

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 11, 2026

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Jenkins at 7:00 p.m. in the administration board room.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Bruning.

B. Roll Call

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

Absent: Ulman

Tardy: None

Motion by Jenkins, supported by Bruning, to amend the agenda by moving the Letter Requesting an Unpaid Leave of Absence to the Routine Matters section under Recommendations and Reports from the Administration. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Positive Highlight

Mrs. Danek introduced Dr. Shelli Blazic, who gave a brief presentation on the SAEBRS Program, Social Academic Emotional Behavior Risk Screener, which is a universal screening tool that is being used in the elementary school. This tool helps identify student risk for social-emotional behavior problems. It also evaluated the effectiveness of school-wide interventions. Both teachers and students complete this assessment, which can be done anywhere from 3 times per year up to 5 times per year for some students.

D. Public Comments – Information and Proposals

Mrs. Jenkins asked if there was any public comments. There were no comments.

II. Action Items

A. Consent Agenda

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

1. **Approval of Minutes** –April 13, 2026 regular meeting and closed session minutes.
2. **Approval of Payment of Bills** –
 - Monthly contractual and prepaid expenses:
 - General Fund: \$998,381.83
 - Sinking Fund: \$147,400.00
 - Lunch Fund: \$36,560.07
 - Presented monthly bills:
 - General Fund: \$40,202.64
 - Sinking Fund: \$0.00
 - Lunch Fund: \$0.00
3. **Receipt of Written Communication** – Letters of resignation were received from Ms. Nicol Timo, Special Education Supervisor, effective June 26, 2026 and from Ms. Cassie Thoryk, high school science teacher, effective at the end of the current school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Routine Matters

1. Recommendations & Reports from Administration

a. Resolution to Participate in Schools of Choice for the 2026-27 School Year

Mrs. Danek said we are required to pass resolutions each year if we desire to continue to participate in the schools of choice program. One resolution allows us to participate in Section 105 Schools of Choice, and the other resolution permits us to participate in Section 105C Schools of Choice. Section 105 allows nonresident students who reside within the intermediate school district to attend our district while Section 105C allows nonresident students who reside outside of our ISD in a contiguous intermediate school district to attend our district.

Motion by Jenkins, supported by Bruning, to adopt the resolution to participate in schools of choice for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Hire Coaches

Motion by Malewska, supported by Butzin, to hire Ms. Barbara Frieden as the freshman Volleyball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, supported by Malewska, to hire Mrs. Amie McCann as the 7th grade Volleyball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Mrs. Danek said a request for an unpaid leave of absence was received from Ms. Emma Hilton, middle and high school band director. She explained that a copy of the request was included in the board packet for review. Mrs. Danek said if approved, the leave of absence would begin on Tuesday, May 12th, and continue through Monday, June 8th.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Bruning, approve the request for an unpaid leave of absence for Ms. Emma Hilton. Motion failed unanimously.

C. Old Business

1. Committee Reports

a. Policy Committee

Mrs. Danek said the Policy Committee met with administration prior to the meeting to review proposed revisions to the student handbooks and the athletic handbook for the 2026-27 school year. The first reading of these revisions will take place later in the meeting.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Danek said that the Curriculum Committee also met prior to the meeting to review the curriculum budget presented by Mr. Hazen. After reviewing the materials and vendor quotes, the Committee recommends that the Board approve an allocation of up to \$225,000 for the 2026-27 school year. She also stated that a copy of the proposed budget was included in the board packet and a recommendation will be presented in the form of a motion under New Business.

2. Legislative Report

Mrs. Danek updated the Board on the status of additional forgiveness days related to inclement weather. No determination has been made at this time; however, one of the

bills currently under consideration does include Tawas Area Schools among the districts that may qualify for additional forgiveness days. She also stated that the proposed budget includes a financial incentive for retaining 3rd graders who are not proficient.

D. New Business

1. 1st Reading of 2026-27 Clara Bolen Elementary Student Handbook

Mrs. Danek said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook. She said Mrs. Clouse was available for any questions the board may have regarding the proposed changes to the handbook which included changes to discipline measures for multiple offenses as well as new language to mimic the middle school handbook regarding derogatory remarks. There were no questions. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2026-27 Clara Bolen Elementary student handbook.

2. 1st Reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area Middle School Handbook

Mrs. Danek said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Tawas Area Middle School student handbook. She said Mrs. Tiffany was available for any questions the board may have regarding the proposed changes to the handbook which included updates to several policies, including the alcohol/marijuana policy, the unlawful interference policy, academic dishonesty policy, restroom abuse or misuse policy, hall pass violation policy, and the policy on food delivery services. The addition of the BRAVE acronym matrix was also included in the updates as well as the addition of language to explain consequences. There were no questions. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area Middle School student handbook.

3. 1st Reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area High School Handbook

Mrs. Danek said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Tawas Area High School student handbook. She said Mr. Hazen was available for any questions the board may have regarding the proposed changes to the handbook which included updates to several policies, including the alcohol/marijuana policy, the unlawful interference policy, academic dishonesty policy, restroom abuse or misuse policy, hall pass violation policy, and the policy on food delivery services. The addition of the BRAVE acronym matrix was also included in the updates as well as the addition of language to explain consequences. There were no questions. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area High School student handbook.

4. 1st Reading of the 2026-27 Athletic Student Handbook

Mrs. Danek said tonight should be considered the first reading of the Athletic Code of Conduct. She said in Mr. Mejeur's absence, she would be willing to answer any questions the board may have regarding the proposed changes to the handbook which included updates to the academic eligibility policy as well as the tobacco, vaping, alcohol and drug policy and consequences. Mrs. Malewska asked about eligibility requirements for kids who participate in the hockey co-op program and whether those students have to meet Tawas Area Schools' eligibility requirements. Mrs. Danek explained that each school is responsible for providing grades to Mr. Mejeur who then reviews and determines eligibility. It was the general consensus of the board that this be considered the first reading of the 2026-27 Tawas Area Athletic student handbook.

5. Curriculum Budget Purchases

Mrs. Danek said that, as discussed earlier, the curriculum committee is recommending that the full Board approve curriculum purchases up to \$225,000.

Motion by Malewska, supported by Butzin, to approve curriculum purchases up to the \$225,000. Motion carried unanimously.

6. IRESA Budget Resolution

Mrs. Danek said that IRESA Superintendent, Mr. Jaimie Cain, presented the proposed 2026-27 general fund budget to local districts. She said districts are asked to approve only the general fund budget, not special education or vocational education budgets. The fund balance is expected to increase by \$345,666 in 2026-27.

Motion by Jenkins, supported by Bruning, to approve the Resolution to Support the IRESA general fund budget for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Renewal of Swim Co-Op

Mrs. Danek said Mr. Mejeur is seeking board approval to execute a renewal of the cooperative agreement with Oscoda Area Schools for Boys' and Girls' High School Swimming. A copy of the agreement was included in the board packet.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Bruning, to approve the renewal of the Cooperative Agreement with Oscoda Area Schools for High School Swim for 2 years. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Approve Hockey Co-Op

Mrs. Danek said Mr. Mejeur is also seeking approval from the board to execute a renewal of the cooperative agreement with Ogemaw, Oscoda, AuGres-Sims and Hale for co-ed ice hockey. A copy of this agreement was included in the board packet.

Mr. Butzin asked if we had at least one student from each of the schools listed in the co-op participating in hockey. Mrs. Danek said last year, we did have at least one participant from each school. This is something that can change from year to year, but is assessed every 2 years as we seek renewal. She acknowledged that if we had 2 years without a participant from one of the schools, we would consider removing that school from the co-op.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Bruning, to approve the renewal of the cooperative agreement for co-ed ice hockey with Ogemaw Heights, Oscoda, AuGres-Sims and Hale High School for 2 years. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Approve 2027-28 School Year Calendar

Mrs. Danek said the calendar for the 2027-28 school year has been completed and is ready to be shared with all stakeholders once the board approves it. The proposed calendar closely aligns with the current school year's calendar.

Motion by Bruning, supported by Edmonds, to approve the 2027-2028 school year calendar. Yes: Miller, Bruning, Malewska, Edmonds, Jenkins. No: Butzin. Motion passed.

10. Renewal of Agreement for School Success Partnership

Mrs. Danek said Tawas Area Schools has partnered with NEMCSA for several years to provide a School Success Liaison at the elementary, middle and high school levels. This annual agreement is due for renewal for the 2026-27 school year.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Bruning, to approve the renewal of the Agreement for School Success Partnership with NEMCSA for the 2026-27 school year. Yes: Miller, Bruning, Butzin, Edmonds, Jenkins. Abstain: Malewska. Motion passed.

III. Information and Proposals

A. Superintendent Report – Mrs. Danek said that the H2 Leadership Coach that administration has been working with would be on campus tomorrow for face-to-face check-ins. She also stated that she would be working with administration to start tackling their strategic goals. Mrs. Danek shared that with a new website for employment opportunities, we have seen many new applicants coming in daily and also mentioned that Mrs. Huitema would be attending a career fair at Tawas Bay Beach Resort tomorrow. Lastly, she congratulated Mrs. Nelson on the birth of her new twins, born on Mother's Day.

B. Student Representatives –

- Senior Representative: Miss Abby Kloska – Ms. Kloska said that Prom went well and that the Junior class did a great job decorating and cleaning up. Seniors are almost done. She said the middle school Washington DC trip is coming up very soon. Ms. Kloska also talked about NHS inductions, with many new members being welcomed.
- Junior Representative: Miss Eryn Hayes – Absent from meeting.

C. Administration – Mr. Livingston said both middle and high school NHS inductions were recently held and there were a good number of new inductees. He said that the high school had concluded their BLT and MICIP meetings for the year, and they felt the BLT initiative was successful. He also talked about Foreign Language Day being canceled at the last minute, so Mrs. Dalman requested that the team be able to perform at Clara Bolen, IRESA and in the community, which was great for the kids to be able to show off their hard work. He thanked Mrs. Dalman. Middle school students are wrapping up the MSTEP this week. Fine Arts Festival is tomorrow. AP Testing in the high school will be completed this week as well and this Friday, there will be a career fair for high school students.

Mrs. Tiffany said middle school family night was a lot of fun. The middle school would have a NWEA Celebration Carnival on June 1st to reward students after all the testing. She said over \$7,000 was raised at the walk-a-thon for the Mackinaw trip. May 19th is middle school awards night and band concerts were coming up for the middle school as well.

Mr. Hazen said that AP students are wrapping up their testing. Gave them a shout out for all of their hard work. He said behavior is ramping up and they are just trying to keep kids focused through the end of the year. He said teacher appreciation week was last week and that went well. Mrs. Clouse said the best part of teacher appreciation week was having the 5th grade students bring cards over for elementary teachers. She said she is attending the Washington DC trip this week as a parent and staff. Mrs. Clouse talked about Preschool parent tours taking place at CBE. 3rd grade students are finishing up the MSTEP and 4th grade students will start this week. May 21st and 22nd are track and field day. May 29th is a glow party for students to celebrate meeting their goal for BRAVE badges this year. She also highlighted students of the month.

D. From the Board – Mr. Miller thanked everyone for their dedication. He also thanked Ms. Kloska and wished her luck.

Mrs. Malewska thanked Ms. Kloska as well. She talked about Varsity level coaches investing in the youth and how much she appreciated seeing that. She thanked Dr. Shelli for her presentation and thanked Mrs. Danek and administration for their hard work. She said NHS inductions were awesome and congratulated the middle and high school choirs.

Mrs. Bruning thanked Ms. Kloska for her hard work.

Mrs. Edmonds thanked those who submitted resignations and wished luck to Ms. Kloska. She also thanked Mrs. Dalman for her work with the Foreign Language Day and said she is excited for the career fair.

Mrs. Jenkins expressed that Ms. Kloska would be missed. She congratulated all of the graduates as well.

IV. Advance Planning

Mrs. Danek said typically there are 2 board meetings in June, with the second meeting being to finalize the budget. The second meeting would typically take place on June 22nd this year, but Mrs. Huitema and Mrs. McCoy have requested additional time due to payroll being that week and having accurate numbers. The board would need to schedule a special board meeting prior to the end of June. They agreed that this meeting would take place on Tuesday, June 30th at 5:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Jenkins, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.