

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
December 9, 2024

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Bruning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2024 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Danek, Livingston, Hazen, Tiffany, Clouse.

Mrs. Ulman made a motion, support by Edmonds to move the closed session to be after advance planning on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHT**

Mrs. Danek presented a video that was created by the Rachel's Challenge organization, and highlighted the district and superintendent. Mrs. Danek received an impact award from the organization for her efforts in the creation of Rachel's Closet at Tawas Area Schools. The video that was shown to the board will be shown all over the country on national news.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Lentz, support by Ulman to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the November 11, 2024 regular and closed session minutes and the November 25, 2024 special meeting and closed session minutes. It also included the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,513,263.64, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$12,846.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$104,305.02. It also included payment of presented monthly bills from the general fund in the amount of \$24,055.38. There were no resignations to accept. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs. Danek said Mrs. Clouse is recommending Ms. Kari Taylor Smith be hired as a special education educational assistant. Ms. Smith is currently working on her bachelor's degree in elementary and special education K-6 through Grand Canyon University and has been subbing in the district for the past few months. She was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Jenkins, support by Miller to hire Ms. Kari Taylor Smith as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Mejeur is recommending that Mrs. Erin Challenger be hired as the boys' varsity track head coach. Mrs. Challenger was previously the girls track assistant coach and has coached and volunteered in various track programs in the past. She was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Mrs. Erin Challenger as the boys' varsity track head coach. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mrs. Danek said that tonight should be considered a second reading of the proposed new and revised policies that were presented last month by the policy committee.

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

Mrs. Danek said that the board governance committee met prior to tonight's meeting to finalize the board operations manual and make any necessary edits to the document. Mrs. Jenkins stated that once the final edits have been completed, the board will be sent a final draft of the manual for their review.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Danek said there is no legislative update at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Danek said we need to pass a resolution every year prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> so that we may levy and collect taxes during the summer months. This provides funds so we don't need to borrow money to meet our expenses. Motion by Jenkins, support by Ulman to adopt the annual summer tax resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bruning said that the board met in a closed session on November 11<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Danek to collectively go over the data in the superintendent evaluation and ask Mrs. Danek any questions they may have before coming up with a consensus rating for her evaluation. Mrs. Bruning said that Mrs. Danek is doing well and received a 2.325 out of a possible 3.000 rating, or a 78%, which is defined as developing. She also stated that Mrs. Danek is new to her position so it is expected that she would have things to work on at this point. The board members questioned the new rating scale for the evaluation and asked for clarity on it. The new scale is as follows: 85%-100% is effective, 67%-84% is developing and less than 67% is needing support. Mrs. Lentz expressed dissatisfaction with the new evaluation, stating that it doesn't give an incentive for teachers to get better and improve. Mrs. Danek explained that the incentive for getting better and being rated as effective is not having to be evaluated yearly. Motion by Ulman, support by Edmonds to accept Mrs. Danek's evaluation as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Ulman made a second motion to extend Mrs. Danek's contract for an additional year. Support by Jenkins. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that representatives from Alcona Health Center were in attendance at the meeting to give a presentation to the board regarding the addition of an on-campus health clinic and the benefits and costs associated with doing so. Carley Dettloff introduced herself, as well as 3 of her colleagues, and stated that she was at the meeting to talk about adding a child adolescent health center in Tawas Area Schools. Ms. Dettloff began by giving a brief history about Alcona Health Center and their experience in school-based health centers. She also explained what a Child and Adolescent Health Center (CAHC) is and what it is not. Ms. Dettloff talked about services offered and responsibilities and requirements for having a CAHC, as well as laws and policies regarding privacy and consent. The board had many questions for Ms. Dettloff upon the conclusion of her presentation. Mrs. Lentz asked about billing and what that looks like. Ms. Dettloff said that the clinic would bill directly for services. They would also have a sliding scale for any students that did not have insurance. Mrs. Lentz also asked about office equipment for the clinic, and whose responsibility that would be. Ms. Dettloff stated that Alcona Health Center (AHC) would provide the necessary equipment for the clinic. Mrs. Bruning questioned how information would be transmitted to the student's primary care provider. Ms. Dettloff said that it is a streamlined process and they ensure that everything gets sent to the PCP right away. She also spoke about helping 17 and 18 years old transition to a PCP when they are no longer considered an adolescent. Mrs. Ulman then asked about the exchange of information between school administration and the medical provider due to HIPAA and FERPA laws. Ms. Dettloff said that parents can sign a release of information that would allow for the two entities to correlate information. Mrs. Ulman also asked about educating students on health-related issues. Ms. Dettloff said that health education is provided by the clinic, to the extent that the school consents to. Mrs. Ulman followed up by asking about education regarding birth control. Ms. Dettloff said that they cannot discuss birth control at all with students. She reiterated that they cannot do anything without first having parental consent. She talked about the consent form that parents

would have to sign and how that form can be tailored to the needs/wants of the district. The board asked Mrs. Danek what she was looking for from them. Mrs. Danek said she is looking for approval to move forward with the clinic. Mrs. Lentz said that she would like to get feedback from other schools that are utilizing a health clinic. She said that she loves the idea and that it would take the onus off the secretaries. Several board members expressed reservations and stated that they had a lot of questions. Ms. Dettloff said that Mrs. Danek could share her contact information with the board so that they could send her any questions they may have and she would be happy to answer them. Mrs. Jenkins asked if there is a way to get information from the community and from parents to decipher if they feel there is a need for a health clinic. Mrs. Danek said that she can do a Google form and an all call to collect information and share the data with the board. There was also discussion regarding the timeline for this project. AHC shared that the application for the grant will be released in the next few weeks and then the timeframe for submission is tight. The board will submit their questions to Mrs. Dettloff between now and the January board meeting and will be prepared to vote on whether to move forward with the health clinic at the January meeting.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek thanked Mrs. Lentz and Mrs. Edmonds for their years of service on the board, as their tenure comes to an end on December 31<sup>st</sup>. She also talked about the eBoard attending the MASC student leadership conference. This year she would be taking 10 students to the conference. Mrs. Danek also shared that this is the first meeting that there have been zero resignations on the agenda since Mrs. Harvey has been employed with the district.

Student Representatives – Ms. Whetstone said there is a band concert this week on Thursday. She also mentioned that the student senate is doing an angel tree to collect gifts for kids whose families may not be able to provide Christmas gifts. Ms. Kloska talked about how student senate is currently doing hot chocolate Friday's for \$1.00 and also mentioned that the cheerleaders were able to cheer at a girls' basketball game recently which was fun.

Administration – Mr. Hazen thanked the board for the card that the board sent upon the arrival of his new baby. He said that project graduation was able to raise over \$1,000 at the bake sale they did at the buck pole on opening day. Mr. Hazen said that the art department, alongside the Braves Parent Counsel, put together a Gallery Walk downtown, allowing people to look at the artwork of some of the students. Lastly, he said that he and Mrs. Tiffany are still working through the attendance issues, focusing on the truancy process currently. Mr. Livingston said that administration has been collaborating with the Braves Counsel to address concerns that parents may have. One of the biggest struggles, according to parents, is communication. Administration has worked to identify areas where they can improve on communication with families and is working to overcome this barrier. Mr. Livingston also stated that he has been attending a webinar series addressing LGBTQ issues and the risks associated with students who identify as such. Middle and high school band and choir concerts are this week, and 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be visiting IRESA this week to learn about the CTE classed offered there. Mr. Livingston also said that they said goodbye to the student teacher who was in the high school this week, Mrs. Lexi Mochty, as she completed her program and left this week. Mrs. Tiffany said the middle school had their first celebration day last week and they went to see the movie "Wicked." This privilege was based on behavior. In January, the middle school would have another celebration day and would be going ice skating. Mrs. Tiffany talked about attending the MEMSPA Conference in Traverse City with Mrs. Clouse last week. She said it was great to get away and be able to focus on leadership qualities while also having the opportunity to network with other principals in the state. Mrs. Tiffany also talked about her son, Michael, being accepted into state honors choir the and what an honor that is and she thanked Mrs. Grover for her work with the music program. Mrs. Clouse said that Clara Bolen would have their Secret Santa Christmas shop this week and the Christmas program would be on December 18<sup>th</sup> in the new gym. She said the MICIP team continues to do PBIS work and has added a tab on the website to showcase what they are doing.

She also highlighted the students of the month for December. Mr. Mejeur said that just under 2,000 students attended sporting events in the fall and stated that next week the boosters would be having a meet the teams event.

From the Board – Mrs. Lentz said she is excited about the publicity the district received for Rachel’s closet. She said she has enjoyed being a member of the school board and she hopes that her perspective has been useful. Mrs. Lentz also expressed that she is excited to move forward with the pursuit of a health center and feels that it would be an invaluable resource to have on campus. She also said that she really enjoys receiving the link for Clara Bolen’s Friday video announcements. Mrs. Lentz also congratulated Michael Tiffany and said that it is a huge deal to make it to the state honors choir. Mr. Butzin did not comment. Mr. Miller thanked everyone for coming out. Mrs. Ulman said she loves that everyone is so passionate about how they feel and how everyone on the board has different perspectives to bring to the table. Mrs. Jenkins congratulated the Hazen’s on the birth of their son and welcomed the new hire. Mrs. Edmonds said that she would be interested to know what staff and students think about bringing a health clinic on campus and would love to hear their perspective on it. She said that it is awesome to hear about the staff continuing their education and thanked the Board and said she appreciates everything that everyone has done. Mrs. Bruning thanked Mrs. Lentz and Mrs. Edmonds for their years of service on the board.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mrs. Danek said that the budget committee would meet on February 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular board meeting to go over the budget amendment. The board said that the committee may change in the new year so they could not really determine if everyone would be available to meet.

Motion by Jenkins, support by Edmonds to go into a brief, 5-minute recess at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to go into a closed session for student discipline hearing at 9:04 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to return to open session at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to expel student 2024-2025-#5 for 180 days. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bruning said that Mr. Livingston will follow up with the family regarding the next steps.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.