

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 11, 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, April 11, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mr. Butzin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mrs. Danek. Mrs. Danek said Clara Bolen Elementary celebrated March is Reading Month in a variety of ways last month. They enjoyed events including March Book Madness, Wacky Winter Wednesdays and Wild About Reading. They also held the book fair and Family Literacy Night where students could take AR tests, play book bingo games, etc. with over 250 people attending. 4th grade students participated in a locker book binding contest, the WE players performed Disney's Frozen, Jr. for the students, the 3rd graders had Reading with Chicks, and an anti-bullying assembly was performed by the NYC Dance Crew. Other literacy activities in March included four teachers attending the Michigan Reading Association Conference and 2nd-4th grade teachers visited Ms. Schlosser's classroom to refresh Reader's Workshop strategies. She also shared that the PTO is planning to provide up to \$10,000 for library remodeling. The board thanked Mrs. Danek for sharing all of the exciting things happening at the elementary school.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to approve the March 14, 2022 minutes as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: VanderVeen, Bruning, Klenow, Edmonds, Butzin and Ulman. Abstain: Lentz (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the closed session minutes of March 14, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Klenow, Edmonds, Butzin, Bruning, VanderVeen and Ulman. Abstain: Lentz (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Edmonds to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$857,117.28, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$25,090.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$47,164.73. She also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$12,539.01 as funds become available. There was no lunch fund or sinking fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by Butzin. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Klinger said he has received four letters of resignation. First is a letter of resignation/retirement from 1st grade teacher, Amy Short. Mrs. Short has taught in the district for the past 24 years and she will be retiring at the end of the school year. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to accept Amy Short's letter of resignation, thank her for her years of service and wish her well in her retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a letter of resignation from girls' soccer coach, Paul Aylett. Mr. Aylett is returning to Australia and is unable to coach this spring. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to accept Paul Aylett's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

A letter of resignation was also received from J.V. softball coach, Pat Fritz, who is unavailable to coach due to a career change. Motion by Klenow, support by Butzin to accept Pat Fritz's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Finally, a letter of resignation was received from J.V. girls' basketball coach, Gordon Wallace. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to accept Gordon Wallace's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Suttle held interviews to fill the middle school science vacancy. He is recommending Mr. Zachary Blanchard for the position. Mr. Blanchard earned his Bachelors and Master's Degree from the University of Georgia. He is currently teaching AP Chemistry and P.E. in Las Vegas. He comes to us with excellent references and was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to hire Zachary Blanchard as a science teacher for Tawas Area Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Suttle and Mr. Mejeur interviewed several candidates to fill the varsity football coaching position and they are recommending Mr. Zachary Blanchard to fill this position. Mr. Blanchard has coached/volunteered in many programs in Georgia and Las Vegas. He has years of football experience working with various size schools and he was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Zachary Blanchard as the varsity football coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending Mrs. Adrienne Dittenbir for the varsity girls' soccer coaching vacancy. Mrs. Dittenbir has experience coaching soccer and has coached in this position previously. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Adrienne Dittenbir as the varsity girls' soccer coach. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee met on April 4th to review new and revised bylaws and policies. Tonight's meeting should be considered a first reading. He said policies reviewed included Staff Dress and Grooming, Grant Funds, Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds and Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds. He indicated the committee is recommending a revision to the current policy on Travel Payment and Reimbursement and they are suggesting adding a policy on Student-Body Representatives. The travel payment and reimbursement revision would raise the daily meal allowance from \$25 to \$75, if staff are required to purchase meals each day while at a meeting or conference. The student-body representative policy would allow a selected student from the high school to attend board meetings to represent the student body. The student would be selected by the Superintendent, or his/her designee.

It was the general consensus of the board to consider this the first reading of new and revised bylaws and policies.

Mr. Klinger said the committee also had discussion regarding board member term lengths. Currently board members serve 4-year terms, but there was discussion about transitioning to 6-year terms over a period of years. Mr. VanderVeen said several schools around us have 6-year terms and he feels the first year on the board can be difficult coming in without prior knowledge. He said with the current 4-year terms, 3 members are elected one year and two years later 4 members are elected, with the chance of those 4 all being new to the board. The board decided to look into this further to see what all would be involved. Mrs. Ulman asked for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee to gather information. Mr. Butzin, Mrs. Lentz and Mr. VanderVeen volunteered to sit on the committee to seek out community input and research what the timelines might be in order to accomplish a transition. Mr. Klinger said the policy committee also discussed updates and revisions to the building student handbooks for next year which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Mr. Klinger said the curriculum committee also met on April 4th to review the curriculum budget presented by Mrs. Mochty. The committee is recommending the board support an annual allocation of \$160,000 for the 2022-2023 school year. That budget will be discussed during New Business. The committee also discussed the future scheduling process for class offerings next year and some potential new ideas that are being worked on to prepare for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Klinger said the budget committee also met on April 4th to discuss the sale of the Tawas City Middle School. They addressed reasons for selling the building, the steps or action necessary to move forward with the sale, and future plans should the district need to expand. Mr. Klinger said the district would be able to accommodate at least 350 more students in our current buildings before we would need to worry about adding space, if that ever became an issue. If needed, we could use portable classrooms until a bond project could be organized, which would cost less than renovating the Tawas City Middle School. Mr. Klinger said a resolution will need to be adopted by the board giving the Superintendent the ability to complete the sale paperwork. At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee recommended that we sell the building, and to bring the resolution to the board for full consideration. This resolution is on the agenda under New Business.

Legislative Report – None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said the school calendar has been set for next year and it is ready to be shared out to all stakeholders following board approval. Students first day of school will be August 29th and their last scheduled day will be June 7, 2023. Mr. Klinger said the calendar is created in collaboration with the local ISD and the TAFT union. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to approve the 2022-2023 school year calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the building principals have submitted changes to their student handbooks for next year and they have been shared for the board to review. He asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Lentz asked if there is always a witness in the event a search or seizure is necessary. Mr. Suttle said any search is always done in pairs. She also asked for clarification on alcohol/marijuana offenses and on the acceptable use policy regarding threats. Mrs. Mochty provided answers to those questions. Mr. Klinger said most of the middle school language changes are an attempt to align that handbook with the high school handbook.

It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2022-23 student school handbooks.

Mr. Klinger said a resolution needs to be adopted granting the Superintendent permission to work with our legal counsel and the business who made the offer to finalize the sale of the Tawas City Middle School building. It is also needed to complete logistical paperwork during the sale. The board was in agreement to move forward with the sale. Mrs. Bruning made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the Superintendent to execute the purchase agreement of Tawas City Middle School. Support to the resolution by Lentz. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said bids were opened on April 5th for the boiler/unit ventilator project. After reviewing the bids, Dan LaPan is recommending that we accept and approve the bid from Sweet Heating and Cooling for \$318,987, and Johnson Controls for \$77,502. This afternoon Mr. LaPan contacted Mr. Klinger to let him know that the bid from Sweet did not include Davis Bacon wages (prevailing wage rates). Mr. LaPan asked Sweet Heating and Cooling to review their proposal and provide an update that includes Davis Bacon wages. At this time there would be an increase to the cost of approximately \$90,955, bringing the total cost of the project to \$409,942. Mr. LaPan recommends proceeding with the proposal from Sweet Heating and Cooling since the total cost is still about \$64,000 lower than the next bid. Mr. Klinger said a change order for the prevailing wage amount will be brought to the board for approval at a future meeting. Mr. Klinger added that Sweet was the only bidder that came on-site to do a walk-through. Motion by Klenow, support by Butzin to accept the bid from Sweet Heating and Cooling and Johnson Controls as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said bids were opened on April 1st for the resurfacing of the gymnasium floor. Three bids were received and after reviewing them, he and Mr. Couch recommend accepting the bid from Victory Gym Floors for \$22,420.50. He said they were the only bidder that came to look at the project of the three bidders. He said they will need to remove all of the protective coatings right down to the wood and start over. They plan to complete the project in June after school is out and anticipate having it wrapped up prior to the 4th of July. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to accept the bid from Victory Gym Floors as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The curriculum committee met on April 4th to review the curriculum budget presented by Mrs. Mochty. The committee is recommending that curriculum purchases may be made up to \$160,000. No one had any questions. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to approve the curriculum purchases up to \$160,000 as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ulman said the closed session for a student discipline hearing will be moved to the end of the meeting.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Klinger said there is a CASBA meeting on May 5th at Whittemore-Prescott Schools. He asked the board to let him know who will be attending so they have a count for the meal. Mrs. Danek said the first annual STEAM night will be held at Clara Bolen this Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 with student projects displayed. Kindergarten roundup will be held April 22nd, M-STEP testing is coming in May and track and field day will be held May 26th and 27th. Mrs. Bolen said 46 5th graders, 40 6th graders, 38 7th graders and 37 8th graders made the honor roll and 23 students had perfect attendance for the 3rd marking period. Students of the month have been named

and testing in the middle school is underway. Mrs. Mochty said 8 staff and 31 students had perfect attendance for the 3rd marking period. She said 178 students earned Rachel's Challenge t-shirts for continuing with their Challenge commitments. Many year-end activities and celebrations are scheduled over the next few months as the school year winds down. Mr. Mejeur said spring sports are underway and the pole vault pit standards have been secured. The track timing system is ready to go for the home meets and improvements are being made at Dewey Durant park for the softball team and at Bolen Park for the baseball team. Mr. Suttle said the band competed in a virtual solo and ensemble on March 14th and received 11-I ratings and 5-II ratings. Students will be testing this week and next, and the NHS induction will be held April 27th. Prom will be held April 30th and the Fine Arts Festival will be May 3rd from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds welcomed the new hires and thanked Mrs. Short for her years of service. Mr. VanderVeen congratulated Mrs. Short on her retirement and welcomed Mr. Blanchard. Mrs. Bruning thanked Mrs. Danek for sharing the activities happening at Clara Bolen and welcomed the new hires. Mr. Butzin also thanked Mrs. Short for her service and welcomed the new hires. He also thanked Mr. Hatcher for attending and congratulated the band on their great outcomes. Mrs. Lentz echoed the prior comments and thanked administration for all their efforts. Mrs. Klenow added that R.C. Hendrick & Son, (and Mr. LaPan), have been involved in several of our recent projects and they have been very dependable. Mrs. Ulman agreed with the prior comments and is pleased to hear that our staff are able to find where the curriculum gaps are so they can be addressed.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Motion by Klenow, support by Edmonds to take a short recess at 8:13 p.m. before going into closed session for a student discipline hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to go into closed session for a student discipline hearing at 8:23 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to return to open session at 8:47 p.m.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to expel student 2021-2022-#10 for up to 180 school days. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he would like to schedule personnel, ad hoc hockey and ad hoc term length committee meetings tonight. It was decided the personnel committee will meet April 19th at 4:30 p.m., the ad hoc term length committee will meet April 25th at 5:00 p.m. and the ad hoc hockey committee will meet May 9th at 6:00 p.m. prior to the board meeting. Mrs. Edmonds will sit in the ad hoc term length committee meeting for Mr. VanderVeen.

Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.