

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 7, 2022

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 7:13 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Lentz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Bolen, Clouse, Mochty, Danek.

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHT

Mr. Klinger said Ms. Krista Loeffler will present tonight's positive highlight. Ms. Loeffler said she reached out to Mrs. Grusecki, who was previously in charge of the "Pink Power Walk" which had been discontinued the last few years due to COVID. Ms. Loeffler said she was able to organize the Power Walk in a short 3-week period of time, and the new program will be called the "Braves Power Walk." The original program focused mostly on supporting students and their families that were negatively affected by cancer related illnesses. The new program is designed to assist and support students and their families affected by some sort of tragedy, whether it is an illness or something else. The Braves Power Walk was held on October 26th and raised about \$900 for the cause. Ms. Loeffler is hopeful with a little more time to plan next year and the opportunity to get it publicized that it will be even more successful. The board is happy to hear the Power Walk is back and thanked her for sharing the information.

Mrs. Ulman said we have two student representatives that will begin attending board meetings and asked them to introduce themselves. Ms. Kori Schaaf said she is a senior and Ms. Katie Push is a junior. Mr. Klinger said policy was adopted to add student representatives and candidates were sought out. Five qualified students applied and two were selected. The other three candidates will serve on an advisory committee and will work together with the representatives. They may share information regarding academics, fine arts, athletics, etc. and they will work in conjunction with the building administrators. The board welcomed them to their first meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Ulman asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. There were no comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the October 10, 2022 meeting minutes, the November 1, 2022 special meeting minutes and the November 1, 2022 closed session minutes. It also included the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$902,349.27, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$5,595.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$81,081.93. It also included payment of presented monthly bills from the general fund in the amount of \$19,819.85. Letters of resignation were accepted from middle school teacher, Mrs. Cathie Gronda, who has worked in the district for the past 22 ½ years, who will be retiring at the end of December, and a letter of resignation was received from special education secretary, Ms. Peggy McKeever, whose resignation was effective November 4th. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek is recommending Mr. Andrew Klasen be hired to fill the assistant technology support specialist position. Mr. Klasen is pursuing his associate's degree in computer security. He also holds several technology-related certifications and has experiences that will be beneficial in this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Andrew Klasen as the assistant technology support specialist. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending three coaches for hire including Mr. Jason Woelke for J.V. boys' basketball, Mr. Kohl Coffin for 7th grade boys' basketball and Mr. Shane Plank for varsity baseball. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to hire the coaches as presented for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee presented new and revised board bylaws and policies at the meeting last month. The following policies were discussed at that meeting and it is the recommendation of the policy committee that we consider tonight as the second reading of these new and revised board bylaws and policies: **0144.1** Compensation (Revised); **6108** Authorization to Use Electronic Transfer of Funds and Automated Clearing House Arrangements (New); **6460** Vendor Relations (Revised); **6700** Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (Revised); **7440.03** Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) (Revised); **8805** Flags and Displays (New); **9150** School Visitors (Revised); **6320** Purchasing (Revised).

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Butzin to adopt the presented changes to board policy as presented by the policy committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Report – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said a bid opening was held on October 6th for unit ventilator electronic control bids. A post-bid interview process was held with the bidders and at this time Mr. Dan LaPan is recommending that we accept the bid from Tri City Controls for \$232,385.00. Mr. Klinger said it was discovered that the original low bid was not complete so it was adjusted to include the items that had been omitted. The bid from Tri City Controls is about \$29,000 more than the low bid; however, Mr. Lichota has worked with Tri City Controls in the past and has found their product quality and service to be top notch, and better than the low bidder. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to accept the bid from Tri City Controls for \$232,385.00 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ulman said the closed session will be moved to the end of the meeting.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Student Representatives – Mrs. Ulman asked the two student representatives to tell a little bit about themselves. Ms. Schaaf said she is involved in athletics and takes advanced courses along with dual enrollment courses. She plans to attend college to pursue her environmental engineering degree and eventually an environmental law degree. Ms. Push said she is also involved in athletics, National Honor Society and Student Senate. They are both eager to share information from the student perspective.

Administration – Mrs. Danek said Day 2 of Kagan training was held on November 1st for the middle school and high school staff. Some of the vacancies are slowly being filled and the Veteran's Day Assembly will be held this Friday at 9:45 a.m. Mrs. Clouse said the Halloween parade went very well and they were blessed with a nice day to hold it outside. The book fair will be held this week and parent/teacher conferences will be held from 4:00-7:00 Wednesday and Thursday. The ELA curriculum team has been working hard to review samples and have narrowed their choices down to two. The team will visit two different schools in January, each of the schools using one of their

two choices. They hope to have a consensus shortly after those visits so the curriculum can be ordered and it may be implemented next fall. Mrs. Mochty said 42 students had perfect attendance during the first marking period and 12 middle/high school staff did as well. October was bullying prevention awareness month and the Rachel's Challenge group focused on that topic in a variety of ways to heighten awareness. She said Rachel's Closet is not quite ready to showcase, but hopefully it will be ready next month. It is currently being used by students every day and some great donations have been received to help stock it. Mrs. Bolen said 167 students made the honor roll for Quarter 1 and 47 students achieved perfect attendance. The October students of the month have been announced and their donuts are ready to be tried at Neiman's. She said the Gaga ball pit is open and students are signing up to use it at recess. The courtyard is coming along with weed barrier and edging in place and picnic tables have been placed. Mrs. Buysens' students are working on laying out the flower beds before winter sets in. Mr. Mejeur said we hosted the volleyball and soccer district games and we had a great turnout. Aaliyah Cota had a great run in the state cross country meet finishing 62nd out of 252 participants. Mr. Klinger said he and two others attended training on safety assessments on October 26th in Bay City. He said it was great training with a very engaging speaker and it provided information on assessing threats and the steps to be taken when there is a threat. He feels confident that we have a very good plan in place. Mr. Klinger said our Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan is on our website and he is open to feedback on the plan. We continue to prioritize in-person teaching and learning for our students.

From the Board – Mr. VanderVeen asked if the Kagan training is complete. Mrs. Danek said there are actually 5 days of training in the program but we plan to end at Day 4. We plan to have all staff fully trained by next November. Mr. VanderVeen congratulated Mrs. Gronda on her retirement, welcomed the new hires and congratulated the sports teams for their good job. Mr. Butzin is happy to hear the Power Walk has begun again and he welcomed the student board representatives. He is looking forward to the winter sports beginning soon. Mrs. Lentz thanked Ms. Loeffler for picking up the Power Walk program and thinks it is a great cause to continue. She heard good feedback about the professional development days. She thanked Mrs. Mochty for continuing her work with Rachel's Challenge. She asked the student representatives if they see student buy-in to the program. Ms. Schaaf said there is a huge wave of kindness immediately after the assembly but it tends to wear off. She thinks it would be helpful to have more frequent refresher assemblies for the entire student body. Mrs. Lentz thanked the administrative team for their great job and looks forward to the Veteran's Assembly this week. Mrs. Ulman thanked everyone for all that they do to make Tawas a great district. She congratulated Mrs. Gronda on her retirement and welcomed the new hires and the student representatives.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to take a short recess at 7:52 p.m. before beginning a closed session for superintendent evaluation discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by VanderVeen to go into closed session at 8:00 p.m. for superintendent evaluation discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to return to open session at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Lentz to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.