

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
March 14, 2022

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by Vice-President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Edmonds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Danek, Suttle, Bolen

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mr. Suttle and features the Top Ten of the Class of 2022.

Mr. Suttle said he is pleased to introduce the Top Ten students of the class of 2022. He introduced the students including the valedictorian, Kyle Reynolds, and the co-salutatorians, Juliette Johnson and Vicki Lin. Rounding out the Top Ten are Charleson Shuart, Grace Look, Vivien Lin, Trinity Briggs, Delani Butzin, Joshua Bruno, Audrey Alexander and Kendel Couturier. Grade point averages ranged from 4.005 to 4.084. Each student told what their favorite school memory was along with their favorite class. They also shared what their future plans include. The board thanked them for attending, congratulated them on their accomplishments and wished them well in their future endeavors.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the special meeting minutes of March 1, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Butzin, Edmonds, VanderVeen and Bruning. Abstain: Klenow (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Motion by Bruning, support by Edmonds to approve the closed session minutes of March 1, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Edmonds, Butzin, Bruning and VanderVeen. Abstain: Klenow (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 \$768,715.27 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$58,515.34. There were no sinking fund bills to be paid. She also moved to approve payment of presented bills for

the general fund in the amount of \$73,435.71 as funds become available. There was no lunch fund or sinking fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by VanderVeen. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger told the board that this is the time of year that recommendations are made regarding probation and tenure for our teachers. He indicated that the building principals have been active working on evaluating their staffs. The process is designed to be a continual improvement process. This involves multiple classroom visits, communications and a minimum of two formal observations before a final evaluation can be administered. Since it is a more thorough and involved process, evaluations won't be complete until late spring. However, administration has completed the required observations and visitations giving them the information needed to make recommendations for the 2022-23 school year.

Mr. Klinger said that two teachers, Bobie Reser and Amanda Sigulinsky, were hired in December this year and are being recommended to continue their first year of probation due to their mid-year hiring dates. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning that Bobie Reser and Amanda Sigulinsky continue on 1<sup>st</sup> year probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning that seven teachers, Tricia Briggs, Sarah Stein, Mindy Davis, Janice Tiffany, Karen Kienitz, Erica Russo and Genecia Mejeur, be granted a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2022-23 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin that three teachers, Meaghan Martinez, Kelli Rau and Pete Scott be granted a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2022-23 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin that four teachers, Brittney Davidson, Brianna Griffiths, Anneke Hoogenstryd and Jordan Hazen, be granted a 4<sup>th</sup> year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2022-23 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by VanderVeen that three teachers, Aaron Hazen, Breanna Roest and Michael Keith del Rio be granted a 5<sup>th</sup> year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2022-23 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning that five teachers, Alexis Grover, Brandon Jerashen, Scott Jorasz, Wendi Paulson and Veronica Schlosser be recognized for tenure under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act effective June 30, 2022. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Personnel Committee. Mr. Klinger said that the personnel committee met on March 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the parameters surrounding the upcoming negotiations regarding the wage opener this spring in collaboration with the teacher's group. A complete review will be held with the entire board at the end of tonight's meeting in a closed session.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said Senate Bill 768 would cut the personal income tax to 3.9% and have a significant impact on the school aid fund. The bill was sent to the governor’s desk for review. MDE has issued a memo addressing the allocated six days of forgiveness time and what it can and cannot be used for. Parts of the memo have already been updated and we will continue to watch for more changes. The CDC revised its COVID masking guidance for school transportation and no longer requires schools to mask staff and students when using school transportation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Jerashen is requesting permission to take the jazz band to East Kentwood overnight on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jerashen said the band will be performing early on the 30<sup>th</sup> and they would plan to stay until about lunch time to listen to a few of the other jazz bands that will be performing before heading home. He said there would be about 20 students involved. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to approve the overnight band trip as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said official bids were opened and reviewed on March 4<sup>th</sup> for the fob and secure entrance project. Six bids were submitted and after reviewing them, and receiving answers to follow up questions, he is recommending the bid be accepted from Up North Security and Technology Systems in the amount of \$38,700. Mr. Klinger said this company has worked with us recently and is familiar with our district and our needs. The bidder expects it to take about 6 weeks for the equipment to arrive once it is ordered and the project should start when students leave in June and should be complete by the end of the month. Motion by Butzin, support by Bruning to accept the secure entrance project bid as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Administration – Mr. Klinger said MDHHS has rescinded many requirements regarding the reporting of COVID cases with schools. Cases will continue to be reported to the local health department, but we no longer need to perform contact tracing or post the mandatory letters on the district dashboard. Mr. Klinger also said that at the end of last week he received an offer on the old Tawas City Elementary building. Mr. Klinger has been in contact with legal counsel regarding the offer and will update the board further as he learns more. Mrs. Bolen said the students of the month have been named and the Braves Bright Spot in the hallway continues to grow with more pictures being added weekly. She said testing will begin shortly after spring break. Mrs. Danek said the social and emotional supports continue to be strengthened through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Step program and a bullying component will be added to the program in the fall. The Kagan Cooperative Learning program is being extended into the middle and high school next year and the mastery of structures by grade level is continuing. March is book madness month and the book fair was recently held and was once again a success. Mr. Suttle is excited that the Kagan program will be added in the middle and high school. He said spring sports began today and about 100 students rode the spectator buses to the boys’ regional basketball game tonight in Grayling. The 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period ends this Friday and the middle and high school bands received I ratings last weekend. The professional development afternoon on March 4<sup>th</sup> was great and was very useful for the staff.

From the Board – Mr. VanderVeen congratulated the tenure and probation teachers and the Top Ten students that were introduced tonight. Mrs. Bruning echoed his comments. Mr. Butzin congratulated the bands on their I division ratings. Mrs. Edmonds thanked Augie’s and Ben Franklin for providing the spectator buses to tonight’s regional game. She asked about the district funding some of the senior banners that go up around graduation time. Mrs. Klenow said the

family night at Clara Bolen was great, the middle school continues to do cool projects and she is excited that the Kagan Learning program is expanding into the middle and high school.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mr. Klinger said he would like to schedule a policy, curriculum and budget committee meeting in the near future. All three meetings were scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. He said he will need to schedule a personnel committee meeting soon and he would like to schedule a board goals workshop with Dr. Rod Green as well.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to take a short recess at 8:07 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 8:14 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by VanderVeen to return to open session at 8:27 p.m.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to expel student 2021-2022-#9 for up to 180 school days. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Edmonds to go into closed session for negotiations discussion at 8:30 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to return to open session at 8:40 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.