

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 9, 2023

Vice President Ulman called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 9, 2023.

Mrs. Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger turned it over to Mr. Livingston to present the positive highlight. Mr. Livingston gave a presentation about the sophomore class attending Career Quest at Saginaw Valley State University. Career Quest gives students the opportunity to explore careers in different areas and to engage in interactive learning. This experience also allows students to establish connections with different professionals in numerous different career fields. Some examples of the career fields that students got to explore include construction, health sciences, agri-business, information technology and advanced manufacturing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Bruning asked if there was anyone with public comment and explained that individuals would have 3 minutes to speak about agenda or non-agenda items. Mr. Paul Vainer, girls' and boys' varsity golf coach, introduced himself and stated that he wanted to give the board an update on the girls' golf season. Mr. Vainer said that the girls had 6 wins and 1 loss during the season and he saw great improvement and success among the players. He said that the golf teams were able to raise nearly \$8,000.00 recently at the golf scramble and this money will be split between the two teams. Mr. Vainer stated that he believes the foundation has been laid and that there is a proven path forward.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Jenkins, support by Ulman to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the September 11, 2023 regular meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,063,740.20, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$17,181.66 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$78,371.46. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$121,628.72. A letter of retirement was received from Clara Bolen elementary secretary, Mrs. Ruth Bingle, who will be retiring after 27 years of service, effective at the end of the current school year, on June 28, 2024. A letter of resignation was also received from middle school teacher, Marshal Jordan, who is resigning as of January 19, 2024, or earlier if a replacement is found. Devon Summerland also submitted his resignation effective immediately. Letters of resignation were also received from 8th grade boys' basketball coach, Jason Woelke, 8th grade girls' basketball coach, Reuben Edwards and varsity cheerleading coach, Kelli King, all effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending the following coaches for winter sports: Reuben Edwards for boys' varsity basketball; Jason Woelke for boys' JV basketball; Amy Edwards for girls' varsity basketball; Scott Herbolzheimer for girls' JV basketball; Kohl Coffin for 8th grade boys' basketball; Anna Dalman for 7th grade girls' basketball; Chad Herrick for wrestling. He also recommends the following non-paid coaches: Kim Miller for girls' bowling; Allen Miller for boys' bowling and Mel Rettell for hockey. The 7th grade boys' basketball, 8th grade girls' basketball and varsity cheerleading coaching positions are still vacant. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to hire the winter coaches as discussed for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said that the policy committee met on October 4, 2023 to review new and revised bylaws and policies after meeting with the school's NEOLA representative. Tonight's meeting is to be considered a first reading. The bylaws and policies that were reviewed include administrative staff reductions/recalls (1540), online/blended learning program (2370.01), weapons (7217), student technology acceptable use and safety (7540.03), information security (8305) and free and reduced price meals (8531). The policy committee has also recommended additional modifications. After reviewing policy 0144.2 board member ethics, the committee recommended adding language as follows:

- I will attend at least 80% of scheduled school board meetings.
- I will use all board resources (funds, facilities, equipment and materials) only in my capacity as a board member.
- I will refer all complaints through the appropriate complaint process.

They also recommended adding a consequence section for board member misconduct that outlines four components, which are:

- Private meeting with the offending member and board president and vice president.
- Multiple infractions will be followed up with an email to the offending member and/or full board.
- Possible removal by the board president from any leadership or committee positions.
- Public reprimand/censure as a means of separating the board's focus and intent from those of the offending member.

Finally, the committee reviewed policy 0167.3 public participation at board meetings, and are recommending that we add a section to address documenting community members who use public comment for agenda or non-agenda items. The recommendation is stated as follows: A member of the audience will be asked, prior to addressing the board on an agenda item or non-agenda item, to complete a public comment sheet inside the board room and give the form to the administrative record keeper prior to the start of the meeting. Mrs. Lentz stated that the language of that recommended change should be changed to state "a public comment sheet will be given to the administrative record keeper." This is a first reading and no action was necessary.

The ad hoc facility naming committee met on September 18, 2023 and reviewed the information that was presented by Mr. Tim St. Aubin. The committee also went over

information collected by Mr. Mejeur regarding naming facilities, specifically naming the football stadium after coach Richard D. Look. Mr. Klinger stated that the committee understands the importance of recognizing people for outstanding accomplishments and after meeting and discussing the possibility has determined that they do not support naming any facilities after staff members or alumni. Mrs. Ulman stated that it takes a policy to change building names and that this would be a procedural issue. She said that there are other ways to recognize people, which the committee is not opposed to.

Mr. Klinger went on to say that the personnel committee met on September 18, 2023 and reviewed several board handbooks from other districts. After originally thinking that they wanted to have a board handbook in print, the committee decided that they don't need a handbook because the by-laws can be referenced digitally. The committee also determined that there were policies that they saw in handbooks from other districts that they wanted the policy committee to review for possible recommendations on revisions to our current policies.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said that he continues to monitor the legislature but has nothing to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said Ms. Cindy Scott from Stephenson & Company P.C. will present the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2023. Mr. Klinger said the general fund increased year end fund balance by \$654,296, which is higher than our final amendment predictions. The lunch fund decreased year end fund balance by \$11,076 due to needed equipment purchases. The sinking fund increased year end fund balance by \$156,100 due to current year property tax revenues exceeding capital projects completed. The debt retirement fund decreased year end fund balance by \$21,321 due to current year property tax revenue being less than annual bond payments.

Cindy Scott then began the audit report presentation. She began by referring to the audit opinion letter and stated that the district received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance. She then referred to the management's discussion and analysis which recaps the current year activity and encouraged the board to read through it when they get a chance. She then went on to the government-wide financial statements which combines all funds of the district. These statements incorporate all long-term activity such as fixed assets, long term debt, etc. She noted that these are the only statements where the GASB 68 Net Pension Liability and GASB 75 Net OPEB Liability are recorded. The district's ending net position is (\$6,947,536) because of the liability that is required to be recorded. Most districts in the state are in this same situation. She said there were some big changes from last year, with cash increasing about \$1,210,000 due to increased revenues in the current year over the increased expenses related to cash. Total revenues increased by \$1,462,000 and total expenses increased by \$1,564,000. The net pension liability increased by \$8,856,305 based on the proportionate share assigned to us by the state and the net OPEB liability increased by \$370,517 also based on the proportionate share assigned to us.

Ms. Scott said the fund financial statements are made up of two major funds, including the general fund and sinking fund and three non-major funds, including the lunch fund, the student activity fund and the 2015 school building and sites bond fund. She said the general fund ended the year with a fund balance of \$5,629,574. Of that amount \$3,628,352 is unassigned which equates to about 25.11% of our current year

expenditures. She said we have \$1,539,027 in assigned fund balance, \$415,000 in committed expenditures, and \$47,195 in non-spendable funds. Ms. Scott displayed various charts and graphs comparing the last three years' revenues and expenses which were very comparable from year to year, noting increases in both state and federal revenues due to an increased foundation allowance and ESSER funds. He said approximately 80.19% of our expenses are made up of salaries and benefits, which is typical for schools.

Ms. Scott referred to the notes to the financial statements. She indicated that for 2023, the district implemented GASB 96 regarding subscription-based information technology arrangement (SBITA).

She indicated there were several commitments at year end which included a gymnasium floor resurfacing, boiler/ventilation project, LED lighting and energy upgrades, upgrades to the track and football complex, upgrades to the soccer complex and a public address system for Clara Bolen with a sum total of \$1,058,822.

Ms. Scott said that the single audit did have a finding regarding allowable costs related to ESSER III funds. According to the United States Department of Education's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Programs and Governor's Emergency Education Relief Programs Frequently Asked Questions document, "under limited circumstances, it may be allowable for ESSER, GEER, or EANS-funded activities to continue after the obligation and liquidation period." However, "under no circumstances may the services extend beyond the date on which the funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury, which occurs four years after the obligation deadlines," which for the ESSER grant would be September 30, 2028. In the current year, the District paid in advance for six years of a new Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) out of the ESSER grant funds, that will run through June 30, 2029, nine months past the four-year cutoff. This creates a questioned cost for the grant in the amount of \$17,316 if the request submitted to MDE is approved, and \$109,668 if the request is not approved. The request was submitted to MDE for this extension on August 10, 2023. She said that they recommend that the District reclassify the excess expenses charged to the ESSER grant and include/incur other allowable expenses in those charged to the grant. Ms. Scott stated that regardless of what happens, this is not considered lost money. Mrs. Lentz questioned how the District got in this predicament and Ms. Scott stated that the District should have asked for permission prior to this purchase but did not do so, unknowingly.

The Management Letter is made up of two appendixes. The first appendix shows the implementation of GASB96 and the finding related to that but does not show any other comments. The second appendix shows no material weakness, no significant deficiency and states that the only other written matter is in regard to the allowable costs and cost principles related to ESSER III.

She asked the board if they had any questions, which they did not, and they thanked Ms. Scott for her presentation.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Jenkins to accept the 2022-23 audit report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger went on to state that Mr. Mejeur is requesting that the Tawas Girls' Varsity and JV Basketball Teams be allowed to visit the FaHoLo Conference Center in Grass Lake, MI for a team retreat and bonding experience for the girls prior to the season. They would leave on December 1 and return on December 3. Details of the trip were included in the board packets. Mr. Klinger said that the coaches and Mr. Mejeur were in attendance if they wanted to speak at all or if the board had any questions. Amy Edwards, varsity basketball coach, reiterated the purpose of the trip and stated that she felt it would be beneficial for the girls. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to allow the Tawas girls' varsity and JV basketball teams to visit the FaHoLo Conference Center in Grass Lake, MI from December 1 until December 3, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Superintendent Report – Mr. Klinger said that the boilers and unit ventilators are up and running and functioning. The lighting project has taken longer than anticipated but observation has been done and the software update will be run soon so that final changes can be made. Once things have been monitored for a week, Consumers Energy will review the data around the beginning of November and we will see the impact. Mr. Klinger reminded everyone that the sinking fund renewal is on the ballot for November 7. He said he has made several presentations to the community and he has more scheduled to educate them. Looking ahead, Mr. Klinger said the November meeting will include the 2nd reading of policies, an enrollment update, possible hiring recommendations, continuity of service update and advanced planning in regards to a closed session for the superintendent evaluation. He ended by saying that the board workshop is scheduled for October 30 from 4:00-7:00p.m.

Student Representatives – Ms. Catherine Push was at the meeting and talked about the Students Leading Students (SLS) tailgating event before the Tawas v Oscoda football game, saying that they had a great turnout and it was a huge success. She talked about it being red ribbon week and encouraging students and adults to be substance free, which included a raffle and a pledge. Ms. Push said that the student senate received great feedback about Homecoming and said it was awesome. The student senate is continuing to brainstorm ways to increase school spirit. She also said that NHS is having the Pink Power Walk on October 26 and a blood drive in December. Ms. Push also referenced the first "Tawas Times" issue of the year being released and said that they are continuing to update the bulletin boards in the school.

Administration –Mrs. Danek said that parent teacher conferences are being held this week. The fall band concert, Band-O-Rama is also scheduled for this week. The Kagan professional development principles that staff have been learning are providing a monthly structure for teachers to utilize and includes incentives for teachers and students.

Mr. Livingston talked about the professional development that took place last Friday, which was a presentation on school safety. This presentation clarified staff expectations and updated staff on policy and procedure. They also did Stop the Bleed training. The social studies department did some SAAVAS training and increased their skills and knowledge with interactive assignments and digital homework. Mr. Livingston stated that attendance letters are going home this week. He also mentioned the SRO and said he is doing a great job.

Mr. Mejeur said that fall sports are wrapping up. Districts for soccer start next week, with finals on October 18. Volleyball districts are in Alcona this year, starting on November 1.

Ms. Timo stated that the first special education audit was completed on October 6. As of that day, the district has 146 IEP's and 22 students with 504 plans. She said that she, along with other staff, are discussing ways to meet the needs of older students in the district and are working on a plan for behavioral referrals.

Mrs. Tiffany stated that 7th grade students are planning a trip to Mackinaw this year. 8th and 9th grade students are beginning to raise funds for the D.C. trip. She said that Mr. Dodridge and Mr. Popoff are getting the middle school science Olympics program back up and running. Mrs. Tiffany also said that a middle school dance has been scheduled and is being planned. Peer mediation is beginning to progress, with Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Lizotte identifying students to begin training as mediators.

Mrs. Clouse said that Clara Bolen's fall fundraiser is now going on, World's Finest Chocolates. She said the fire department would be on campus on Tuesday to present to kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders. Ms. Clouse also mentioned HMH coaching sessions starting up and said that parent teacher conferences in the elementary school are not until November 8th and 9th.

From the Board – Mrs. Ulman said that she loves seeing the kids getting career ready and loves that the school is helping to make the students well-rounded. She thanked Mrs. Bingle for her years of service and said she is happy to see the collaboration that is happening all around the district. Mrs. Ulman thanked the business office and stated that she appreciates all the people who are attending conferences and increasing their knowledge. Mrs. Edmonds thanked Mr. Livingston for sharing the positive highlight and also thanked Mrs. Bingle. She congratulated Mr. Vainer and the golf club and thanked Mr. Mejeur for highlighting all of the districts positive accomplishments on social media. Mrs. Jenkins thanked Ms. Scott for her audit presentation and thanked central office for their work. She said she loves HMH and has had positive personal experiences with it. She also said the SRO officer is doing a great job and is really creating a positive image in the schools. Mrs. Lentz thanked everyone for everything. She said she is sad to see Mrs. Bingle leave but is looking forward to finding someone who will shadow her and learn from her experiences. Mrs. Bruning commented that she liked the addition of the pictures on the board room walls.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said the ad hoc girls golf club committee will meet on November 13 at 6:00 p.m. to re-cap the season and determine the path moving forward.

He said after the November 13 meeting board members would need to get together to discuss project lists for next year,

Motion by Butzin, support by Ulman to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.