

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
August 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Bruning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHT

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Livingston, Mrs. Buysens and Mrs. Gronda are here tonight to share highlights of the 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. Mr. Livingston showed a short video clip with several pictures of the students at various locations on the trip. He said it was a very impactful 3-day trip and life changing for many students. They visited the 9/11 Memorial in Pennsylvania at the beginning of the trip which highlighted the many acts of heroism by several of the passengers from Flight 93. While in D.C. the students visited several venues including the Smithsonian, the American History and Art Museum, the National Archives, the monuments, Arlington National Cemetery, etc. They also visited Gettysburg on the way home. Mrs. Buysens said our students were incredibly well behaved and respectful and they were very proud of them. Mrs. Gronda added that the students were amazed at how much they enjoyed the trip and learned as well. She said this was likely a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of the students and she is so pleased that our students have the opportunity to experience this trip. The board thanked them all for the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the July 11, 2022 and July 25, 2022 minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,350,024.01, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$25,180.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$28,288.85; also payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$39,831.16. There was no sinking fund or lunch fund presented bills to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Sancrant is recommending Tracy Davison for a 3-hour cook's helper position. Ms. Davison has four years of experience working in a school cafeteria. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to hire Tracy Davison as a cook's helper. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending Ms. Kelli Rau be hired as the 7th/8th grade volleyball coach. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to hire Kelli Rau as the 7th/8th grade volleyball coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Clouse is recommending two people for Title I educational assistant vacancies. First, she is recommending Ms. Jeannette Freytag. Jeannette has her Bachelor's degree in Education and has worked as an office manager for the past 23 years. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to hire Jeannette Freytag as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Clouse is also recommending Ms. Andrea Gibson be hired as a Title I educational assistant. Andrea has experience working with children at the Pathway to Learning facility in Oscoda. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Andrea Gibson as an educational assistant, pending the successful completion of the ETS parapro assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee met on July 12th to discuss and create the superintendent's merit goal for the 2022-23 school year. They also discussed implementing signing bonuses, as well as an opportunity for the board to have a building walk through to see the various projects that have been completed this summer prior to tonight's meeting.

Legislative Report – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Mejeur is requesting that the varsity football team be allowed to use school transportation for their football game in Kalkaska on September 17th. This is a league game and officials were not available on Friday night so it was scheduled for Saturday. Motion by Butzin, support by Klenow to allow the football team to use school transportation on September 17th. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee helped create the superintendent merit goal for this school year. The goal will focus on science assessments to collect academic data. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to approve the superintendent's merit goal as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The personnel committee and Mr. Klinger discussed bonuses to potentially offer to staff throughout the district. The committee agreed to recommend a signing bonus for new staff. They are recommending all new certified staff be offered a \$2,500 signing bonus and new non-certified staff be offered a \$1,000 signing bonus. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to approve the signing bonuses as presented and discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger is recommending that \$20,000 be budgeted to help support the conversion of the Newman Street youth baseball field into a softball field, while working collaboratively with the East Tawas City Council, East Tawas Park Board and the youth baseball/softball program to create a high school baseball/softball complex. This would allow both the baseball and softball teams to have fields in one location. The playing surface needs to be reconstructed and the bulk of the funds will go towards that project. The city will also provide financial assistance in this ongoing agreement and will provide equipment for use and staff to help maintain the fields. This will allow the school and community to work together to provide a field that can be used by both groups. A memo of understanding has been created for both organizations to refer to. Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to approve the allocation of \$20,000 to support the conversion project. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sancrant is recommending the purchase of an electric convection oven for the high school kitchen from Culinary Products, Inc. (CPI) for \$13,474.00, which is the low bid. Motion by Klenow, support by Butzin to approve the purchase of a convection oven from Culinary Products, Inc. for \$13,474.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sancrant is also recommending the purchase of a freezer for the high school kitchen from Meihls Mechanical for \$13,286.14, which is the low bid. Motion by Klenow, support by Lentz to approve the purchase of a freezer from Meihls Mechanical for \$13,286.14. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Livingston and Mrs. Buysens are requesting permission to take the 8th grade class on a field trip to Washington D.C. next spring. This trip would be similar to the trip the 8th grade students have taken in the past. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to allow the 8th grade students to go on a field trip to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg as presented. Yes: Klenow, Edmonds, Butzin, Bruning and Ulman. Abstain: Lentz. Motion carried.

Mr. Klinger and Mr. Lichota are recommending the district purchase one new bus this school year. They are recommending purchasing a new 2022 84-passenger Holland Blue Bird bus for \$138,187.00. Mr. Klinger said this will keep our bus fleet on track with the rotation schedule we have been following. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to approve the purchase of a new Holland Blue Bird bus for \$138,187.00 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Mejeur said fall sports began today. He said Tawas won the “Rivalry on the River” competition against Oscoda in July and won \$350 and a “winners paddle” that will go to the winning district each year they compete. Mrs. Mochty said student orientation will be held next week and staff professional development begins on the 23rd. She said the Kagan Cooperative Learning program is being integrated into the middle and high school this year. Rachel’s Challenge will be presented on September 13th and Rachel’s Closet will be opening around that time for students. Mrs. Bolen said the middle school has been busy enrolling students and orientation will be held next Tuesday. There will be options to attend an evening session. She said Navigate 360 is being implemented this year in the middle and high school. The program’s intervention and restorative practices will provide an effective way to reach out and help students that are struggling behaviorally with lessons that will help students learn from those challenging behaviors. STEAM learning will be provided to middle school students during enrichment times with each grade level working on the same idea. Mrs. Danek said she is excited about the Navigate 360 program and all that it can offer for students, staff and parents in improving mental health. She thanked the maintenance and technology staffs for their hard work this summer getting everything ready for the new school year. Orientation will be held next week for high school students as well. Mrs. Clouse said there are 56 kindergarten students enrolled at this time and we expect more to come in over the next few weeks. Open house will be held on August 24th from 5:30-7:30. Mr. Klinger said last Thursday evening he and Mr. Lichota took several Tawas City firefighters on a building walkthrough so they are familiar with the buildings, where things are located, and where students exit the buildings when practicing a fire drill. Mr. Klinger said he has been working on a project for the past year in conjunction with the Northeast Michigan Community Foundation to start an outreach program to students in grades 8-12 that will provide information and options for students after graduation. An anonymous donor has provided funding for the program and the planning stage process is moving along well. A person will be hired to oversee the program and to work with the schools to provide these opportunities for the students.

From the Board – Mrs. Klenow thanked the staff members for the D.C. trip presentation. She attended the building tour before tonight’s meeting and said everything looks great. She is excited to hear about the plans for the softball field and thanked Mrs. Mochty for her work on Rachel’s Closet. Mrs. Bruning agreed with her comments and said the Navigate 360 program sounds great. Mrs. Lentz welcomed the new hires and is also excited to hear about the Navigate 360 program and hopes it will be a great resource to help our students. She is also happy to hear Rachel’s Challenge is coming back in September and that it is still going strong. Mrs. Edmonds said the walk through was nice and she was pleased with the key fob update in the buildings. She is also happy to hear the softball team will have a new field and will be on one complex with the baseball field. She thinks it will be a great partnership with the City of East Tawas. Mr. Butzin agrees that it will be good to collaborate with East Tawas on this project and is excited about all of the great new changes coming this school year. Mrs. Ulman said the work session with Dr. Green on July 25th was productive and she felt the board learned a lot to help make them more effective board members. She is happy to hear about the newly enrolled students and is ready to have some structure again with the start of the new school year.

Mrs. Klenow left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

ADVANCE PLANNING

The board took a short recess at 8:15 p.m. before going into a closed session for superintendent evaluation discussion.

Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to go into closed session for superintendent evaluation discussion at 8:20 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The board returned to open session at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Klinger said there may be a need for a special meeting on August 22nd if we have candidates to hire.

Motion by Butzin, support by Edmonds to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.