Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
And
Public Hearing of the Proposed 2026-2027 Budgets
June 8, 2026

Mrs. Danek convened the Public Hearing of the proposed 2026-2027 budgets at 7:00 p.m. She presented the proposed budgets.

Mrs. Danek said we anticipate we will receive approximately $15,889,967 in revenue for the 2026-2027 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 $16,195,118 for the next year. That means we will have excess expenditures over revenue of about ($305,151). Our projected fund balance in the general fund on June 30, 2027 is estimated at $6,987,245.

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 1129 FTE (full time equivalents) next year which is down 14 FTE from the current 1143 FTE. Revenue estimates include a $250 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, 2026. She said we plan to levy 18.00 mills for general fund operational, 0.8 mills debt retirement to meet our twelfth year of payments on our current bond issue and .4840 mills sinking fund for a total millage of 19.2840 mills.

Mrs. Danek then presented the Lunch Fund Budget. She said we anticipate total revenue of $900,571 and total expenditures of $900,245 leaving an estimated fund balance on June 30, 2027 of $172,444 with a proposed program profit of $326.

Mrs. Danek presented the Debt Retirement budget. We are expecting total revenue of $571,374 based on the debt retirement tax levy of 0.8 mills. After paying our bond payment of $581,262 it is expected that we will end the year on June 30, 2027 with $133,975 in fund balance.

Mrs. Danek presented the Sinking Fund budget. We are anticipating total revenue of $364,456 based on the sinking fund tax levy of .4840 mills. Expenditures of $400,000 are estimated leaving a fund balance of $753,444 on June 30, 2027.

Mrs. Danek presented the Student/School Activity Fund budget in compliance with GASB 84. Revenues of $292,000 are expected with estimated expenditures of $280,000 leaving a projected fund balance of $303,554 on June 30, 2027.

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

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Jenkins at 7:05 p.m. in the administration board room.

A. Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Bruning.

B. Roll Call
Present: Miller, Bruning, Malewska, Butzin, Edmonds, Jenkins
Absent: None
Tardy: None

C. Positive Highlight
Mr. Livingston and Mr. Hazen gave a brief presentation highlighting project graduation. They shared numerous activities that students participated in and displayed pictures of the event in a slideshow.

D. Public Comments – Information and Proposals
Mrs. Jenkins asked if there was any public comments. There were no comments.

II. Action Items

A. Consent Agenda
Motion by Edmonds, supported by Butzin, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. **Approval of Minutes** –May 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
2. **Approval of Payment of Bills** –
    - Monthly contractual and prepaid expenses:
        - General Fund: $1,593,524.98
        - Sinking Fund: $0.00
        - Lunch Fund: $156,744.24
    - Presented monthly bills:
        - General Fund: $30,572.70
        - Sinking Fund: $0.00
        - Lunch Fund: $0.00
3. **Receipt of Written Communication** – Letters of retirement were received from teachers Donna Klinger, effective June 30, 2026, and Erin Klinger, effective December 31, 2026, pending a successful final audit and verification of retirement eligibility by the Michigan Office of Retirement Services. Letters of resignation were received from Emma Hilton, band instructor at the middle/high school, effective May 22, 2026, and junior high volleyball coach Amie McCann, effective immediately

    The motion carried unanimously.

B. Routine Matters

1. Recommendations & Reports from Administration

a. Hire School Social Worker
Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Clouse is recommending that the Board approve the hiring of Dr. Rebecca Gettel-Prout as the K-4 School Social Worker at Clara Bolen Elementary. Motion by Bruning, supported by Butzin, to hire Dr. Rebecca Gettel-Prout as the school social worker at Clara Bolen Elementary. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Hire Educational Assistants

Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Clouse recommends the employment of Ms. Terra Sanchez-Leon as a special education, educational assistant for the 2026-27 school year.
Motion by Edmonds, supported by Butzin, to hire Ms. Terra Sanchez-Leon as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said Mrs. Clouse recommends the employment of Ms. Janell Shipley as a special education, educational assistant for the 2026-27 school year.
Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Janell Shipley as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said Mrs. Clouse recommends the employment of Ms. Courtney Wilcox as a special education, educational assistant for the 2026-27 school year.
Motion by Edmonds, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Courtney Wilcox as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Hire Coach
Mrs. Danek said Mr. Mejeur recommends the hiring of Ms. Annabelle Herbolsheimer as the 7th grade volleyball coach.
Motion by Malewska, supported by Butzin, to hire Ms. Annabelle Herbolsheimer as the 7th grade volleyball coach. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Old Business

1. Committee Reports

a. Budget Committee
Mrs. Danek said the Budget Committee met prior to the meeting to discuss the 2026-27 budgets. Mrs. McCoy gave a brief explanation of how the budget process works, and how the current numbers are estimates based on the information we have at this time. She also shared that the numbers will change, and this will be addressed through the amendment process. The current June budget adoption is needed so we can set the tax levy by the June 15th deadline. She asked if the Board had any questions. They did not.

2. Legislative Report
Mrs. Danek said she had nothing new to report at this time.

D. New Business

1. 2nd Reading of 2026-27 Clara Bolen Elementary Student Handbook
Mrs. Danek said the first reading of the 2026-27 Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook was held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. Motion by Butzin, support by Miller to adopt the changes to the 2026-27 Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2nd Reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area Middle School Handbook
Mrs. Danek said the first reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook was held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. Motion by Butzin, support by Miller to adopt the changes to the 2026-27 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2nd Reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area High School Handbook

Mrs. Danek said the first reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area High School student handbook was held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. Motion by Butzin, support by Miller to adopt the changes to the 2026-27 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

4. 2nd Reading of the 2026-27 Athletic Student Handbook

Mrs. Danek said the first reading of the 2026-27 Athletic student handbook was held at last month's meeting. Tonight should be considered the second reading. Motion by Miller, support by Malewska to adopt the changes to the 2026-27 Athletic student handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Adoption of 2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule

The board meeting schedule for the 2026-27 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. Motion by Miller, support by Bruning, to adopt the meeting schedule as discussed and as set forth in the board packets. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Designation of Depository 2026-2027

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 Bruning, support by Butzin that Huron Community Bank be designated as the depository for the Tawas Area Schools for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Designation of Amy Clouse as Federal Programs Director

Mrs. Danek said the Board needs to designate the Federal Programs Director for the coming year. For the last couple years, 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 Malewska, support by Butzin that Amy Clouse be designated as Tawas Area Schools' Federal Programs Director. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution to Adopt Budgets and Set Tax Levy for the 2026-27 School Year

Mrs. Danek said the 2026-27 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 three weeks the board will be presented with the 2025-26 budgets which will include the original projected budgets from June 2025, the amended General Fund Budget from February 2026, and the final budget amendments for all funds. Board secretary, Mrs. Edmonds, made a motion to adopt the 2026-2027 budgets and to set the property tax levy as presented. Support to the motion by Butzin. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

9. Resolution to Participate in the MHSAA

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. Edmonds made a motion to adopt the membership resolution to participate in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the 2026-27 school year as presented. Support to the motion by Miller. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

10. Approve Superintendent Merit Pay

Mrs. Danek said in 2025 the personnel committee met with her to develop her merit goals for the year. She said in this past year, she has focused on advancing strategic initiatives that support student achievement and future-ready learning. Ongoing efforts to analyze student performance data, strengthen intervention systems, and provide targeted academic supports resulted in measurable student growth and continued progress toward district achievement goals. Motion by Butzin, support by Malewska to approve the merit pay for Mrs. Danek as presented. There were no questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

11. North Star League Resolution

Mrs. Danek said that the North Star League Athletic Council recommends that addition of Mackinaw City High School and Middle School as a probationary member beginning with the 2027-28 school year. This action requires approval from all member district boards.
Motion by Bruning, supported by Edmonds, to approve the addition of Mackinaw City High School and Middle School as a probationary member of the North Star league beginning with the 2027-28 school year. Mr. Mejeur explained to the board that Mackinaw City would be a part of the Little Dipper and the district will have the right to choose whether or not they want to play against them. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Request to Purchase Bus

Mrs. Danek said Mr. Lichota is requesting Board approval for the purchase of a new bus from Midwest Transit in the amount of $152,618.88. She said the bus will include a front seat equipped with 3-point seat belts to accommodate the transportation needs to students requiring additional support. Motion by Edmonds, supported by Butzin, to approve the purchase of a new bus from Midwest Transit in the amount of $152,618.88. A board member asked where we are as far as a schedule in regards to purchasing buses, since 2 buses were purchased a couple years ago. Mrs. Danek said Mr. Lichota is recommending that we purchase a bus every other year from here forward. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Information and Proposals

A. Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek began by thanking the board members for meeting with her individually to discuss her performance and addressing any concerns they may have. She said tomorrow will kick off the H2Leadership Summit and that administration will meet with their leadership coach over the next few days. Mrs. Danek also announced that Leif Guillotel has been names the representative for the junior class and welcomed him aboard. Leif was chosen out of 6 applicants for the position.

B. Student Representatives –

- Senior Representative: Miss Eryn Hayes – Ms. Hayes said that the end of the year was great and everyone was excited for summer. The leadership groups welcomed a lot of new members and they are excited to have new and fresh ideas.
- Junior Representative: Mr. Leif Guillotel – Absent from meeting.

C. Administration – Mr. Hazen said the year wrapped up with 2 sophomore having perfect attendance for the year. Those students had a special reward for their achievement. He explained that they had been revamping the summer school process and met with kids who were at risk of failing earlier than normal to try to help encourage them to buckle down and get their grades up to avoid credit recovery in the summer. They are trying to take a more proactive approach. Mr. Hazen also talked about a $3,500 grant that the leadership class was awarded, which helped fund a mural painted by student Emmeline Olar as well as other art projects in the school. Lastly, Mr. Hazen said that in their last week of school, the seniors met the Kindergarteners on the 50-yard line, which was a cool and special moment. The district also had 74 students graduate on May 31.

Mr. Livingston gave a recap of some of the events that happened in May. Middle/High school awards banquets, the final band and choir concerts of the year (which he expressed gratitude to all who helped make that happen), administration met with AAACU to discuss opening a branch in the school, and the planning of summer school. He also mentioned that the local rotary is doing a rocket competition with Oscoda. Several students were also selected to attend the RYLA camp this summer.

Mrs. Tiffany talked about the NWEA Carnival that took place at the middle school. She also mentioned that middle school title teacher, Mrs. Schick, and Mrs. Dittenbir teamed up to co-teach math this year and saw a significant improvement in math scores. She just wanted to give them credit for collaborating. The middle school students had an end of the year play, staff vs. students' dodgeball game, and getting ready for summer school. She mentioned that she will be attending an adaptive schools training with Mrs. Mounts. Lastly, she gave a shout out to the educational assistants in the middle school and said she is grateful to have such a great crew.

Mr. Mejeur said the district had a good year in athletics and saw an increase in student athletes. There were numerous district and conference championships earned as well.

Mrs. Clouse said she had 1 student who had perfect attendance this year. She is attending the MEMSPA Conference in a couple weeks. She has teacher interviews lined up for this week. Currently, kindergarten enrollment is at 70 for the fall, and they have already seen an increase in 2nd and 3rd grade numbers for the fall. Summer boost will start up soon and because the students met their Brave Badge goal, they got to have a glow party at the end of the year, which was a huge hit with the kids.

D. From the Board – Mr. Butzin told everyone they did a great job this year.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone and reiterated that they are doing a great job in every area. He also said he has heard great things about the AAACU branch in the school and is excited for that opportunity. Mrs. Malewska thanked everyone for their efforts on graduation day. She applauded Mr. Livingston for a great speech. She mentioned that the school is going to Spain soon with Mrs. Sigulinsky and thanked the finance ladies for their hard work.

Mrs. Edmonds thanked the finance team. She thanked Doug for his speech, and said she heard it was wonderful, even though she could not attend in person. She also mentioned that it is nice to see project graduation have a revival and appreciates administration for taking that on. She said it would be great to see an AAACU branch on campus as well and wished everyone a good summer.

Mrs. Bruning thanked Mrs. Ulman for her years of service on the Board.

Mrs. Jenkins talked briefly about attending MASB's Behind the Scenes at the Capitol. She was able to learn about some of the bills that are being proposed, which includes a bill that would cut the real estate transfer tax going to schools in Michigan. She said attending really emphasized the importance of committees. She also shared with the board what the key responsibilities of being a board member entail as a reminder and emphasized the importance of attendance. She also thanked Mrs. Ulman for her service and thanked Mrs. Donna Klinger for her years of service.

IV. Advance Planning

Mrs. Danek reminded the Board that they would be having a special board meeting on Tuesday, June 30th at 5:00 p.m. She said both the policy committee and the budget committee would need to meet prior to the meeting. A budget committee meeting was scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on June 30th and a policy committee meeting was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on the same day.

VI. Adjournment
Motion by Jenkins, supported by Bruning, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.