

Tawas Area Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021, through a hybrid model including in-person, Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Klenow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Administrators Present: Klinger, Bolen, Danek, Mochty and Suttle

Mr. VanderVeen is attending virtually tonight from East Tawas, Michigan.

POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Klinger said tonight's positive highlight will be presented by Mr. Suttle and features the Top Ten of the Class of 2021.

Mr. Suttle said he is pleased to introduce the Top Ten students of the class of 2021. The students and their parents attended the meeting virtually, through Google Meets. He introduced the Top Ten students including the valedictorian, Olivia Hemker, and the salutatorian, Kaylee Kaems. Rounding out the Top Ten are Madison Pintar, Elle Brownell, Danielle Velasco, Sean Mendiola, Jayden Quarters, Amanda Curry, Hannah Trinklein and Cole Katterman. Grade point averages ranged from 3.949 to 4.068. Each student told what their favorite school memory was along with their favorite class. They also shared what their future plans include. The board thanked them for attending, congratulated them on their accomplishments and wished them well in their future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments regarding the extended learning plan. There were no comments. Mrs. Klenow asked if there were any public comments on agenda or non-agenda items. There were no comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to approve the minutes of March 8, 2021 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to approve the closed session minutes of March 8, 2021 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to approve the special meeting minutes of March 22, 2021 as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Butzin, Lentz, Bruning, VanderVeen, Edmonds and Klenow. Abstain: Ulman (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by VanderVeen to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of \$774,115.10 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of \$51,298.34. There were no sinking fund expenses to be paid. He also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of \$28,084.09, as funds become available. There was no sinking fund or lunch fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by Ulman. 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 educational assistant Jessica Romzek. Jessica's resignation was effective March 26th. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to accept Jessica Romzek's resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Klinger said athletic director, Chuck Wren, is recommending the following coaches to EduStaff for hire: Derek Hopkins – JV baseball and Paul Vainer – golf. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to recommend the named coaches for hire with EduStaff. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said maintenance supervisor Mr. Couch is recommending two custodians for hire. First is Robert Stephenson, who is being recommended for the 4-hour custodial position. Bob has several years of maintenance experience and is skilled in plumbing, painting and general custodial duties. Motion by Ulman, support by Edmonds to hire Robert Stephenson as a custodian for Tawas Area Schools. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Couch is also recommending Lonnie Wood for a full-time custodial position. Lonnie has experience and skills in custodial and maintenance duties along with grounds keeping and stockroom tasks. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to hire Lonnie Wood as a custodian for Tawas Area Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the personnel/negotiations committee has met several times in the past month to begin the negotiation process. The committee met with legal counsel to review language changes and updates. They then met with union representatives so each group could share their language proposals. The next meeting will be held on April 22nd with both groups attending.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said the Michigan Department of Education provided a press release last week stating that Michigan's request to waive federal requirements to test students during a pandemic was denied by the U.S. Department of Education. At this time, the accountability requirements have been waived but we will still be administering the PSAT, SAT and the M-STEP.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klinger said we are required to revisit and reconfirm our Extended Learning plan each month. The plan discusses how instruction is being delivered for our K-12 students, that we are providing a free and appropriate education for our special needs students, and provides the weekly two-way communication rates. Mr. Klinger said that information has been included in the board packet. He reminded the board that the information is always a month behind because of the reporting timelines. Motion by Ulman, support by Edmonds to approve the extended COVID-19 learning plan reconfirmation update as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the school calendar has been set for next year and it is ready to be shared out to all stakeholders following board approval. Students first day of school will be August 30th and their last scheduled day will be June 8, 2022. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board voted to maintain and keep the multiplier process intact with no changes for the 2020-21 school year at the March 8th board meeting. The vote also included removing the First Year Experience course moving forward. This course can be removed starting with the 2021-2022 school year because we have no freshman, sophomore or junior students who have taken the course. He wanted to clarify that so everyone knows that change can go into effect next school year.

Mr. Klinger said athletic director, Chuck Wren, reached out informally to Mr. Jack Lindell to let him know Tawas is still interested in joining the North Star League. Mr. Lindell asked Mr. Wren to submit a letter of interest that discusses enrollment numbers, including any recent increases or decreases, enrollment projections for the future and what athletic programs we offer at Tawas. Mr. Klinger said in an attempt to prepare for potential future meetings that may occur he is asking the board for their support to formally apply to the North Star League if we are offered the opportunity. Mr. Klinger said when we applied to the Northern Football League there was advance board approval and support which may have sent a positive message to those reviewing our application. Mrs. Ulman asked if we would be removed from our current football league if we applied to the North Star League. Mr. Klinger said we would not; that league is a football league only. Motion by Lentz, support by Ulman to approve Tawas Area Schools to formally apply to the North Star League. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Klinger said he will keep the board updated if there is any new information.

Mrs. Klenow said she would like to move the closed session for a student discipline update to the end of the meeting. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to move the closed session to the end of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS

Administration – Mr. Klinger said we are in our second week of virtual learning for all buildings. Some teachers are recording their Google Meets and posting the recording for those students that aren't able to attend synchronously. We continue to monitor staff and students for the number of COVID cases and the numbers have gone down slightly. The food distribution program is going well and is available to any family with school aged children on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He gave kudos to the custodial and maintenance department for the projects they have been completing along with deep cleaning in the buildings. He said we still have busses on the road transporting parochial and preschool students. Mr. Klinger said ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II) funding requests are due this week and he has been working to complete our request. There are certain allowable uses of the funds. He is looking into expanding Wi-Fi, updating some unit ventilators, repairing or replacing boilers, special needs services, etc. He said the funds have not been released yet but he is nearly ready to submit our plan. Mrs. Bolen said there were 141 students on the honor roll for the 3rd marking period and 44 students with perfect attendance. State testing is scheduled to begin the week of April 26th. Mrs. Mochty congratulated the Top Ten students and said there were 38 students in the high school with perfect attendance for the marking period. Report cards are being held until students return next week. Mrs. Danek said the transition to virtual went quite smoothly for the elementary students and teachers. Five virtual students will need to have their M-STEP testing proctored in the

building. Mr. Suttle added that spring sports competitions are on hold for now but practices are continuing with student athlete COVID testing.

From the Board – Mr. VanderVeen congratulated the Top Ten students on their accomplishments. Mrs. Bruning congratulated the Top Ten and welcomed the new hires. She thanked the teaching staff for the smooth transition to virtual and said that seems to be going well. She thanked the custodial and food service staff and thanked Mr. Klinger and the administrative team for the great job they are doing. Mr. Butzin congratulated the Top Ten students and their parents as well. He also thanked the administrative team for their great job and for working to keep everyone safe. Mrs. Ulman congratulated the Top Ten students and wishes they could have been here in person. She said they represent the district well. She also thanked the food service and custodial staff and thanked the administrative team for their long days of work – she appreciates it. Mrs. Lentz also congratulated the Top Ten students and their parents. She welcomed the new hires and thanked both sets of negotiating teams. She thanked everyone for rolling with the changes and for being flexible in these situations. Mrs. Edmonds congratulated the Top Ten and is excited that there may be a possibility of joining the North Star League. She said the feedback she is hearing in the community is all positive and supportive of the administrative team. She is also thankful for the student athlete COVID testing allowing those students to continue practicing with their team until competitions can begin. Mrs. Klenow also congratulated the Top Ten students and wishes they could have attended tonight in person. She thanked the teachers for their flexibility in transitioning to teaching virtually again and thanked the administrative team for the great job they are doing.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Mr. Klinger said some committee meetings need to be scheduled. The negotiations committee will meet again on April 22nd at 5:00 p.m. A policy committee meeting was scheduled for April 26th at 5:00 and a curriculum committee meeting was scheduled for May 4th at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Klinger would like to schedule an Ad Hoc hockey committee meeting and will finalize a date and time in the near future with that committee.

Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to take a short recess at 8:10 p.m. before going into closed session for a student discipline update. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to return to open session at 8:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Lentz to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.