

Tawas Area Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
September 11, 2023

President Klenow called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023.

Mrs. Edmonds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Danek, Livingston, Tiffany, Clouse

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger turned it over to Mr. Livingston to present the positive highlight. Mr. Livingston spoke about an award that Tawas Area High School recently received from U.S. News & World Report. Tawas is ranked 140<sup>th</sup> within the state of Michigan and is ranked number 4,301 in the national rankings. This puts Tawas in the top 17% of schools nationwide. This ranking was based on AP exams, standardized test performance, graduation and how well they prepare students for college.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Klenow asked if there was anyone with public comment. Mr. Paul Vainer, girls' and boys' varsity golf coach, stated he was there to address the board. Mrs. Klenow explained that he would have 3 minutes to share. Mr. Vainer stated that he was there to express his gratitude for the support that the girls golf club has received. He said that things are going great, with the club showing very good numbers and success. The golf club is doing a lot of fundraising for different things and has seen a very positive response from the community.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Bruning, support by Edmonds to approve the consent agenda items which included the approval of the August 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes and the payment of bills as follows: the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$1,026,027.70, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of \$88,250.00 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$38,484.40. It also included payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$48,376.30. A letter of retirement was received from Clara Bolen elementary custodian, Mr. Michael Johnroe, who will be retiring after 27 years of service, effective September 1, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger said that there are a few new hires on the agenda next. He stated that Mrs. Clouse is recommending Mr. Cody Franklin be hired as a long-term substitute teacher to fill the elementary teaching vacancy. Mr. Franklin has a bachelor's degree from Western Governors University with a major in educational studies. Once he has passed his MTTC test, he will then become a fully-certified TAFT member. He has experience as a substitute teacher and in coaching baseball, softball and football. Mr. Franklin was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Bruning, support by Jenkins to hire Mr. Cody Franklin as an elementary teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger went on to say that Mrs. Clouse is also recommending that the current Title I teaching vacancy be filled by hiring Ms. Patricia Ellisor. Ms. Ellisor has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education with endorsements in grades 6-8 ELA and social sciences from Western University. She has over 15 years of teaching experience and was chosen as the top candidate

for this position. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to hire Ms. Patricia Ellisor as the Title I teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger stated that maintenance supervisor, Mr. Brandon Lichota, is recommending Ms. Kathi Trincilla be hired to fill the custodial vacancy. Ms. Trincilla has years of experience in a school setting and will make a great addition to Tawas Area Schools. She was selected as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Bruning, support by Jenkins to hire Ms. Kathi Trincilla as a custodian. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said that athletic director, Mr. Jonathan Mejeur, is recommending Mr. Reuben Edwards be hired as the boys' varsity basketball coach. Mr. Edwards has coached and volunteered with Tawas basketball programs over the past several years and has many years of coaching experience. He was chosen as the top candidate for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Edmonds to hire Mr. Reuben Edwards as the boys' varsity basketball coach. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said that there is nothing to report from the committees at this time but there are meetings scheduled in the next week or so.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said that the legislature is just getting back into session. Nothing is set in stone at this time but there are ongoing discussions regarding pre-Labor Day starts and dental screenings for kindergarten and first grade enrollment processes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Selection/certification of voting delegate to MASB fall conference – MASB's 2023 Delegate Assembly will begin on Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lansing Center in Lansing. Delegates must be certified by Friday, October 27. MASB allows a school of our size to have one voting delegate and one alternate. Mrs. Jenkins expressed interest in attending the conference and Mrs. Klenow volunteered to be the alternate. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to certify Amy Jenkins as the delegate and Shannon Klenow as the alternate from Tawas Area Schools.

8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> grade trip request - Mr. Klinger said that Mr. Kohl Coffin and Mrs. Jordan Hazen are requesting permission to take the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes on a field trip to Washington D.C. in May 2024. Mr. Coffin and Mrs. Hazen gave a short update on the planning of the trip and student interest. They have met with students and parents to discuss the details of the trip such as itinerary and cost. There has been a lot of chaperone interest and they are working on fundraising with a meeting scheduled on September 20. This trip will be similar to the trip the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have taken in the past. The trip is being planned by Bennett Travel. Mrs. Tracy Lentz also spoke about some of the different attractions that will be visited, such as Mt. Vernon, the Holocaust Museum, the Museum of African American Culture and they will go into the Capitol building. Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to allow the 8<sup>th</sup> /9<sup>th</sup> grade students to go on a field trip to Washington D.C. Yes: Butzin, Jenkins, Ulman, Edmonds, Bruning, Klenow. Abstain: Lentz. Motion carried.

Hockey overnight trip request - Mr. Klinger stated that Mr. Mejeur is requesting that the Tawas Area hockey team be allowed to stay overnight on 2 different occasions during the season. The first overnight is on January 26-27, 2024 for the Chelsea Showcase and the second is February 9-10, 2024 in Port Huron. This would reduce travel time for the team. Motion by Bruning, support by Ulman to allow the hockey team to stay overnight on January 26, 2024 and on February 9, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Request to seek entry into the North Star League - Mr. Klinger said Mr. Mejeur is recommending that the board of education support his efforts in seeking possible entry into the North Star League. This will allow students to get the accolades they deserve in sports that are not

currently in a conference. Motion by Bruning, support by Jenkins to support Mr. Mejeur in seeking entry into the North Star League. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

**Superintendent Report** – Mr. Klinger started by asking everyone to consider renewing the sinking fund on Tuesday, November 7. He has been educating the community and getting information out there. He gave updates on the lighting project, which is near completion but we are currently waiting on equipment, the Clara Bolen gym floor project, which is also very close to being complete and the boiler project which is getting close to completion as well. Mr. Klinger wanted to give recognition to the school resource officer, the career development coordinator and our new special education supervisor who are all doing an excellent job getting acclimated and have been very positive additions. Mr. Klinger also mentioned that as a heads up the October agenda would include the hiring of winter coaches, first reading of policy, committee reports and the audit report.

**Student Representatives** – Ms. Catherine Push was at the meeting and talked about Students Leading Students (SLS) and the Rotary Club planning a tailgating event for the Tawas vs. Oscoda football game. She also spoke about the student senate beginning planning for Homecoming. The theme for Homecoming this year is “The Greatest Showman.” She said NHS also had their first meeting since being back to school. They are hoping to bring back the pink power walk and looking to do a blood drive and different fundraisers. Ms. Gabrielle Whetstone was also present but did not have anything to add.

**Administration** – Mrs. Danek said that the SRO has been a success and she has seen a noticeable difference. She talked about donations that were received from the Quota Club which have allowed for the purchase of headphones and recorders for students. Mrs. Danek stated that the continuous improvement team will be attending a conference in the near future. Lastly, Mrs. Danek talked about a food counsel that has been formed with Mrs. Sancrant which will allow high school and middle school students to do a taste test of the food and suggest improvements.

Mr. Mejeur said that Tawas will be hosting the boys’ districts this fall which will give us an opportunity to showcase the improvements that have been made to the facilities. He said Powder Puff has been moved to Wednesday, September 27 due to a conflict with another event. Mr. Mejeur also mentioned that the new secretary, Mrs. Emily Loew, is being sent to an MHSAA in-service for some training.

Mr. Livingston talked about professional development and the continuation of Kagan training. This week they will have Rachel’s Challenge on the 13<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that he had a chance to meet the new exchange students.

Mrs. Tiffany stated that the middle school has had a very peaceful start. After-school tutoring begins on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The peer mediation program is in the process of being restarted and will train students on using conflict resolution strategies.

Mrs. Clouse said that she also feels that they have had a very calm start to the school year. Enrollment is up this year compared to last year’s numbers. Kindergarten classes are running at about 22 kids per class. She also talked about the open house and stated that they had a great turn out. Clara Bolen has added a gaga pit for the kids. Mrs. Clouse also talked about teachers getting extra time with a literacy coach this year.

**From the Board** – Mrs. Ulman thanked Mr. Johnroe for his service and congratulated everyone for the award that the school received. She welcomed the new hires and stated that the student involvement in the meetings is awesome and she appreciates hearing the updates. She said it is great to hear positive things about the SRO and feels that there is a lot of new life coming into the district. Mrs. Edmonds congratulated everyone on the award as well and thanked Coach Vainer for attending and updating them. She said the girls golf club has been a great addition. Mrs.

Edmonds thanked Mr. Johnroe for his dedication and wished Mr. Mejeur luck with the North Star League. She said she is very excited to see peer mediation back. Mrs. Bruning said that she is also very excited to have peer mediation back and is excited that the kids get to do taste tests and be involved with that. Mrs. Jenkins congratulated everyone on the new banner and congratulated Mr. Vainer. She thanked the Quota Club for their donations and welcomed the new hires. Mrs. Lentz congratulated Mr. Johnroe and welcomed the new hires. She said she hopes we get into the North Star League. She also thanked the Quota Club and said she is glad to hear the pink power walk is returning. Mr. Butzin said he had nothing to add. Mrs. Klenow congratulated Mr. Johnroe and the new hires. She thanked Mr. Mejeur for his persistence in joining the North Star League. She said she is excited about the SRO and the positive feedback she has heard. She also stated that she is thankful that the girls golf club came in.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Mr. Klinger said the ad hoc committee for naming facilities has a meeting scheduled for Monday, September 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Klinger said that the personnel committee has a meeting scheduled for Monday, September 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Next, Mr. Klinger stated that the board will be scheduling a workshop with MASB presenter Deb Machon to come and present class CBA 278 "Dealing with Difficult People." Board members were asked to come up with potential dates for this class so it can be finalized with MASB. Board members decided on October 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Klinger said that the policy committee would also need to schedule a meeting after he meets with the NEOLA Representative on September 25. This meeting was set for October 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion by Butzin, support by Lentz to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.