

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
February 14, 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, February 14, 2022 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mr. Butzin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Suttle, Mochty, Bolen

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Bolen will present tonight's positive highlight. Mrs. Bolen said that this is Happy Kindness Week, which ties in with our focus on social and emotional well-being. Middle school student groups have been created by grade level to help celebrate the week in a variety of ways to encourage kindness. The project is all student driven, and will include a used book drive, student made bookmarks, a mismatch day/mix it up lunch, posters to celebrate the middle school athletes and writing thank you notes to school employees including bus drivers, cooks and maintenance staff. Mrs. Bolen said the "tree" in the hallway is currently being decorated with "heart" leaves to share happy, encouraging or inspirational messages. Students are also creating posters displaying kindness and inspiration. A "Braves Bright Spot" bulletin board has been created in the hallway which allows teachers to take pictures of students and post them on the board who have shown acts of kindness. The board thanked Mrs. Bolen for the presentation and are pleased to see the positive and encouraging projects going on in the middle school.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the January 10, 2022 minutes as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: VanderVeen, Bruning, Edmonds, Butzin and Ulman. Abstain: Lentz (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the closed session minutes of January 10, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Butzin, Edmonds, VanderVeen, Bruning and Ulman. Abstain: Lentz (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the special meeting minutes of February 7, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Edmonds, Butzin, Bruning and Ulman. Abstain: VanderVeen and Lentz (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to approve the closed session minutes of February 7, 2022 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Bruning, Butzin, Edmonds and Ulman. Abstain: Lentz and VanderVeen (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Edmonds to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$833,893.08 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$54,835.47. There were no sinking fund bills to be paid. She also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$37,075.76 as funds become available. There was no lunch fund or sinking fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by VanderVeen. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Klinger said he received a letter of resignation from custodian, Tammy Katterman. Her last day of work was January 31st. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to accept Tammy Katterman's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek held interviews to fill a Title I educational assistant vacancy. She is recommending the board hire Ms. Darion Briggs for this position. Ms. Briggs is certified to fill the position and has worked as a substitute aide prior to applying for this position. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to hire Darion Briggs as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek also interviewed candidates to fill a special education educational assistant vacancy and is recommending Ms. Lee Ann Williams for this position. Ms. Williams has worked in a preschool environment for the past two years and has experience working with special needs students. Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to hire Lee Ann Williams as an educational assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said maintenance supervisor, Martin Couch, is recommending the board hire Mr. Nicholas Corner to fill the vacant custodial position. Mr. Corner has worked in maintenance/grounds positions for several years, including at the Iosco News Herald. Motion by Bruning, support by Butzin to hire Nicholas Corner as a custodian. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – None.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said he has been following many bills that are being discussed by the State Legislature. OSHA's ETS bill regarding vaccinations, testing, and masking was put on legal stay by the Supreme Court. Senate Bill 802 could possibly provide school of choice families a transportation stipend, and Senate Bill 854 is amending the Open Meetings Act to allow those with a qualified disability under the ADA regulations to attend and participate in meetings electronically. House Bill 5703 would require parts of the state constitution to be posted in administrative offices, and the board conference room; House Bill 5721 would expand sinking funds to include the purchase of electric school buses; and House Bill 5722 would possibly require schools to make information available to families before the first day of school on school approved curriculum, textbooks, literature, field trips, extra-curricular activities and more, and a list of certified teachers responsible for implementing the curriculum. Mr. Klinger said the governor has shared her proposed budget for 2023 which includes \$18.4 billion in the school aid budget and could potentially increase the foundation allowance, Categoricals, special education, etc. He will be monitoring all of these things carefully.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Couch obtained a rough estimate to complete the ceiling tile project. That estimate came in at about \$70,000 plus the cost to dispose of the old tiles. It was then put out for official bid following the state required process. After collecting and reviewing bids, Mr. Klinger is recommending that we approve the bid for \$75,270 from Revord Builders, Inc. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to accept the bid from Revord Builders, Inc. as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Suttle gave an update for athletic director Mr. Mejeur. He said the top four candidates that applied for the head varsity football coaching position will have interviews scheduled soon. He said five Tawas wrestlers qualified to move on to Regional competition this weekend. The boys' basketball team will play at Little Caesars arena against Elk Rapids on March 4th ahead of the Pistons game that night. Girls' and boys' basketball and hockey district play is right around the corner. The athletic boosters reverse raffle was held over the weekend and was a success. Mr. Suttle said choir solo and ensemble was held recently and several students received I and II division ratings. An assembly on vaping will be held tomorrow, the winter "Snowcoming" dance will be held February 26th and a breakfast honoring the Top 10 of the class of 2022 will be held March 7th. Mrs. Mochty said 37 high school students had perfect attendance for the 2nd marking period and 19 for the semester. 7 middle and high school staff had perfect attendance for the marking period and 3 for the semester. She said the course description books have been updated and Mrs. Warner will begin the scheduling process with students next week for next school year. Mrs. Bolen said January's students of the month have been named and their favorite donuts are available at Neiman's. Mr. Klinger said there are several projects either scheduled or that will be brought to the board for review in the next few months including the door entrance/FOB project, resurfacing of the new gymnasium floor, a vape detector project, along with updated signs in front of the middle/high school building. He hopes to have the boiler/unit ventilator proposals out by the end of the month. The engineering report on the alumni gym locker rooms has been received and Dan LaPan will be reviewing that.

From the Board – Mrs. Edmonds thanked Mrs. Bolen for the kindness presentation and wondered if it could be posted on our social media outlets. She asked Mr. Klinger if he can check with the city of East Tawas regarding improvements at the softball and baseball fields. Mr. Klinger said he knows several issues have already been addressed and Mr. Mejeur has been working with them on this. Mr. VanderVeen welcomed the new hires and congratulated all the students on their recent accomplishments in athletics and fine arts. He asked if the boiler project includes work at both buildings. Mr. Klinger said that it does. Clara Bolen will have a complete overhaul including hooking the new system into Metasys so the boilers and ventilators can be monitored remotely. The middle/high school will have boiler updates as well. Mrs. Bruning was impressed with the great ideas the students came up with in celebrating kindness week. She also congratulated the fine arts students and welcomed the new hires. Mr. Butzin thanked the administrative team for their great work and also enjoyed hearing about the middle school's kindness week. He welcomed the new hires and congratulated the athletes and fine arts students on a great job. Mrs. Lentz was pleased to hear about kindness week and how the students were able to come up with such great ideas in a short time. She also congratulated the athletes and musicians. She is happy to see the momentum has continued from the Rachel's Challenge program and thanked Mr. Klinger for keeping them so well informed. She said the acoustical shells are ready to be shipped once the casters arrive. Mrs. Bruning added that the wrestling team placed 2nd in district competition over the weekend and Coach Herrick is doing a great job with the program. Mrs. Ulman welcomed the new hires and agreed that the student driven projects are awesome for the students to feel involved.

She congratulated the athletes and is interested in learning more about the vape detector project. She thanked everyone for their continued efforts.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said he would like to schedule a personnel committee meeting before next month's board meeting. He will send an email to the committee members to schedule a date that will work for everyone. He will also plan to schedule a policy and a curriculum meeting at next month's board meeting to be held sometime after spring break.

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.