

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
May 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

Mrs. Klenow said a letter of resignation/retirement from Mr. Stoll will be added under the Consent Agenda and a closed session will be added at the end of the meeting for negotiations and contract review discussions.

### **POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight was a field trip to view the new mural in the gymnasium prior to tonight's meeting. He said Mrs. Mochty held the lead role in the project. She inquired with several other school districts to find who had completed their murals and found Mr. Dave Wiley had done many of them. Mrs. Mochty reached out to Mr. Wiley and a plan was created. He was able to draft a mural for review and he then created the mural in pieces before bringing it on site to install. The finished product is a great addition to the gymnasium. The board thanked Mrs. Mochty for spearheading the project and are very pleased with the final product.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. Mrs. Sarah Segrest voiced her concern regarding an incident that occurred in school today involving her kindergarten daughter. Another student left their classroom, ran into her daughter's classroom and struck her in the face. Mrs. Segrest said her daughter is only 6 years old and she expects that her daughter will be safe while she is in school. Her daughter also observed a student being jabbed in the head with a pencil while on the school bus and is very upset after witnessing these events. She said the student did not apologize to her daughter and knows this is not the first incident involving that student. The board thanked her for sharing her concern with them. Mrs. Mochty and Mr. Stoll read their letters of resignation to the board. The board thanked them for sharing their letters and congratulated them both on their retirement.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Bruning, support by Ulman to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the April 10<sup>th</sup> regular and closed session meeting minutes, the April 20<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$866,824.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$72,401.32. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$155,947.26. Letters of resignation were received from educational assistant Annalis Trumble, assistant technology support specialist Andrew Klasen, high school art teacher Wynne Erickson, assistant high school principal Stacey Mochty, who will be retiring June 30<sup>th</sup> and has been with the district for the past 27 years, transportation clerk Tisha Thompson, middle school math teacher William Stoll, who will be retiring at the end of the school year with 40 years of service to the district, freshman volleyball coach Erin Klinger and assistant varsity football coach Derek Hopkins. 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. Mrs. Ulman read in the form of a motion, 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 Butzin. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lichota is recommending Ms. Crystal Hunt be hired to fill the vacant custodial position. Ms. Hunt has been a substitute custodian for the past few months. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to hire Crystal Hunt as a custodian. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said interviews were held to fill the new Special Education Designee/Positive Behavior Support Interventionist position. At this time, he is recommending Ms. Nicol Timo be hired for the position. Nicol earned her bachelor's degree in special education and mathematics from SVSU, her master's degree in teaching with a specialization in special education from SVSU and earned a school administrator certificate through Concordia University. She has 16 years of teaching experience and is currently a special education teacher and Early On coordinator in her district. Motion by Bruning, support by Jenkins to hire Nicol Timo as the Special Education Designee/Positive Behavior Support Interventionist. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek is recommending Mr. Kohl Coffin be hired to fill a 6-12 social studies position for the 2023-24 school year. Kohl earned his bachelor's degree in political science from SVSU and recently earned a secondary teacher certification in social studies. Mr. Coffin has been a long-term sub and student teacher during the past two years. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Kohl Coffin as a social studies teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger is recommending Mrs. Lindsay Harvey be hired to fill the Pupil Accounting/State Reporting Coordinator position. Mrs. Harvey has experience working for Iosco County as a clerk document specialist and as an enforcement officer for the Friend of the Court. She also has experience in banking and was a former substitute teacher and substitute secretary. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Northwood University. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to hire Lindsay Harvey as the Pupil Accounting/State Reporting Coordinator. 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 policies: **2623** Student Assessment (Revised); **6325** Procurement of Federal Grants/Funds (Revised); **8400** School Safety Information (Revised); **7540.02** Web Accessibility, Content, Apps, and Services (Revised); **7540.03** Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised); **7540.04** Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety (Revised); **8300** Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan (Revised); **8305** Information Security (Revised); **8315** Information Management (Revised); **9700.01** Advertising and Commercial Activities (Revised); **1615** Use of Tobacco by Administrators (Revised); **3215** Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff (Revised); **4215** Use of Tobacco by Support Staff (Revised); **5512** Use of Tobacco by Students (Revised); **7434** Use of Tobacco on School Premises (Revised); and **9160** Public Attendance at School Events (Revised).

Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to adopt the policy changes as presented by the policy committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee met on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> with TAFT to work through the negotiation process regarding the wage opener discussion and on May 4<sup>th</sup> a tentative agreement was reached. However, the agreement was not ratified by TAFT, so the groups met again yesterday afternoon and will meet again on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Following the negotiations discussion, the committee had conversation on other topics including board conference room improvements, such as fresh paint and the addition of some local area pictures, as well as extending the signing bonus for new hires through the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Klinger said he and Mrs. Ulman attended the CASBA meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Hale Schools. The evening included a tour of the school, presentation of MASB service awards, the sharing of positive highlights from each district and a presentation on the state of the Superintendency by Mr. Greg Sieszputowski. Mr. Klinger said it was a great evening. Mrs. Ulman said it was nice to hear from other districts and they had good things to say about Mr. Klinger and his effective collaboration with them.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said he is still watching what changes will be coming with the Right to Work Law that has been repealed and he will continue to inform the board as updates are received.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said Sheriff Scott Frank is here this evening to discuss the steps that have been taken toward possibly having a School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus starting next fall and will answer any questions the board has in that regard. Mr. Klinger said he has been working collaboratively with law enforcement officials for the past few years regarding school safety and ensuring there is a full understanding by both sides of what adding a SRO would entail. Mr. Klinger submitted a grant application to the Michigan State Police, which has been approved, to assist with the funding of the position. Sheriff Frank said he and Mr. Klinger have met 4 or 5 times to discuss the SRO and have worked collaboratively with the goal of promoting student safety. A contract has been drafted between the district and the Sheriff's office which would outline the responsibilities and obligations of each entity. The contract would be for a 3-year period of time. The SRO would be fully dedicated to us and in the district 100% of the time for 41 weeks of the year, and would work for the sheriff's office the other 11 weeks each year. The officer would have office space in one of our buildings and would juggle their 8-hour day to accommodate evening events as needed. Sheriff Frank said the goal is for the SRO to blend in to the school setting and to build and foster relationships with the students so they feel comfortable going to the officer if needed. The officer might be involved in presenting assemblies on the dangers of vaping, opioid and alcohol abuse, gun safety, etc. There is specific training for SRO's which this person would attend. The board asked questions about how this person would be evaluated and if we would "be stuck" with an officer that we didn't want. Both Mr. Klinger and Sheriff Frank said the position would be evaluated jointly on an annual basis and both sides want the selected person to be the right fit. If things don't seem to be working well with the chosen officer, they would work together to find a solution. Everyone wants the program to be successful. Sheriff Frank said most of the neighboring districts have a SRO. The board thanked Sheriff Frank for attending tonight, for sharing his information and for the open discussion.

Mr. Klinger said the first reading of the 2023-24 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 Bruning, support by Edmonds to adopt the changes to the 2023-24 building student handbooks. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the first reading of the proposed 2023-24 athletic student handbook was also 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 Bruning, support by Lentz to adopt the athletic student handbook for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Hutchison shared with the local districts the IRESA proposed general fund budget for 2023-24. Local districts are only asked to approve their general fund budget, not special education or vocational education. The fund balance is expected to increase in 2023-24 by \$379,789. Mrs. Ulman made a motion to approve the Resolution to Support the IRESA general fund budget for the 2023-24 school year. Motion supported by Lentz. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said a resolution must be read regarding IRESA's biennial election. This year's election will take place on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. A district must designate its representative for the electoral body by adopting a resolution not earlier than 21 days prior to the date of the election. This year, May 15<sup>th</sup> was the earliest date that a board could designate its representative. An alternate member must also be selected in the event the designated member is unable to attend. The resolution must also identify the candidates the constituent board supports for each position to be filled on the intermediate school board as well as direct the representative to vote for the candidates at least on the first ballot taken at the meeting. There are two vacancies that need to be filled at this election and two candidates running. Mr. Butzin volunteered to represent the board at the election and Mrs. Jenkins agreed to be the alternate. Mr. Butzin was directed to cast a vote on the first ballot on behalf of the board for Lila Fegan and Dawn Kaiser. These are both 6-year terms. Mrs. Ulman read the Resolution Designating the District's Election Representative (Mr. Butzin and Mrs. Jenkins as alternate) for the June 5<sup>th</sup> biennial IRESA election, and to direct Mr. Butzin to cast the vote on the first ballot for Lila Fegan and Dawn Kaiser, for 6-year terms. Motion supported by Edmonds. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee is supporting his recommendation to extend the current signing bonus for newly hired employees through the 2023-24 school year. The entire board was in favor of extending the signing bonus. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to extend the current signing bonus through the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Huizar has provided information regarding his recommendation to purchase new devices to sustain the one-to-one Chromebook initiative in the amount of \$107,317.75. Mr. Klinger asked the board if they had any questions. Mrs. Lentz asked Mr. Huizar if the Chromebooks have lasted for the 4-year cycle that we had hoped. Mr. Huizar said generally they have – there have been some exceptions but overall they have lasted for the time we expected. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to approve the Chromebook purchase in the amount of \$107,317.75. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said we have received quotes for several public announcement (PA) sound systems in the district. Two quotes were received for the football/track PA system. Mr. Huizar is recommending we go with the bid from ASCOM North in the amount of \$23,625.00. Two quotes were also received for the Clara Bolen PA system upgrade. Mr. Huizar is recommending that we go with SoundCom for this update in the amount of \$23,250.00. The SoundCom system will be compatible with what is being used in the middle/high school building. Finally, two quotes were provided for the soccer complex PA sound system. Mr. Huizar is recommending that we go with ASCOM North in the amount of \$19,980.00. Mrs. Lentz asked if the sound system at Clara Bolen will have the capability to page only certain areas as needed, rather than to the entire complex. Mr. Huizar said yes, the system will have zone paging along with other interior and exterior paging options. Training will be provided on the new system during the professional development time in August. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to approve the football/track PA sound system from ASCOM North for \$23,625.00, the Clara Bolen PA system upgrade from SoundCom for \$23,250.00 and the soccer complex PA sound system from ASCOM North for \$19,980.00. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he has shared with the board a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NEMCSA and Tawas Area Schools with legal adjustments highlighted. The MOU supports the new Career Development Coordinator position that has been added through a generous donation,

which is being managed by the Community Foundation. The person in this position will work collaboratively with staff to help students in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades to build a path to reach their post high school goals. Mr. Klinger said it has been nearly a 3-year process putting this all together. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to approve the memorandum of understanding between NEMCSA and Tawas Area Schools as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger congratulated band director, Mr. Jerashen, on being named the MSBOA District 9 Director of the Year. Mr. Klinger said we have been awarded a \$5,200 grant for district mapping, which will be a 3-D digital resource that will be shared with local agencies for safety purposes. He congratulated the middle school choir on their recent success. Several campus update projects are, or will soon be underway, including new lighting in the buildings, new banners in the parking lot and around the building, landscaping updates, among others. He said we received a new U.S. flag to be placed in front of the high school from an anonymous donor which is very much appreciated. He congratulated and thanked Mrs. Mochty and Mr. Stoll for their service to the district over the years and wished them the best in their retirement.

Student Representatives – Ms. Schaaf said some senior students enjoyed a luncheon today put on by the Education Foundation and the senior awards night will be held next Monday night. National Honor Society induction was held Monday night in a newly revised format and went very well. The Student Senate has been promoting mental health month and sharing information to discourage vaping, bullying, social media abuse, etc. They also provided teachers with appreciation notes last week during staff appreciation week. Over \$1300 worth of bracelets have been sold in support of Mr. Jagelewski, who is going through cancer treatments, and the money will be given to the family to help cover expenses. She thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as a student representative to the board and said she enjoyed the experience.

Administration – Mr. Mejeur said district and regional competition begins soon for spring sports. Track will be in Clare this Friday, golf will be at Red Hawk on May 30<sup>th</sup>, soccer drew a bye for the first round and will play in the district semifinal on May 30<sup>th</sup> at home. Baseball and softball district play will begin on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Clouse said the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have completed their MSTEP testing. Field trips are underway for all students in grades K-4 on various dates to various locations as the year winds down. The new HMH curriculum has arrived and they are busy sorting it all so it's ready to go in the fall. 62 families attended kindergarten roundup and another 20 students have been in touch since. Mr. Livingston said all staff were treated and recognized last week during appreciation week. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have taken the PSAT test and 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students have completed the MSTEP. End of year field trips are beginning and various behavior rewards are also being shared. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be going to the Henry Ford Museum, 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be going to a movie, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will go bowling and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will enjoy an outdoor picnic as the year comes to a close. Mrs. Danek said three applications have been received from students wishing to become the 11<sup>th</sup> grade board representative next year and interviews will be held soon. The senior awards night will be next Monday at 7:00 p.m. and the middle school awards night will be Tuesday night at 7:00. The band and choir performed at the Fine Arts festival and there were several great displays at the festival. Graduation practice will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the seniors will take their final "hallway walk" that day as well. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will visit the middle school for a "building transition" welcome. Mrs. Mochty said the AP tests have all been taken and dual enrollment classes have wrapped up for the year. Graduation will be June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and project graduation will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 p.m. to approximately 3:00 a.m. She thanked the custodial staff for their assistance while the mural was being installed. New banners have been put up on the poles in the parking areas and around the building and they look great. The old banners lasted 9 years. She thanked the Rachel's Challenge ambassadors for their great work this year and congratulated Mr. Stoll on his retirement and thanked him for his service to the district.

## **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

From the Board – Mrs. Lentz said the mural looks fantastic and thanked Mrs. Mochty for taking charge of that project. She told Mrs. Mochty that she will be terribly missed and thanked her for all of the projects she has spearheaded as both a teacher and as an administrator. She thanked Mr. Stoll for his service to the district as well and wished him an enjoyable retirement. She welcomed the new hires and thanked Sheriff Frank for coming to the meeting to explain and answer questions about the SRO. She congratulated Mr. Jerashen on his honor and thanked Ms. Schaaf for her service as student representative. She also thanked the administration for all they do. Mrs. Jenkins was happy to learn more about the SRO and thanked Mr. Stoll for his service. She enjoyed the NHS induction last night and welcomed the new hires. Mrs. Bruning thanked Mrs. Mochty for her work with the mural and told her she will be missed. She wished Mr. Stoll a happy retirement and thanked Ms. Segrest for sharing her concern with the board. Mrs. Edmonds thinks the SRO will be a good option for us to have in the buildings to promote student safety. She congratulated Mr. Stoll and Mrs. Mochty on their retirements and Mrs. Mochty on her new position as principal at Holy Family School. Mrs. Ulman had a community member thank the district for continuing to offer free lunches and said the new mural looks great. She said the CASBA meeting was good to attend and hear about other local districts and thanked Mr. Klinger for his collaborative relationship with the other districts. She also enjoyed the fine arts festival and said she thinks it's great that the Student Senate was focusing on mental health awareness. She thanked Mr. Stoll and Mrs. Mochty for all their contributions and wished the best for both of them. Mrs. Klenow welcomed the new hires, thanked Ms. Segrest for sharing her concern with the board and thanked Mrs. Mochty for her involvement in the mural project. She wished Mrs. Mochty and Mr. Stoll the best in their retirement. She said the board had a workshop on April 20<sup>th</sup> on Overseeing the Superintendency presented by Dr. Rod Green and she would like the personnel committee to meet to begin designing a board manual.

## **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee will meet next Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:15 p.m. and the budget committee will need to meet at 6:00 p.m. on June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> ahead of the board meetings to review the proposed budgets and the amended budgets.

Motion by Butzin, support by Edmonds to take a short recess at 8:42 p.m. before going into closed session for negotiations and contract review discussions. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, support by Edmonds to enter closed session at 8:52 p.m. for negotiations and contract review discussions. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to return to open session by Ulman, support by Edmonds at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Edmonds to continue to implement the contract as written. Yes: Edmonds, Jenkins, Ulman, Bruning, Butzin and Klenow. No: Lentz. Motion carried.

Motion by Ulman, support by Edmonds to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.