

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 13, 2025

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Schools Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ulman.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Butzin.

B. Roll Call

Present: Bruning, Butzin, Jenkins, Edmonds, Malewska, Miller, Ulman

Absent: None

Tardy: None

C. Positive Highlight

Ms. Corie del Rio, a third-grade teacher, gave a presentation about her experience traveling to Alpena and visiting the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary. During her visit, she had the unique opportunity to board a ship and join the crew, learning about their daily operations and processes. She found it exciting to capture videos and gather information to bring back to her class, where she shared stories from her adventure.

D. Public Comments – Information and Proposals

There was no public comment.

II. Action Items

A. Consent Agenda

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

1. **Approval of Minutes** –September 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes, September 24, 2025 special meeting minutes and September 24, 2025 closed session minutes approved.
2. **Approval of Payment of Bills** –
 - Monthly contractual and prepaid expenses:
 - General Fund: \$974,662.87
 - Sinking Fund: \$3,812.00
 - Lunch Fund: \$79,377.24
 - Presented monthly bills:
 - General Fund: \$112,441.38
 - Sinking Fund: \$0.00
 - Lunch Fund: \$0.00
3. **Receipt of Written Communications** – None

B. Routine Matters

1. Recommendations & Reports from Administration

a. Hire Educational Assistant

- Motion by Butzin, supported by Jenkins, to approve the hiring of Ms. Allison Clothier as a Title I educational assistant, contingent upon the successful completion of the

Paraprofessional Assessment, as recommended by Mrs. Clouse. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Hire Coach

- Motion by Malewska, supported by Butzin, to hire Mr. Robert ShROUT as the 8th grade boys' basketball coach. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Hire Winter Coaches

- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Bruning, to hire Mr. Reuben Edwards as the Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Craig Prescott as the JV Boys' Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Jason Woelke as the Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Scott Herbolsheimer as the JV Girls' Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Stephanie Lichota as the 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Gina Murphy as the 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Katie Stratz as the 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Melissa Kendall as the Varsity Cheerleading Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Ms. Cassandra Thoryk as the Junior High Cheerleading Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Andrew Challenger as the Varsity Wrestling Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Anthony Lesko as the Wrestling Assistant Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Bruning, to hire Ms. Kim Miller as the Girls' Bowling Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Malewska, to hire Mr. Allen Miller as the Boys' Bowling Coach. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Jenkins, supported by Bruning, to hire Mr. Mel Rettell as the Hockey Coach. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Miller; No: Bruning, Butzin, Jenkins, Edmonds, Malewska, Ulman. Motion failed.

C. Old Business

1. Committee Reports

a. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee convened prior to this meeting to review new and revised bylaws and policies. This meeting should be regarded as the first reading. Mrs. Danek explained that the policy update consolidates several existing policies, while rescinding those that were redundant. All of the new and revised policies are mandatory and must be adopted.

2. Legislative Report

Mrs. Danek shared that a State budget has finally been approved and committed to providing updates as more details become available. She noted that funds have been

released at this time, and she will continue to monitor developments to understand the impact on our budget.

D. New Business

1. Hunter's Safety Course

Mrs. Danek said that Mr. Brian Loeffler and Mr. Dale Willett were present to provide a presentation on Hunter's Safety Courses.

Mr. Loeffler stated that they would like to see this course back in the schools and then introduced Mr. Willett, who he said has been a hunter's safety instructor for 27 years in Iosco County.

Mr. Willett began by explaining that hunter's safety can be taught as a class during the school day but must have a certified instructor OR it can be offered after school. He prefers the latter. Mr. Willett stated that the main objective of the course is to teach people how to hunt safely.

Mrs. Malewska asked how long the program lasts. Mr. Willett said it is a 12-hour course, which can be broken up however they choose. He said students are required to have a field day at the end of the course.

Mrs. Malewska asked what the ideal age group is for this course. Mr. Willett said anyone can do it according to the State of Michigan but he prefers not to have kids under 8 years old.

Mrs. Malewska asked about class size. Mr. Willett said he typically aims for a class size no larger than 30 students, with 2 instructors.

Mrs. Malewska asked if students needed to have their own equipment. Mr. Willett said they do not need to have their own equipment, and the course itself does not cost students or the district anything.

Mr. Butzin asked if parental consent is required. Mr. Willett said it is required, and the students must fill out all forms online.

Mrs. Ulman asked what the goal is for frequency of the class. Mr. Willett said last year he ran 3 classes in the county and they were well attended so he would aim for 3-4 classes, possibly more.

Mrs. Ulman asked who will promote the class. Mr. Willett said the district does not have to do anything. They will handle promoting the class.

Mr. Miller asked if students have the option to do the course online. Mr. Willett said the written portion is available online and costs between \$35 and \$40. Students still have to then find a place to do the field day and must use their own equipment.

Mr. Miller asked what the incentive is to do it at the school. Mr. Willett said just to get it back in the school and make it more accessible for students.

Mr. Willett thanked the Board for their time and said he looks forward to hearing from them regarding next steps.

2. IRESA CTE Millage

Mrs. Danek introduced Mr. Jamie Cain, IRESA Superintendent, who gave a presentation about the upcoming millage renewal for IRESA's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. Mr. Cain said that this is no added cost to taxpayers, it is only a renewal. After 10 years, this millage will have raised \$11.6 million, which is 58% of the CTE Budget. Without the millage, the program would take a huge hit. He said enrollment this year is 186 students and they continue to find ways to improve the program and offer new courses. Mr. Cain said the renewal would be on the ballot in August 2026 and he asked everyone to vote.

3. Roof Replacement Project

Mrs. Danek stated that Duro-Last did a thermal test on the roof of the middle/high school building and based on that test, there are 3 areas of high concern that need to have the roof replaced. The total cost of those 3 areas only is \$116,000. She stated that she is looking for approval to move forward with the process and put the project out for bids. Mrs. Danek also stated that the funds for this would come out of the Sinking Fund and were budgeted for.

Motion by Ulman, supported by Butzin to approve the roof replacement project to go out for bids. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek said that the administration team has been taking part in leadership coaching with H2 Leadership. She said they each receive one hour per week of one-on-one coaching where they focus on self-reflection and individual goal setting. Mrs. Danek stated that it has been a great opportunity for them. She also shared that last week some members of the administration team, as well as some board members, attended the chamber dinner which was very nice. Mrs. Danek also wished luck to all athletes in post-season play.

B. Student Representatives –

- Senior Representative: Miss Abby Kloska – Ms. Kloska said school is going well. The cheerleading team had Little Braves recently and had 44 kids attend, which was a lot. She also said that Homecoming went really well and shared that student counsel has been working on Rachel's Closet, getting it cleaned up and organized.
- Junior Representative: Miss Eryn Hayes – Not Present

C. Administration – Mr. Hazen said that Homecoming was a success. There were 244 tickets sold and only 26 guest passes given out, meaning that there was a large percent of students who attended. He said Knowledge Bowl is back and they will have competitions in Alpena for 4 consecutive weeks this month. Mr. Hazen also stated that on October 3rd there was a half day, where students were able to utilize Xello, which is college and career readiness software. The other half of the day, teachers took part in PD opportunities including a presenter from Bay ISD who spoke about AI and its importance and the Math department did 5-12 SAAVAS training with representatives. On Wednesday, Mr., Hazen said that he and two teachers will attend an AI conference.

Mr. Livingston said count day enrollment numbers are in. The high school had 355 students and the middle school had 376 students, which is up from last year. Parent teacher conferences were held last week. Last Friday, sophomores attended career Quest at SVSU and got to explore different careers. On October 15th the band is hosting the Fall-O-Rama concert and the Pink Power Walk will take place on October 22nd. Later this month, on October 29th the district will sponsor a FASFA night.

Mrs. Tiffany highlighted the middle school students of the month. She said they are looking into a fall fundraiser; as the representative they usually work with has retired. She said the book fair will take place on November 3rd. Mrs. Tiffany also shared that the middle school was taking part in data meetings, with the goal being 50% proficiency or better in each MSTEP category.

Mrs. Clouse said the fall fundraiser was due today, but online sales are still open. Enrollment is at 411 students, which is down 4 students from September. Elementary students got to attend an assembly with the Fire Department, teaching them about Fire Safety. She also shared that the PTO is planning a Harvest Evening this year instead of a Zombie Run. This event will take place on November 14th. She also highlighted the students of the month.

D. From the Board – Mrs. Jenkins said she had recently taken 3 CBA classes focused mainly on ethics and leading with a purpose. She said it was nice to hear ideas from others and learn that our Board is doing things how they should be. She thanked Mr. Loeffler and Mr. Willett for their presentation regarding the hunter’s safety course and thanked Ms. del Rio for her presentation. She also stated that she loved the set up for the middle school parent teacher conferences this year.

Mrs. Edmonds wished luck to McKenzie Kinney.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone who presented and the administrators.

Mrs. Malewska said she is thankful that administration team is focused on self-development and thinks that is great. She congratulated McKenzie Kinney. Mrs. Malewska said it was nice to have interested community members who are invested. She congratulated the middle school cross country team and stated that the middle school volleyball tournament this past weekend was fantastic and much improved from last year.

Mr. Butzin thanked Mr. Cain for his presentation regarding the millage renewal.

Mrs. Bruning thanked Mr. Willett and Mr. Loeffler for all of their years of volunteering. She said she is excited that Knowledge Bowl is back and is excited that Ms. del Rio is taking advantage of field trip opportunities.

Mrs. Ulman said she appreciates everyone diving in to AI. She also said she is grateful for Mrs. Dalman and the Knowledge Bowl team coming back. She is appreciative to Ms. del Rio. Mrs. Ulman thanked all of the presenters. Lastly, she stated that CBA classes are available to everyone and they are encouraged to take these courses. She reminded board members that there is a budget set yearly for these classes and that they needed to be mindful of that budget,

IV. Advance Planning

A. Student Achievement Committee Meeting – November 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

B. CASBA – November 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at IRESA

The Board took a 10-minute recess at 8:03 p.m. before going into a closed session for a student discipline hearing.

V. Student Discipline Hearing

Motion by Jenkins, supported by Butzin to go into a closed session for a student discipline hearing at 8:15 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, supported by Jenkins, to return to open session at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Jenkins, to expel Student 2025-2026-#4 for up to 180 days with the ability to petition the Board for reinstatement at the January 2026 board meeting to begin the second semester on January 19, 2026 on a behavioral contract. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Jenkins, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.