

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Ulman, Bruning, Edmonds, Jenkins and Klenow
Absent: Lentz
Tardy: Butzin

Administrators Present: Klinger, Clouse, Livingston, Danek

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mrs. Danek and features the Top Ten of the Class of 2022.

Mrs. Danek said she is pleased to introduce the Top Ten students of the class of 2023. She introduced the students including the valedictorian, Brian MacEwen, and the salutatorian, Christine Qiu. Rounding out the Top Ten are Kori Schaaf, Austin Billingham, Brant McKinley, Miranda Nickell, Ashley Runyan, Elise Klinger, Madison Buresh and Madelyn Koning. Grade point averages ranged from 3.972 to 4.103. 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.

Mr. Butzin arrived at 7:06 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. Mrs. Sheila Malewska read a statement to the board regarding a middle school girls' travel basketball team led by some Tawas basketball coaches. She said there was no opportunity for girls to try out for the team and the girls seemed to be handpicked. She believes some team expenses were paid with school funds, and Sports Boosters gave the team some monies, even though it's not a school team. She understands this was not a school team but feels if the school's coaches are involved it should be open for any student to try out. Mrs. Klenow said the board is aware, thanked her for sharing her concerns and said Mr. Klinger or Mr. Mejeur would be in touch with her to follow up.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Bruning, support by Ulman to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the February 13th meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$796,203.62, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$92,319.01 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$58,537.84. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$84,528.58. Letters of resignation were accepted from educational assistants, Amanda Gustin and Andrea Gibson and cook's helper, Lori LeCroy who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending Mrs. Traci Wood be hired as an educational assistant. Mrs. Wood has three years of experience as a Title I paraprofessional. Motion by

Ulman, support by Butzin to hire Traci Wood as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Clouse is also recommending Ms. Annalis Trumble be hired as an educational assistant. Ms. Trumble has experience as a personal care assistant. Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to hire Annalis Trumble as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Sancrant is recommending Ms. Kimberly Hall be hired as a cook's helper. Ms. Hall has worked at Gordon Food Service and has experience in customer service and food ordering. Motion by Ulman, support by Edmonds to hire Kimberly Hall as a cook's helper. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said athletic director, Mr. Mejeur, is recommending Mr. Chris Lerczak be hired to fill the boys' assistant track coach vacancy. Mr. Lerczak has track experience and is dedicated to coaching the sport. Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to hire Chris Lerczak as the boys' assistant track 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 active 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 2023-24 school year.

Mr. Klinger said that two teachers, Ruby Swales and Adam Davis, were hired in January this year and are being recommended to continue their first year of probation due to their mid-year hiring dates. Motion by Bruning, support by Edmonds that Ruby Swales and Adam Davis continue on 1st year probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin that four teachers, Amanda Sigulinsky, Zachary Blanchard, Kristen Wood and Nick Popoff, be granted a 2nd year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning that four teachers, Tricia Briggs, Janice Tiffany, Karen Kienitz and Erica Russo, be granted a 3rd year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin that three teachers, Meaghan Martinez, Kelli Rau and Pete Scott, be granted a 4th year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Edmonds that four teachers, Brittney Davidson, Brianna Griffiths, Anneke Tuttle and Jordan Hazen, be granted a 5th year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning that six teachers, Aaron Hazen, Breanna Roest, Michael Keith del Rio, Sarah Stein, Mindy Davis and Genecia Mejeur, be recognized for tenure under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act effective June 30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – None.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said the House may possibly make changes to collective bargaining agreements. They may also repeal the Right to Work law that is currently in place. A bill has been presented to the governor to revise the Read by Grade 3 reading law, removing the mandatory retention language. Legislation is also being discussed regarding the use of sinking fund dollars for purchasing and maintaining school buses. He will continue to inform the board as updates are received.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Jerashen is requesting permission to take the jazz band to the state jazz festival, which will be held on March 29th at 11:00 a.m. in East Kentwood. The band will leave after school on the 28th. The Band Boosters and band activity fund will be covering the cost of the trip. Mr. Jerashen told the board there are 18 students in the band and they will have the opportunity to see other bands perform while they are there. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the overnight band trip as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said we will be losing our special education supervisor as of July 1st since she will become a full-time special education monitor for IRESA. After evaluating the current state of this department, including our special education needs and support for positive behavior interventions, Mr. Klinger is recommending the district hire a full-time person to help provide support for our students and staff. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to approve the hiring of a special education supervisor/positive behavior support interventionist as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said we have had a shared contract with Oscoda Area Schools for the routine maintenance of our bus fleet for several years. The contract will expire in June and needs to be renewed. He said we have been very happy with the service we have received and he is recommending we continue with our agreement for three more years. Motion by Butzin, support by Ulman to approve the shared agreement with Oscoda Area Schools for bus maintenance as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Student Representatives – Ms. Schaaf said a king and queen were selected to reign over Snowcoming with those winners being announced at the basketball game the night before the dance. The student senate provided donuts to the food service, transportation and maintenance staff as a “thank you” for all they do and the results of the student survey are being compiled.

Administration – Mr. Klinger said progress is being made on adding a School Resource Officer (SRO) for next year. He has received a draft Memorandum of Understanding from Sheriff Frank that he is reviewing. This will provide another level of safety to our campus. Mr. Klinger will be speaking to the Rotary Club next Tuesday on the upcoming special election in May for our operating millage renewal. He encouraged anyone with questions or concerns regarding the renewal to call him. Mr. Livingston said Irene Miller presented to students in early March on her experiences as a holocaust survivor, and encouraged students that have experienced trauma that they too can be resilient and stronger in the long run. It also encouraged students to be more accepting of each other and to stand up for what’s right. Mr. Livingston said a draft letter has been put together for middle school students regarding cell phone safety tips and polite behavior regarding all social media. Mrs. Clouse said the Literacy night was very successful with about 400 people attending. There will be a STEM/STEAM night from 4:30-6:30 on April 12th and Laps for Learning was held a few weeks ago with the PTO raising nearly \$7,000. The new ELA curriculum has begun its pilot stage and she has received very positive feedback from those that have implemented it. Mrs. Danek said she will be seeking applications from current sophomores to fill the junior student representative for the board for next year. She said we hosted boys’ basketball districts last week which went very well and we were crowned district champions. The girls’ volleyball and basketball teams received All State academic honors and spring sports practices began today. The math competition and science Olympics teams competed recently

with great success and the high school choir received a II, while the middle school choir received a I and will move on to state competition.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds congratulated the Top Ten students, thanked Mrs. Malewska for sharing her concerns, congratulated the probation and tenure teachers and thanked Mr. Klinger for keeping the community informed on the upcoming millage renewal. Mrs. Jenkins echoed Mrs. Edmonds comments and said the literacy night was great. Mrs. Bruning is pleased that the jazz band can go on the overnight trip and thanked the student senate for thinking of the support staff and treating them to donuts. Mrs. Ulman agreed with all the prior comments and looks forward to having the combined special education supervisor and positive behavior support interventionist person in place. She added that the board of education is intended to function as a group, not as seven individuals, and they have policies in place to encourage working together. Mr. Butzin also expressed congratulations to the Top Ten students and thanked the student senate for their thoughtful treat to the staff. Mrs. Klenow thanked Mr. Livingston for sharing the information regarding student cell phone etiquette. She reiterated that the board is a group of seven, and they are not to speak on school matters individually, but together as a whole board. Mrs. Klenow wished everyone a nice spring break.

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 4th, with the curriculum committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. and the policy committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. Mr. Klinger said the board is interested in having MASB present CBA 303 in person. Dr. Rod Green has been assigned to present the course and has either March 28th or April 20th available. The board decided April 20th would work best for everyone and it will be scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to take a short recess at 8:13 p.m. before going into closed session for negotiations discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to enter closed session at 8:25 p.m. for negotiations discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to open session by Bruning, support by Edmonds at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Butzin, support by Ulman to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.