

Tawas Area Schools  
Special Board of Education Meeting  
June 28, 2021

The special meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Klenow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 28, 2021 in the boardroom at the administration office and through Google Meets or a teleconferencing method.

Mrs. Lentz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Butzin, Bruning, Edmonds, VanderVeen, Lentz, Ulman and Klenow

Absent: None

Tardy: None

Administrators Present: Klinger, Danek, Suttle

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

Mrs. Klenow asked if anyone had comments on agenda or non-agenda items. She said there is a 3-minute limit for anyone that chooses to speak. Mrs. Klenow said Mr. Klinger is preparing a letter that will be posted on the website in the near future regarding COVID topics. Jennifer Busch spoke about the policies the district plans to follow regarding COVID next school year. She hopes students will not be tested and also hopes masks will not be required. She is concerned that student's medical records should not be shared with the school but should be kept between the student and their health provider. She hopes the school doesn't adopt these dangerous measures and feels a person's immune system should be allowed to fight off the virus. Peggy Herrick hopes the district doesn't follow the state's recommendations regarding testing if it is optional. She has heard that only unvaccinated students will be tested and she feels they would be unfairly discriminated against. Jeff Schlagel feels the state mandates were valid last school year but documentation now shows that school aged children are the group least affected by COVID. He stated that not one child in Michigan has died of COVID and he doesn't want restrictions placed on students next school year. Amy Jenkins said the antigen rapid-tests produce many false results, both positive and negative, and they contain a chemical carcinogen, ethylene oxide, that is toxic to humans. Chad Herrick said the rapid testing requirement has put added stress and anxiety on the student-athletes. He said his son was tested 20 times last school year for athletics and all of his results were negative. We should allow our immune system to do its job. Nicole Clairmont said she is a nurse who works in infection control and said masks are not necessary to be worn by healthy people. Sharon Muckenthaler said her daughter played soccer with a mask and contracted a staph infection. She was told by medical professionals that they have seen a large number of staph and MERSA infections by mask wearers. Corrie Larkin said she did not send her children to school this year because of the mask requirement. She said she and her husband both were quite sick with COVID in April, and both of her children also contracted it, but they both were over it in a matter of a few days. Mike Herrick spoke to the board about the Northern Michigan Football League. He said Tawas will be part of this league beginning this fall and are in the Legends division. He is concerned that Tawas won't be able to compete with the larger schools in the division and is also concerned that the miles traveled will be excessive. He said there will be a meeting in August for all of the athletic directors in the league and another meeting in October when the divisions will be reviewed for possible realignment. He feels Tawas needs to find a new conference that is smaller in size and would require less travel distances.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 board meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

None.

### **RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Klinger said he received a letter of resignation from special education secretary, Rachael Wiese. Mrs. Wiese's resignation was effective June 18<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Ulman, support by Butzin to accept Rachael Wiese's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger has also received a letter of resignation from high school counselor, Shannon Studley. Mrs. Studley has accepted a position at Alpena Public Schools as a middle school counselor and is scheduled to be hired by them in July. Mrs. Studley's resignation is effective June 30<sup>th</sup> pending her hire with Alpena Public Schools on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Lentz, support by Butzin to accept Shannon Studley's letter of resignation. Motion carried unanimously.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Danek conducted interviews to fill the elementary Title I vacancy. She is recommending Mrs. Janice Tiffany for this position. Mrs. Tiffany holds a Master's in Elementary Education with a reading emphasis and is certified in English as a Second Language. Motion by Edmonds, support by Lentz to hire Janice Tiffany as a Title I teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mr. Suttle held interviews to fill the high school art teaching position. Mr. Suttle is recommending Mrs. Theresa (Wynne) Erickson to fill this vacancy. Mrs. Erickson holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from CMU and received her teaching certification from SVSU with a double major in Art and Social Studies, with a minor in English. Motion by Ulman, support by VanderVeen to hire Theresa (Wynne) Erickson as a high school art teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee met on June 21<sup>st</sup> to review the cooperative hockey agreements, review proposed handbook language and discussed the next school year. The committee agreed that offering in-person instruction is what's best for the students to help support their needs. The committee also discussed drafting a letter to the governor and legislators to state the Tawas Board of Education's stance on moving forward post-pandemic. The committee also stated that they don't recommend the recording of board meetings.

The personnel committee met on June 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the posting for the full-time athletic director. They also discussed the superintendent's merit goal for the 2021-22 school year and were updated with the current vacancies and candidates being interviewed.

The budget committee met prior to tonight's meeting to review the final 2020-21 budget amendments. Details of the amendments will be discussed under New Business.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said the governor has rescinded many of the COVID restrictions, capacity limits for indoor and outdoor gatherings are at 100% and masks are no longer required for vaccinated and unvaccinated people. We have also relaxed some of the

guidelines that we were following. We still need to be aware of MIOSHA requirements to ensure we are providing a safe workplace. Mr. Klinger said the House has passed the budget for next year, the governor has approved it and it moves on to the Senate for a vote on Wednesday.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Klinger said we are amending the 2020-21 budgets tonight. These are still estimated numbers until we receive our audit in the fall. He presented the final 2020-21 budget amendments, beginning with the general fund. He said we anticipate we will show total revenues of \$12,727,282 and expenditures of \$11,663,377 as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, which means we will have an excess of revenues over expenditures of approximately \$1,063,905 leaving an overall fund balance of \$4,524,894.

The lunch fund will finish the year with approximately \$731,216 in revenue and \$660,893 in expenditures, including reimbursing indirect costs to the General Fund, leaving an estimated fund balance on June 30, 2021 of \$154,575. This is a program profit of \$70,323 which will cover the cost of the table replacement project.

We anticipate revenues of \$615,009 and expenditures of \$580,438 in the debt retirement fund and predict we will end the year with a fund balance of \$144,360, allowing us to decrease our debt millage for the 2021-22 school year.

The sinking fund is expected to show revenues of \$258,649 and expenditures of \$68,179 leaving a fund balance of \$298,317 on June 30, 2021.

The Student/School activity fund had revenues of \$190,782 and expenditures of \$195,602 leaving a projected fund balance of \$247,516 on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Bruning made a motion to approve the Resolution for Final Amendments to the 2020-21 budgets, including the general fund, lunch fund, debt retirement fund, sinking fund and student/school activity fund in the form of a motion as presented. Support to the motion by Butzin. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said we have two shared agreements with Oscoda Schools that have expired and need to be renewed. Both agreements have worked well for both districts. The first is our shared agreement for a food service director. He is recommending that we renew this agreement for two years. The contract would split Jan Sancrant's time and compensation package 50/50 between Tawas and Oscoda. The second is our shared agreement for bus maintenance. Oscoda provides an extensive variety of bus maintenance for us. We fix a few minor things on our buses, but they do the majority of the work. Mr. Klinger said we are looking to sign a two-year agreement for this service. Motion by Edmonds, support by Butzin to enter into shared agreements with Oscoda Area Schools for the food service director and for bus maintenance as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the board approved the purchase of a bus at the last meeting and asked that he speak with Mrs. Conklin regarding future price increases and the need for possibly purchasing a second bus. Mrs. Conklin stated that there will be an increase to bus prices after July 31<sup>st</sup> but the company wasn't sure how much the increase might be. She stated that with a couple of our buses showing increased wear and tear, a second bus purchase this year would be helpful. If approved, the price will be the same as the bus purchased two weeks ago but will not be available until November or December. Mr. VanderVeen said we planned to purchase a bus last year but didn't, so this will bring us into alignment with our replacement cycle. Motion by

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ulman, support by Butzin to approve the purchase of a new Holland Blue Bird bus for \$106,890. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said two documents for the hockey cooperative agreement have been provided to the board that have been reviewed by the policy committee. The first one is the amended agreement from 2018 that reflects hockey as a cooperative experience and the second is the agreement that sets out Tawas' expectations for the participating athletes. Once approved, they will be shared with the interested schools for their consideration. Mr. VanderVeen said he understood the student-athlete would be required to pay the \$65 participation fee, but asked if the intent was for the student to pay the \$125 administrative fee, or if that was to be paid by the student's district. The committee said they didn't necessarily care who paid that fee; it could be either the student or the district and that could be left to the district to decide. Mrs. Bruning made a motion to adopt the documents and to change the wording regarding the payment of the administrative fee to reflect that it may be paid by either the student or the district. Support to the motion by Ulman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said with hockey becoming a cooperative sport, our high school handbook needs to be revised to reflect that change. The proposed language was shared with the board and was reviewed by the policy committee. Mr. Klinger said due to time constraints, this should be considered the first and final reading of the revision so the handbook can be updated for the start of the new school year. Motion by Bruning, support by Ulman to adopt the revision as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said in order to support our students' social and emotional needs, we need to enter into a contract agreement with NEMCSA so they can provide us the person who will fill the middle school/high school, school success position. Administration from Tawas will be included in the interview process. Motion by Lentz, support by Bruning to enter into a contract with NEMCSA as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee is recommending his merit goal for the 2021-22 school year be: "in addition to the traditional credit recovery program that includes summer school and after school tutoring, Mr. Klinger will develop and implement one exciting learning program to supplement students' academic growth, which could include summer camps, after school programs, exposure to fine arts, and academic enhancements that are designed to enrich, inspire, and educate all students in both buildings for elementary, middle school and high school students." Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to approve the superintendent's merit goal as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said in addition to that goal, if a summer program is held during the summer of 2022, is successfully implemented and measured by enrollment, an additional \$500 stipend will be awarded to the superintendent. Motion by Edmonds, support by Bruning to approve the additional superintendent merit goal as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said it was discovered that a fall coach was inadvertently recommended by the athletic director for hire at the last meeting that should not have been on the coaching list. Mr. Brent Toska was recommended as the JV assistant football coach, when instead, it should have been Mr. Pete Scott. Motion by Bruning, support by Lentz to hire Mr. Pete Scott as the assistant JV football coach. Motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

Administration – Mr. Klinger said Mr. Couch and the maintenance crew have been busy working on getting the buildings into great shape. They have accomplished a lot in a short time. Mr. Suttle also gave kudos to the maintenance department for the great job cleaning and sprucing up the middle school/high school. He thanked the community members and parents that attended tonight for sharing their thoughts and comments. He indicated that 31 high school students have signed up for credit recovery summer school and 9 middle school students have registered. Mrs. Danek welcomed Mrs. Tiffany to the district and said she will be bringing 3 children to enroll as well. She said a track camp was held for students in grades 1 – middle school a few weeks back and they had a great turnout. 30 Clara Bolen students have registered to attend “summer boost” beginning July 12<sup>th</sup>.

From the Board – Mrs. Ulman welcomed the new hires. Mr. VanderVeen thanked the community members for attending and speaking and assured them all voices are heard. He was pleased to hear how many students have registered for the credit recovery programs. Mrs. Edmonds thanked the exiting staff for their service and welcomed the new hires. She thanked the administrative team for the quick work on the hockey paperwork and handbook revision and thanked Mr. Couch for the great work on the buildings. She also thanked the community members for attending and sharing their comments. Mr. Butzin agreed with her comments and said the goal of the board is always to do what’s best for kids. He thanked Mrs. Mochty for her hard work with the hockey paperwork and handbook updates. Mrs. Lentz thanked the exiting staff and welcomed the new hires. She thanked Mr. Klinger for keeping the board updated on new legislation and on several different issues. Mrs. Bruning thanked the maintenance staff for their hard work and was also happy to hear so many students have registered for summer school. She also thanked the parents and community members for sharing their comments with the board. Mrs. Klenow thanked administration for the great work on the hockey agreements and handbook revision in a short time period and thanked the community for attending and sharing their concerns.

## **ADVANCE PLANNING**

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to take a short recess at 8:10 p.m. before beginning a board work session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by VanderVeen, support by Ulman to begin a work session at 8:20 p.m. The board went through a presentation discussing ESSR II and ESSR III funds. Allocations for each were reviewed along with the different timelines for using the funds. They then looked over the allowable uses and discussed ideas on how to use the money over the next several years.

When the presentation was complete, the Board of Education reviewed a list of ideas for purchases in the future. The current sinking fund list has been used to collect ideas that have been shared by different stakeholders. The list was reviewed and discussions were held based on current and historical feedback. At the conclusion of the discussion, the board asked the superintendent to update the list so that the board would know which ideas were allowable under the sinking fund rules, and which funding sources would be used for the other ideas that were presented. Once this is complete, another workshop will be scheduled to review the updated information.

A motion was made by VanderVeen and supported by Butzin to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. but the board decided to continue discussions for a few more minutes.

Motion by Ulman, support by VanderVeen to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.