

Tawas Area Schools  
Reorganizational and Regular Board of Education Meeting  
January 10, 2022

The reorganizational and regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by Superintendent Klinger at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mr. Klinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

Mr. Klinger said there is one addition to tonight's agenda. It is a letter of resignation and will be added under Receipt of Written Communications.

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger presented tonight's positive highlight, which was a review of district projects that have been completed from the 2019-20 school year to present. Projects completed in 2019-20 included updating furniture in the CAD room, installing new windows in the art and weight rooms, replacing fencing along the bus parking area, high school boiler room and kitchen electrical panel updates, updating boiler circulation pumps, window film and caulking in the middle/high school, playground upgrades at Clara Bolen Elementary, Chromebook and projector replacements and a camera system upgrade at Clara Bolen. In the 2020-21 school year projects included window film and caulking for all remaining windows, installing a secure entrance at Central Office, the installation of radio boosters in both buildings, replacing a backup boiler at the middle/high school, adding a soccer scoreboard, kitchen storage upgrades at Clara Bolen, sign updates, Chromebook replacements, webcams added for remote instruction, a camera server upgrade and hotspots added for remote learning. In the 2021-22 school year new lunch tables and industrial laminators were added at Clara Bolen along with an update to the playground basketball court, touchscreen devices were purchased for kindergarten students, Chromebooks, document cameras and interactive whiteboards were upgraded, a pole vault pit mat and track timing system were purchased and acoustical panels were purchased for the music room. Mr. Klinger said projects in progress include middle/high school boiler and unit ventilator updates, Clara Bolen boiler replacement, fob updates and middle/high school ceiling tile replacements. Mr. Klinger said these projects are a few examples of the ongoing growth and improvement within the district. The board thanked Mr. Klinger for the presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mr. Klinger asked if there were any public comments or feedback on ESSER funding. There were no comments. Mr. Klinger asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. There were no comments.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Klinger indicated that board officers need to be selected for the calendar year. He called for nominations for President. Mrs. Bruning made a motion to nominate Shannon Klenow for President. Mr. VanderVeen made a motion to nominate Julie Ulman for President. There were

no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call vote was taken with members naming their choice for President. Edmonds – Ulman; Butzin – Klenow; VanderVeen – Ulman; Bruning – Klenow; Ulman – Ulman; Klenow – Ulman. Mrs. Ulman received four votes and Mrs. Klenow received two votes. Mrs. Ulman was selected as the board president and then took over the meeting.

President Ulman called for nominations for Vice-President. Motion by VanderVeen, supported by Edmonds to nominate Shannon Klenow for Vice-President. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call was taken on the motion to nominate Shannon Klenow as vice-president. Motion carried unanimously.

President Ulman called for nominations for Secretary. Motion by VanderVeen, supported by Edmonds to nominate Jennifer Bruning for Secretary. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call was taken on the motion to nominate Jennifer Bruning as secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

President Ulman called for nominations for Treasurer. Motion by Klenow, supported by VanderVeen to nominate Ami Edmonds for Treasurer. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call was taken on the motion to nominate Ami Edmonds as treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to approve the December 13, 2021 minutes as presented. There were no additions or corrections. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to approve the closed session minutes of December 13, 2021 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the special meeting minutes of December 20, 2021 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Edmonds, Butzin, Bruning, Klenow and Ulman. Abstain: VanderVeen (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to approve the closed session minutes of December 20, 2021 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Klenow, Bruning, Butzin, Edmonds and Ulman. Abstain: VanderVeen (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 \$1,142,605.46 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$67,286.76. 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 \$31,819.28 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**

Mr. Klinger said he received a letter of resignation from middle school science teacher, Stephanie Graves. Ms. Graves has accepted a teaching position at Gladwin High School. Her last day of work will be January 21<sup>st</sup>. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to accept Stephanie Graves' letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Klinger said that January is School Board Recognition Month. He said our school board members are elected officials performing public service. He thanked them for their support and dedication to Tawas Area Schools, its students, staff and the programs provided. He said their commitment to the district is appreciated. He noted their years of service as follows: Tracee Lentz and Mike Butzin, 1 year; Ami Edmonds, 1.5 years; Jennifer Bruning and Greg VanderVeen, 3 years; Julie Ulman, 5 years; Shannon Klenow 7 years. He presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Klinger said maintenance supervisor, Martin Couch, is recommending the board hire Ms. Tammy Katterman to fill the custodial position that became vacant when Tammy Gillings resigned. Tammy has worked in maintenance/warehouse positions since 1995 and was selected as the top candidate. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to hire Tammy Katterman as a custodian for Tawas Area Schools. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the budget committee met on January 5<sup>th</sup> to review the general fund budget amendments. The information presented took conservative estimates from June and provided more actual amounts on pupil FTE, Categoricals, salaries, benefits, revenues and expenditures, and other changes that provided a more accurate picture of the district's financial position. The amendments will be presented under New Business later on the agenda.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said House Bill 4294 passed the legislature and the governor signed the bill during winter break which waives the 60 credit requirement for substitute teaching for any school employee for the remainder of the current school year. The intent of the Bill is to help with the substitute teacher shortage.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said as he mentioned earlier, the budget committee met to review the changes to the general fund budget. He said that a conservative 2021-22 budget was adopted in June prior to the governor signing the current state budget. Many estimated numbers have now been amended to reflect actual amounts. Specifically, our pupil FTE is up from an estimated 1118.66 to 1157.15 and the foundation allowance is up from an estimated \$8,236 to an actual \$8,700 per pupil. Categoricals have also been updated to reflect allocations on the status report. Expenses have been updated to reflect current contracts and personnel and ESSER II and grant allocations have also been adjusted to actual. We are presenting an amendment that shows a June prediction of deficit spending (\$879,658) to an amended budget surplus of \$221,773. The majority of this change comes from the current state aid status report with the actual foundation and actual FTE. Also, per auditor recommendation, we are assigning \$150,672 of the fund balance long term to show that we want to protect and sustain positions currently being funded through ESSER funds. Although this information gives us a closer picture of the 2021-2022 budget, there are still estimated items. The final amendment will be presented in June. Mr. Klinger said we have been able to hire staff and expand services with ESSER funds, but we know those are short-term funds. By “assigning” funds in the budget (\$150,672), it will set money aside to help sustain those positions when the ESSER funds are gone.

Motion by Bruning, support by Klenow to adopt the resolution to amend the 2021-22 general fund budget as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said over the last several months he 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. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the Emergency Operations Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. VanderVeen said Mr. Klinger's evaluation was completed recently with each board member scoring him in seven different areas. Mr. Klinger performed a self-evaluation which was used for reference. Mr. Klinger received an overall evaluation rating of 87.5%, placing him at the high end of the "effective" range. Last year he received an overall rating of 84.1%. Mr. Klinger had the opportunity to speak with each board member to get feedback on their individual scores. Motion by Klenow to accept Mr. Klinger's evaluation as presented, and extend his contract for an additional year. Support by Butzin. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Jerashen is here tonight requesting permission to take his All-Star band to Alpena overnight. Mr. Jerashen said he had 36 students audition for the honors band and 32 were selected. They will travel to Alpena the afternoon of January 21<sup>st</sup> and hope to have a game of laser tag before their first rehearsal at 4:45. They have a second rehearsal later that evening and one Saturday morning prior to their performance at 2:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Hotel rooms will be paid for by the Band Boosters. Motion by VanderVeen, support by Klenow to approve the overnight band trip as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he has received a proposal from William A. Kibbe and Associates to provide structural engineering services to investigate the cracking in various masonry walls at the high school building within the alumni gym locker rooms. The proposal would include a site inspection of the interior and exterior, a review of existing design documents, an evaluation of the cracked walls regarding the structural integrity of the building and provide a recommendation for repair options. They expect the total fee will not exceed \$5,000. Mr. Klinger said this will provide us information and knowledge about how big the project to repair the cracks might be. Motion by Klenow, support by Edmonds to approve the engineering services proposal as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said as a part of P.A. 48 Section 98b, the State of Michigan has asked all school districts to provide academic data on K-8 students for both reading and math by February and before the end of the school year. Mr. Klinger said he has provided the board with an achievement/growth data template that outlines our mid-year and end of the year goals. It also provides the percentages of students who are meeting those goals. The board thanked Mr. Klinger for sharing the information.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Administration – Mr. Mejeur said Abigail Herbolsheimer signed a letter of intent last week to play soccer at a university in Minnesota. Little Braves girls' and boys' basketball is ongoing, there will be a Coaches vs. Cancer basketball game sponsored by Farm Bureau and the American Cancer Society on January 20<sup>th</sup> and the Reverse Raffle will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Bolen said NWEA scores have been reviewed and 148 middle school students exceeded the goal in both reading and math and will receive treats and certificates. Students of the month have been named and the December celebration day was a success with another one planned in January. Mrs. Mochty said course description booklets are being updated and scheduling for next year will begin soon. She thanked Mrs. Grusecki for her service to the district as she will be retiring the end of this week. She also thanked the board members for their service to the district. Mrs. Danek hopes to have educational assistants to hire at next month's meeting and 50 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be involved in NAEP testing in February. Mr. Suttle said semester exams will be held this week

starting tomorrow. High school solo and ensemble will be held February 5<sup>th</sup>, student count day will be February 9<sup>th</sup>, and the choir solo and ensemble will be held February 12<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked the board members for their service. Mr. Klinger said he continues to wait for updates on the Emergency Temporary Standard.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds thanked Mr. Klinger for the positive highlight showing all the projects that have been completed or are in progress. She was happy to see the results of the NWEA testing and wished Mrs. Grusecki the best in her retirement. Mr. VanderVeen also congratulated Mrs. Grusecki on her retirement. Mr. Butzin thanked the staff for the great job they do. Mrs. Bruning wished Mrs. Grusecki the best. Mrs. Klenow congratulated Abby Herbolsheimer and the students in the All-Star band. She looks forward to hearing the results of the engineering report and wished Mrs. Grusecki the best in her retirement. Mrs. Ulman was also happy to hear the results of the NWEA testing and congratulated Mrs. Grusecki.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin 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 Edmonds, support by Butzin to go into closed session for a student discipline hearing at 8:16 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Klenow to return to open session at 8:30 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin that student 2021-2022-#5 be expelled for up to 180 school days. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Bruning to return to closed session at 8:32 p.m. for a student discipline hearing. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to return to open session at 8:45 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin that student 2021-2022-#6 be expelled for up to 180 school days. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Edmonds to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.