Tawas Area Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting
June 30, 2026

The special meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Jenkins at 5:06 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Edmonds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present:	Edmonds, Malewska, Bruning, Jenkins
Absent:	Butzin, Miller
Tardy:	None

Administrators Present: Danek, Livingston

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Jenkins explained that individuals wishing to address the Board during Public Comments would be allotted three minutes to speak.

Mr. Jonathan Mejeur, Athletic Director for Tawas Area Schools, addressed the Board regarding the employee discipline matter. He reflected on his experience serving as Athletic Director and the significance of the position to him. Mr. Mejeur asked the Board to consider allowing him additional time to demonstrate improvement and expressed his belief that he is capable of continuing to grow in the role.

There was no additional public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Bruning, supported by Edmonds, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. **Approval of Minutes** – June 8, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
2. **Receipt of Written Communication** – A letter of retirement was received from Mrs. Tammy Ahearne, middle school ELA teacher, effective June 30, 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

a. **Hire Teachers**

Mrs. Danek said that Mrs. Clouse is recommending that the Board approve the hiring of Mrs. Lark Gonzales-Redd as a 3rd grade teacher at Clara Bolen Elementary for the 2026-27 school year. Motion by Bruning, supported by Malewska, to hire Mrs. Lark Gonzales-Redd as a 3rd grade teacher Clara Bolen Elementary. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Livingston recommends the employment of Mr. Gregory Jacot as the K-12 Band Director for the 2026-27 school year. Motion by Bruning, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Gregory Jacot as the K-12 Band Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Danek said Mr. Livingston recommends the employment of Ms. Elizabeth DeCesare as a high school science teacher for the 2026-27 school year. Motion by Bruning, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Elizabeth DeCesare as a high school science teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

b. **Hire Educational Assistant**
Mrs. Danek said Mrs. Clouse recommends the employment of Ms. Carey Winget as a special education, educational assistant for the 2026-27 school year. Motion by Bruning, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Carey Winget as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1.Committee Reports

a. Budget Committee – Mrs. Danek said that the budget committee met prior to tonight's meeting to discuss the amended 2025-2026 budgets. She reminded the Board that we will not have the actual numbers until our audit in the fall. The details of the budget amendments are discussed under new business.

b. Policy Committee – Mrs. Danek said that the policy committee also met prior to tonight's meeting to conduct a comprehensive review of the Board's current policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines, as well as the Policy Manual developed by Thrun Law Firm. Following its review, the committee recommends that the Board consider adopting the Thrun Policy Manual to replace the district's existing policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines. The recommendation excludes Policy 5207, Student Bullying, as state law requires a separate public hearing prior to Board adoption of that policy. A formal motion to adopt the Policy Manual will be presented for Board consideration under New Business.

2. Legislative Report - Mrs. Danek said that the state still has not passed a budget. She also mentioned that there are numerous bills out there for consideration currently including bills related to the expansion of CTE courses, virtual learning, teacher certification, technology/funding, and mental health workforce.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution to Amend 2025-2026 Budgets**
Mrs. Danek stated that at this time we amend all of our budgets to reflect closer to actual revenue and expenditures for the year. She stated that final numbers will not be available until the audit presentation in the fall.

Mrs. Danek said that we have amended the general fund revenue to receive approximately $16,343,992 for the 2025-2026 school year. Expenditures are expected to be $15,254,301. This means an excess of revenue over expenditures equaling approximately $1,089,691. The projected general fund balance for June 30, 2026 is $8,436,114.

Mrs. Danek said that the lunch fund will finish the year with approximately $884,444 in revenue and $885,753 in expenditures, leaving an estimated fund balance on June 30, 2026 of $198,758. This is a program loss of $1,309 for the year.

Mrs. Danek discussed the debt retirement fund next and stated that this fund is ending the year with revenue of $577,138. After bond payments of $582,063, we will increase our ending fund balance to $133,206.

Mrs. Danek moved on to the sinking fund next and said that this fund is ending the year with revenue of $364,413 and expenditures of $400,000. This will leave a fund balance of $717,856 going into the 2026-27 school year.

Mrs. Danek said that the student/school activity fund had revenues of $292,779 and expenditures of $272,639 leaving a projected fund balance of $280,419.

Mrs. Danek then stated that Mrs. McCoy is here to answer any questions and then Mrs. Edmonds would read the resolution to amend the 2025-2026 budgets.

Mrs. Edmonds made a motion to approve the resolution to amend the 2025-2026 budgets. Support by Jenkins.

There were no questions from the Board

The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Resolution to Adopt Policy Manual**
   Mrs. Danek said that as part of the transition to the Thrun Policy Manual, the Board is required to adopt a resolution approving the policy manual as presented. Approval of this resolution will result in the repeal and replacement of all existing Board policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines, with the exception of Policy 5207, Student Bullying, which must first undergo s public hearing prior to repeal and replacement in accordance with applicable requirements.

   Motion by Edmonds, supported by Bruning, to adopt the Thrun Law Policy Manual as presented, thereby repealing and replacing all existing board policies, bylaws, and administrative guidelines, with the exception of Board Policy 5207, Student Bullying, which shall remain in effect pending completion of the required public hearing and subsequent board action.

   There were no questions from the Board.

   The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Emergency Operations Plan Approval**
   Mrs. Danek said that over the last several months she has been updating the Emergency Operations Plan for the district. This plan provides procedures on how to handle many different potential emergency situations that may occur on campus and/or within the community. The plan is updated annually and involves approval from many different stakeholders including law enforcement, fire service, the county emergency manager and the district. The plan was shared digitally because of the size of the document, and a hard copy is always available for review at Central Office.

   Motion by Malewska, supported by Bruning, to approve the Emergency Operations Plan as presented.

   There were no questions from the Board.

   The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Senior Last Day of School Discussion**
   Mrs. Danek said that over the last few years she has had many community members question the graduating seniors' last day of school and why other area schools seem to release their seniors' earlier than Tawas does. Due to this feedback, she wanted to open the discussion with the Board and consider changing the last day. She discussed a couple different options with Board members, including seniors' being released 2-3 weeks prior to the end of the school year and what this would mean for commencement and project graduation.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Bruning, that the last day of school for graduating Seniors be Thursday, May 20, 2027, with commencements being held on May 23, 2027 for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was clarified that they would see how this goes for the 2026-27 school year and would be revisited next year.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Review Applicants for School Board Vacancy**

Mrs. Danek said that following the recent resignation of a Board of Education member, the Board is required to appoint an individual to serve the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends December 31, 2028. Applications for the vacancy were collected and distributed to Board members for review in advance of tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Edmonds shared that she had contacted the county clerk's office and was able to verify that applicant #1 is on the ballot for the fall.

Mrs. Jenkins stressed that being on the Board is a huge commitment and said that attendance at meetings is vital. She said that the number one priority of the Board is the kids and their best interest.

Board members had no further discussion. They went through each applicant and voted yes or no as follows: Applicant #1, Yes: Bruning, Jenkins, Edmonds. No: Malewska. Applicant #2, Yes: None. No: Bruning, Jenkins, Edmonds, Malewska. Applicant #3, Yes: Malewska. No: Bruning, Jenkins, Edmonds.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Bruning, to appoint Mr. Anthony Lesko to fill the vacant Board of Education position for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2028.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lesko verbally announced his resignation as the assistant wrestling coach for Tawas Area Schools effective immediately and accepted the appointment and recited the official oath of office. He then took his seat as an official board member.

6. **Employee Discipline Matter**

Mrs. Danek said an employee discipline matter will be presented for Board consideration. The Board may be asked to consider disciplinary up to and including suspension or termination of employment. In accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, the employee may request that the matter be considered in closed session. Appropriate procedural steps will be followed to ensure compliance with applicable law and contractual provisions.

At the request of the employee, the employee discipline hearing was conducted in open session.

Board members shared their concerns regarding communication and budgeting and asked the employee if he had a plan to address these concerns. They also indicated that these concerns had already been presented to him in past evaluations and very little improvement was seen.

The employee shared his plan to improve in these areas and shared that he felt he was already showing improvements in the areas brought to his attention.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Jenkins, to terminate the employment of Jonathan Mejeur after 30 days.

An alternate motion was made by Malewska, supported by Jenkins, to support the continuation of employment for Jonathan Mejeur with an improvement plan in place and then re-evaluate employment at the end of the first semester.

Mrs. Edmonds shared her concern that the timing of that would not be good for the district.

A roll call vote was taken on the initial motion. Yes: Edmonds, Bruning, Jenkins. No: Malewska. Abstain: Lesko.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

A. Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek shared that she was thankful to be able to get out of the office for a few days and spend some time with her family.

B. Administration – Mr. Livingston shared that he and Mrs. Tiffany and Mr. Hazen were able to attend the MASSP conference in Traverse City.

C. From the Board – Mrs. Malewska congratulated Mr. Lesko on his appointment and thanked the other candidates for their interest in serving on the Board. She also encouraged them to run on the ballot for the election. She also congratulated Mrs. Ahearne on her retirement and thanked Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Huitema. She thanked Mr. Mejeur for his service to the district.
Mr. Lesko said it is an honor to be chosen to sit on the Board and he is looking forward to impacting the students and community.
Mrs. Edmonds welcomed Lesko to the Board. She also said she loves that 2 of the new hires approved at the meeting are Tawas Alumni coming back to the area.
Mrs. Bruning had nothing additional to share.
Mrs. Jenkins stated that the decisions made by the Board are not made lightly and they always have the best interest of the district at heart. She also welcomed the new hires.

Motion by Jenkins, support by Bruning to adjourn at 6:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.