

Tawas Area Schools
Reorganizational and Regular Board of Education Meeting
January 9, 2023

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 9, 2023 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mr. Klinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Mochty, Danek, Clouse

Mr. Klinger administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Bruning and Mrs. Klenow who were re-elected to the board in November and to Mrs. Jenkins who was newly elected in the November election. Mr. Klinger welcomed them to their terms on the board.

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Keith del Rio will present tonight's positive highlight on the new Esports club. Mr. del Rio said Esports, which is a form of competition using video games, has become very popular in recent years. Our students are competing in Rocket League, which involves physics and is a combination of soccer and turbo charged cars, and involves teamwork and outmaneuvering opponents. Mr. del Rio said we have 8 stations set up and a big screen TV in a classroom in the high school. He has visited Divine Child's program and said they are the leaders in the game. Our team members will participate in a pre-season scrimmage on February 2nd. Mr. del Rio said the competition provides our students exposure to possible career opportunities in technology and STEM related areas, while having fun. He said there are currently seven team members, comprising two teams of three with one alternate. The board thanked Mr. del Rio for the interesting presentation and look forward to hearing more about the club.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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. Lentz made a motion to nominate Julie Ulman for President, supported by Butzin. Mrs. Klenow made a motion to nominate Jennifer Bruning for President, supported by Jenkins. There were no other nominations or discussion and nominations were closed. A roll call vote was taken with members naming their choice for President. Lentz – Ulman; Klenow – Bruning; Jenkins – Bruning; Edmonds – Ulman; Bruning – Bruning; Butzin – Ulman. Mrs. Ulman and Mrs. Bruning each received three votes, resulting in a tie. Based on policy, officers continue in their office until their respective successors are elected. Since Mrs. Ulman was absent from the meeting, vice-president Klenow took over the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the December 12, 2022 minutes. It also included the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,256,337.14 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$78,375.34. There were no sinking fund bills to be paid. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$5,632.57.

A letter requesting an unpaid leave of absence from transportation clerk/bus driver, Tisha Thompson, was also approved. 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: Amy Jenkins, newly elected; Tracee Lentz and Mike Butzin, 2 years; Ami Edmonds, 2.5 years; Jennifer Bruning, 4 years; Julie Ulman, 6 years; Shannon Klenow 8 years. He presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending Ms. Emma Herstine be hired as an educational assistant. Ms. Herstine has over 10 years of experience in education including preschool and special education. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to hire Emma Herstine as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek is recommending Mr. Adam Davis be hired to fill the middle school special education vacancy. Mr. Davis is a graduate of CMU and is currently seeking certification in special education through Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow and has six years of teaching experience. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Adam Davis as a special education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending Mrs. Ruby Swales be hired to fill the first grade teaching position. Mrs. Swales has been filling this vacancy as a substitute teacher and has now completed the requirements through the Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow allowing us to hire her as a teacher. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to hire Ruby Swales as a first grade teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Athletic director, Jonathan Mejeur is recommending the following spring coaches for hire: Shane Plank for varsity baseball; Marcus Doan for varsity softball; Symantha Hollandsworth for J.V. softball; Adrienne Dittenbir for girls' soccer; Paul Vainer for golf; Scott Jorasz for boys' head track; Doug Livingston for boys' assistant track; Brianna Griffiths for girls' head track; Aaron Hazen for girls' assistant track; Jenifer Caldwell for 7th grade track and Kaelene Horn for 8th grade track. The J.V. baseball position is still currently vacant. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to hire the spring coaches as presented by athletic director Jonathan Mejeur. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the policy committee met on December 19th to review policy 0144.1 on Board Member Compensation. At this time, the committee is recommending that board members be compensated \$50 per meeting. Mrs. Lentz asked when the last time this amount has been updated. Mr. Butzin said the policy hasn't been updated since 1995, so it is likely that the amount has not been updated since then. Mr. Klinger said this should be considered the 1st reading of this revised policy. It was the general consensus of the board to consider this the 1st reading.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee met on December 19th. They discussed changing substitute wages for non-certified/hourly subs and teacher subs, transitional planning for retiring staff, the middle school assistant principal interview process and possibly expanding our Title I educational assistant staff.

Mr. Klinger said the curriculum committee also met on December 19th to hear a presentation by Mrs. Mochty and Mr. Woelke regarding a potential curriculum change in the science department which would replace Advanced Chemistry with AP Chemistry.

Mr. Klinger said the budget committee met this evening prior to the meeting to review the general fund budget amendment. The information presented took conservative estimates from June and provided more actual amounts on pupil FTE, Categoricals, salaries, benefits, revenues and expenses, and other changes that provided a more accurate picture of the district's financial status. The amendments will be presented under New Business later on the agenda.

Legislative Report – None.

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 2022-23 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 1116.68 to 1135.72 and the foundation allowance is up from an estimated \$9,100 to an actual \$9,150 per pupil. Categoricals have also been updated to reflect allocations on the status report. Expenses have been updated to reflect current contracts and ESSER III and grant allocations have also been adjusted to actual. We are presenting an amendment that shows a June prediction of deficit spending (\$232,140) to an amended budget deficit of (\$335,724). The majority of this deficit increase comes from redistribution of personnel and added expenses predicted prior to year-end. Also, per auditor recommendation, we are assigning \$1,539,027 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 2022-2023 budget, there are still estimated items. The final amendment will be presented in June.

Motion by Bruning, support by Klenow to adopt the resolution to amend the 2022-23 general fund budget as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said it is his recommendation that the board adjust our course offering by changing Advanced Chemistry to AP Chemistry, as discussed earlier under committee reports. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to make the adjustment from Advanced Chemistry to AP Chemistry as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said he has provided information to the board regarding his recommendation on the hourly substitute pay adjustments as well as the change to substitute teachers who are fully certified or retired. This information was discussed during the personnel committee meeting in December. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to approve the substitute pay adjustments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Mejeur has been seeking options to consider regarding athletic conferences. Mr. Mejeur is recommending that we pursue the possible opportunity to enter the Jack Pine Conference. They have reached out to let him know that the conference may be adjusting and expanding. He is asking for board support prior to applying to the conference so he is able to let conference officials know the board supports his application to the conference if the opportunity arises. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to support Mr. Mejeur pursuing the Jack Pine League for possible entry into the conference. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board has been provided with a copy of the resolution to call a special election and the ballot certification proposition. The special election will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 and we will seek to renew the 18 mills levied on non-homestead properties within our district. The resolution and proposition must be approved and submitted to the County Clerk's office on or before February 7th. Mr. Klinger said if we hold the election in May, it will be considered a "renewal" of what we have levied for the past ten years. If we don't hold the election until later in the year, the millage will be considered "new" since the current levy expires in July. The 18 mills are used for expenses associated with operating the district. Mrs. Bruning read the resolution in the form of a motion, to call a special election and certify the ballot proposition. Support by Butzin. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Jerashen is requesting permission to take the All-Star band to Alpena overnight on January 27th. Mr. Jerashen said 41 students auditioned for the band and 28 students were selected. They will be taking a bus up on Friday afternoon and they are hoping to get a game of laser tag in before the rehearsal later that afternoon. Mr. Jerashen said this is an annual event. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to approve the overnight trip request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Student Representatives – The students were not able to attend tonight.

Administration – Mrs. Mochty said the first semester wraps up next week. Mrs. Danek said she will be taking four students to Bay City tomorrow for a leadership showcase. Middle school students that earn academic or behavior incentive awards will enjoy an ice skating get away in February. Mrs. Clouse said some new playground equipment has been added at Clara Bolen and a CPI training session will be held on January 24th. She said the ELA committee has arrived at a decision on the curriculum they would like to move forward with which is HMH Into Reading. HMH has agreed to let us pilot the program with all materials for free for the remainder of the school year. She plans to present the proposal to the curriculum committee in the spring, which will be followed by bringing the proposal to the board for approval. Mr. Klinger said more than 20 applications have been received for the middle school assistant principal vacancy and interviews have been scheduled for later this week and next week.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds thanked Mr. del Rio for his Esports presentation and welcomed the new hires. She is excited to hear about the league/conference prospect and said the student newspaper is great. Mrs. Jenkins is happy to hear we will be changing Advanced Chemistry to AP Chemistry. She welcomed the new hires and is excited for the band students overnight trip. Mrs. Bruning thanked Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Huitema for the budget amendment and is excited to see how the Esports club goes. Mr. Butzin is hopeful that the league option may materialize. Mrs. Lentz said the Esports club is great and will serve a different demographic of students that may not have pursued some of our other clubs. She congratulated the students selected to the All-Star band and is hopeful we can find a candidate for the middle school assistant principal position that will be invested in our community. Mrs. Klenow is happy to hear a new ELA curriculum has been settled on and is excited about the new Esports club. Mrs. Edmonds added that she was able to view some of the annual leadership conference sessions held in November which she said provided good information, but she felt the board had already been exposed to much of the information through the workshops that Dr. Rod Green has presented. The fall conference will be held this November in Lansing if anyone wants to consider attending.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.