaving and congratulated Mrs. Plank on her “win” and award from the chocolate company. Mr. Butzin thanked Mr. Huizar for his work on so many projects that involve technology and said the teacher cadet program is great. He asked Mr. Klinger if the former middle school building had been closed on. Mr. Klinger said yes, the closing was last week and Brad Hatcher is already beginning demolition. Mrs. Lentz said the STEAM night was very cool. She looks forward to the field days and all the year-end activities and is happy to hear that the high school has been ranked again with U.S. News and World Report. Mrs. Klenow is pleased to see the newspaper produced by the journalism class. Mrs. Ulman was happy to hear all the positive comments on the Fine Arts Fair and the STEAM night. She welcomed the new hire and congratulated Mrs. Plank on her award. She also thanked Mr. Mejeur and Mr. Huizar for their work. She said the workshop with Dr. Green was excellent and feels the board is growing and moving in a positive direction.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to take a short recess at 8:12 p.m. before going into closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to go into closed session for Superintendent evaluation discussion at 8:28 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to return to open session at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee will be meeting this Wednesday to work towards finalizing the negotiation process. The Ad Hoc Term Length committee will meet again on May 23rd to do a final review of the survey data being collected and a budget committee meeting was scheduled for June 13th at 6:00 p.m. to review the 2022-23 budgets.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.