

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
March 9, 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: Ulman, Edmonds, Bruning, Malewska, Jenkins

Absent: Miller, Butzin

Tardy: None

**C. Positive Highlight**

Mrs. Danek said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mr. Livingston and features the Top Ten of the Class of 2026.

Mr. Livingston introduced the Top Ten students of the Class of 2026. Each student shared their favorite school memory as well as 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.

**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** –February 9, 2026 regular meeting and closed session minutes.
2. **Approval of Payment of Bills** –
  - Monthly contractual and prepaid expenses:
    - General Fund: \$1,016,764.34
    - Sinking Fund: \$0.00
    - Lunch Fund: \$65,216.35
  - Presented monthly bills:
    - General Fund: \$33,413.01
    - Sinking Fund: \$0.00
    - Lunch Fund: \$0.00
3. **Receipt of Written Communication** – A letters of retirement was received from Ms. Pauline Jordan, custodian. Her last day of work will be April 30, 2026. Ms. Jordan has been employed with the district for 12 years.

The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Routine Matters**

## **1. Recommendations & Reports from Administration**

### **a. Recognize Six (6) Teachers for Tenure**

- The following staff members have successfully completed their final year of probation and are being recognized at this time for reaching tenure status:

Tricia Briggs (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Karen Kienitz (Kindergarten)  
Erica Carson (MS ELA)  
Marcia Schick (MS Title I)  
Emma Hilton (MS/HS Band)  
Maureen Schick (HS Math)

## **C. Old Business**

### **1. Committee Reports**

#### **a. Student Achievement Committee**

The committee met prior to the board meeting. Mrs. Danek said that the committee met to discuss next steps. After discussions with administration, the committee's focus was to explore staffing structures that better support student achievement by reducing classroom disruptions and strengthening behavioral support systems. The committee reported that they had discussed the possibility of creating a school social worker supervisor/district behavior interventionist position or adding a behavior interventionist to support k-12 behavioral needs, who is also an ESL-endorsed teacher to address compliance with updated ELL support requirements and additional title/at risk support.

The committee will bring a recommendation to the next meeting for the full Board to vote on.

#### **b. Policy Committee**

Members of the policy committee attended a 2-part virtual policy implementation meeting with Thrun Law on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Thrun attorneys reviewed their respective areas of expertise within the policy manual, walked district representatives through the policy implementation checklist, and helped answer any general policy-related questions. Mrs. Danek said the process seems very smooth and straight forward and the policies all appear to be up-to-date. Mrs. Jenkins shared that Thrun broke everything down and clearly laid out all of the options. Mrs. Danek said all of the policies will go through a first and second reading this time only. Moving forward, policies will only go through one reading. Mrs. Edmonds stated that going through with this process and switching eliminates a lot of the "muddiness."

### **2. Legislative Report**

Mrs. Danek said that there was nothing to report at this time.

## **D. New Business**

### **1. Accept Bid for Phase 2 of Roof Replacement**

Mrs. Danek said that a public bid opening was held on February 27, 2026 for Phase 2 of the roof replacement project at Tawas Area Middle/High School. Seven bids were received and reviewed.

Following a thorough review, Mr. Lichota recommends awarding the contract to Universal Roofing of Linwood, MI for a total of \$134,089, which includes both the base and alternate bid work. This expenditure is allocated to this year's sinking fund budget and is about \$25,000 lower than expected.

Motion by Bruning, supported by Malewska to accept and approve the bid from Universal Roofing in the amount of \$134,089 for the completion of Phase 2 of the roof replacement project. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

## **2. Renewal of SRO Contract**

Mrs. Danek stated that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Iosco County Sheriff's Department for the School Resource Officer position was a 3-year commitment and we have reached the end of year 3. Based on the positive impact of this position, Mrs. Danek said she is recommending that Board approve the renewal of the MOU for a second 3-year contract covering school years 2026-27 through 2028-29, with the continued placement of Deputy David Wood as the SRO for the foreseeable future. Mrs. Danek stated that she will continue to look for grants to help with the funding of this position, but funds have been allocated in the current budget to cover the expense.

Motion by Malewska, supported by Bruning, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the School Resource Officer Program for three more years, with the continued placement of Deputy Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

## **3. Kids Have Rights Prevention Program - CBE**

Mrs. Danek said that Tawas alumnus, Gatlyn Dunham, has reached out several times to discuss the possibility of bringing the Kids have Rights prevention program to Clara Bolen Elementary. Mrs. Danek shared that the program is offered through the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC), a nonprofit organization that provides forensic interviews, therapy, and medical services to children who have experienced abuse, all at no cost to families. Mrs. Danek said that details of the program along with a FAQ sheet could be found in the Board Packet. She also stated that the materials have been reviewed by our Sex Education Advisory Board and received majority support from the 12 members. Mrs. Danek is recommending that the Board approve the implementation of this program in the elementary school.

Motion by Malewska, supported by Bruning, to approve the implementation of the Kids Have Rights prevention program for students in grades K-4 at Clara Bolen Elementary, provided through the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center.

Mrs. Ulman asked if parents would be made aware of the program before anything is attended by students. Mrs. Danek said there would be a waiver that parents would have to complete prior to their students attending a program. Mrs. Ulman just wanted to make sure that parents had awareness of the change before it was made.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **III. Information and Proposals**

**A. Superintendent Report** – Mrs. Danek shared that the Top 10 breakfast was very enjoyable, with lots of jokes and funny stories shared. She also said that she has been in contact with the gentleman who presented on the Hunter's Safety Course back in the fall and he has been in Florida since then but upon his return she will meet with him to discuss next steps in bringing the program to campus.

## **B. Student Representatives** –

- Senior Representative: Miss Abby Kloska – Ms. Kloska talked about the leadership conference that students attended in Grand Rapids and said it was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to meet people and get new ideas. She said the 8<sup>th</sup> graders hosted a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the Washington, D.C. trip and also shared that the Book Fair was at the middle school last week and is now at the elementary school this week.

- Junior Representative: Miss Eryn Hayes – Ms. Hayes said that it had been a big few weeks for our sports teams and student attendance was up, with engaged student sections and positive support for the teams. She said YAC has a meeting this Friday and Macho Volleyball is coming up.

**C. Administration** – Mrs. Clouse highlighted the students of the month at Clara Bolen. She also mentioned that Mrs. Loeffler had been nominated for the Region 2 Teacher of the Year award. Clara Bolen is having their Book Fair this week, with Literacy Night taking place on Wednesday night from 5-7. Tomorrow students would be attending an assembly put on by Jim “Basketball” Jones focused on character-building. She said that Mrs. Eklund has started a nature group with approximately 20 kids. STEAM Night will be on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hazen said with the warmer weather and Spring Break around the corner, they have seen an increase in behavioral issues. He attended the state leadership conference and said the Tawas students did a phenomenal job. Last Friday for professional development teachers worked on curriculum mapping and emergency sub plans.

Mr. Livingston wanted to acknowledge Mr. Hazen for his work to contact an individual who presented for the last professional development and ask for additional resources to have an additional PD session with staff focused on fostering relational trust. Mr. Livingston said that the Band Festival took place last week and the high school band is headed to the state festival. Boys’ and girls’ basketball both had great seasons, both beating Oscoda in districts. There was a clap out for Matthew Martin as he headed to wrestling state finals. Science Olympics also had a competition recently, with numerous students receiving medals.

Mrs. Tiffany said that the middle school would be having a family night on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. She also shared that the high school national honor society would be running the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade semi-formal dance. Ms. Sheila came and performed a slave reenactment at an assembly for the middle school and Mrs. Tiffany said that it was very moving and a very positive experience for students. She also spoke about attending a curriculum council meeting at IRESA and how the state will be requiring expanded reading instruction for grades K-12 and what that will look like for the district. Lastly, she mentioned that the administration did complete teacher evaluations, which was exciting.

Mrs. Danek mentioned that she had attended a meeting with local Superintendents to discuss ways to support athletic directors, with the rise in student and parent issues at sporting events.

**D. From the Board** – Mrs. Malewska said she was happy to be able to present to the leadership class and grateful for the opportunity. She congratulated the Top 10 and also congratulated Matthew Martin and the girls’ basketball team. She thanked Mrs. Danek for her transparency and follow through, and said this district is better because of her. Mrs. Malewska said she is happy to hear the Band got a I rating and she thanked Mrs. Tiffany for her involvement with student discipline.

Mrs. Bruning congratulated the Top 10 and the teachers who got tenure. She mentioned that the Robotics Team competes this weekend.

Mrs. Ulman said she loves the positive energy and the laughter and it is showing in the districts academics, athletics, and the student sections. She encouraged administration to keep up the good work and thanked them for a job well done.

Mrs. Edmonds thanked the administration team for sitting through the policy implementation sessions. She also mentioned that the Board had at one time discussed student pricing for sporting events but did not feel like it was ever resolved, so asked if we could circle back around to that and look into it and how it would impact the budget.

Mrs. Jenkins congratulated Ms. Kloska on her nomination at the leadership conference. She thanked the administration for attending the policy sessions. She also congratulated Mr. Woelke

on a great win over Oscoda in districts. She shared that she is proud of all of the sports teams and congratulated them all on their success this season.

#### **IV. Advance Planning**

Mrs. Danek reminded the personnel/negotiations committee that they have a meeting on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

She also shared that IRESA is having a CASBA meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 7:53 p.m.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Jenkins to enter into a closed session for a student discipline hearing at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, supported by Malewska, to return to open session at 8:20 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Malewska, to expel Student 2025-2026-#8 for up to 180 days, with the ability to petition the Board at the August 2026 regular board meeting for reinstatement at the beginning of the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year on a behavioral contract. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Edmonds, Bruning, Malewska, Jenkins. No: Ulman. Motion carried.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Motion by Edmonds, supported by Ulman, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.