The regular meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Bacarella at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mr. Bacarella led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Bruning, Ulman, O’Connor, VanderVeen, Freel, Klenow and Bacarella
Absent: None
Tardy: None

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

Mr. Bacarella said there is one addition to tonight’s agenda, which is an Executive Session for discussion of a confidential attorney/client communication. All of the Executive Session meetings will be moved to the end of the agenda.

**POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. Klinger said tonight’s positive highlight will be presented by Mr. Suttle and features the Top Ten of the Class of 2020.

Mr. Suttle said he is pleased to introduce the Top Ten students of the class of 2020. He said this is a talented group of high achieving students. This year there are five valedictorians who have perfect 4.0 grade point averages and the lowest grade point average in the Top Ten is an impressive 3.919. He introduced the Top Ten students including the five valedictorians who are Gavin Swartz-Barnes, Ammy Nguyen, Kara McKinley, Logan Madrigal-Silver and Brady Jacot. Rounding out the Top Ten are Lexi LaJoice and Sophia Pacia, who are co-salutatorians, and Ethan Haire, Sophie Rogers and Allie Morand. Each of the students gave a brief background on themselves and 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**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Freel, support by O’Connor to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2020 special board meeting as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Yes: Klenow, Freel, O’Connor and Bacarella. Abstain: VanderVeen, Bruning and Ulman (absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion by Klenow to approve the monthly contractual and prepaid expenses for the general fund in the amount of $790,421.50, the sinking fund expenses in the amount of $5,030.78 and the lunch fund expenses in the amount of $52,363.17. She also moved to approve payment of presented bills for the general fund in the amount of $28,218.10, as funds become available. There was no sinking fund or lunch fund bills to be paid. Motion supported by O’Connor. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.
RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS
Mr. Klinger said he received a letter of resignation/retirement from 2nd grade teacher Linda Ramsdell. Mrs. Ramsdell has worked in the district for the past 23 years and plans to retire at the end of the current school year. Motion by Klenow, support by Freel to accept Linda Ramsdell’s letter of resignation, thank her for her years of service and wish her well in her retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION
Mr. Klinger told the board that this is the time of year that recommendations are made regarding probation and tenure for our teachers. He indicated that the building principals have been active working on evaluating their staffs. The process is designed to be a continual improvement process. This involves multiple classroom visits, communications and a minimum of two formal observations before a final evaluation can be administered. Since it is a more thorough and involved process, evaluations won’t be complete until late spring. However, administration has completed the required observations and visitations giving them the information needed to make recommendations for the 2020-21 school year.

Motion by O’Connor, support by Ulman that six teachers, Brittney Davidson, Brianna Griffiths, Anneke Hoogenstryd, Shannon Livingston, Mark Dodridge and Jordan Lahr, be granted a 2nd year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2020-21 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Freel, support by Ulman that three teachers, Aaron Hazen, Breanna Roest and Michael Keith del Rio be granted a 3rd year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2020-21 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Freel, support by Bruning that three teachers, Alexis Grover, Brandon Jerashen and Scott Jorasz, be granted a 4th year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2020-21 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by O’Connor, support by Freel that Christopher Jagelewski be granted a 5th year of probation under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act for the 2020-21 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning that Jennifer Farmer be recognized for tenure under the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act effective June 30, 2020. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS
Committee Reports – Mr. Klinger said the technology committee met on February 24th to discuss a proposal from Mr. Huizar to purchase Chromebooks and licenses before an impending price increase slated for March 1st. With these price increases, the purchases needed over the next two years that were approved in December would increase substantially. A plan was proposed to take advantage of the lower costs being offered currently. A special board meeting was held on February 26th to address the proposal and the board voted to move forward with the purchases to take advantage of the current prices.

Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee also met on February 24th to discuss how local schools have slowly been increasing their sub pay rates to help retain their substitute employees. The personnel committee reviewed pay rates for substitute teachers, educational assistants, secretaries,
food service, custodial staff and summer technology support. A recommendation will be presented under New Business in regards to this discussion.

Legislative Report – Mr. Klinger said he is watching three proposed bills in the legislature. The first is H.B. 5357 which would allow recent teacher retirees to substitute teach and eliminate the district requirement to pay MPSERS unfunded liability costs. He indicated that bill would not currently affect us. S.B. 171 would make the flexibility for students to substitute additional arts or CTE classes for their second world language credit permanent, as it is set to expire in 2024. S.B. 657 would expand Michigan’s alternative teacher certification law to include special education teachers. Currently they are excluded from this provision.

NEW BUSINESS
Mr. Klinger said the personnel committee discussed increasing substitute pay rates at their meeting on February 24th. Their recommendations include increasing substitute teacher pay rate from $90/day to $100/day plus a free lunch will be provided. A long term substitute, after working 15 consecutive days in the same position, will earn $125/day. If a retired Tawas employee returns to sub as an educational assistant, secretary, food service worker or custodian, they will see an hourly increase from $10/hour to $13/hour. Summer technology support workers who currently perform that type of work throughout the school year will be paid their currently hourly rate during the summer. Motion by Freel, support by O’Connor to approve the substitute pay rate increases as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jerashen is taking the jazz band to State Festival on April 1st at East Kentwood High School. They are scheduled to perform at 11:00 a.m. and must arrive no later than 10:00 a.m. that morning. Since it is about a four-hour bus ride that would mean leaving by 6:00 a.m. Mr. Jerashen is requesting that the jazz band be allowed to travel down the night before the performance so they don’t need to make the entire trip in one day. They would leave after the afternoon bus runs on March 31st. Mr. Jerashen said the Band Boosters will pay for the hotel rooms and for any extra costs associated with leaving the night before so there will not be any added cost to the district. Motion by Freel, support by O’Connor to approve the overnight band trip as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Klinger said Mrs. Conklin has secured bids to purchase a new van. The vans we have are getting high in miles and are beginning to wear. Mrs. Conklin has provided three bids and is recommending we purchase a new 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan from Zubek Motors for $23,500. The van has less than 50 miles on it and comes with the standard warranty. Servicing the van will work well since the dealership is local. Motion by Klenow, support by Bruning to approve the purchase of a new van as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & PROPOSALS
Administration – Mrs. Danek said the Laps for Learning was held 2 weeks ago and awards will be handed out this Friday at 2:00 p.m. She said the half day of professional development held last Friday was successful with staff working on their Go Math curriculum. The literacy coach from IRESA has been in the building once a week working with staff and allowing them to collaborate as a grade together. The AR family reading night will be held this Thursday, the book fair is running this week, Sue Allor will be in to read with students, and the biennial shoebox parade will be held next week. Mrs. Bolen said the middle school staff spent their professional development afternoon reviewing the winter NWEA scores. She said several students were involved in the local drama production “Bedbugs” and she said the middle school will be hosting a fundraiser at Hungry Howies tomorrow night. Mrs. Mochty said Ali Frank has signed with Sienna Heights to play softball. She said there will be an assembly on the dangers of vaping held March 17th for students
in grades 7-12 put on by local Michigan State Police trooper Shane Noble. She said high school
staff spent time working on their department curriculum at last Friday’s professional development.
Mr. Suttle said the Knowledge Bowl had two recent wins and will compete again on March 18th.
The middle school and high school bands received I ratings at districts and will compete at the
state level in late April. The choir competed last weekend and received a II rating, missing a I
rating by only 2 points. The Science Olympics team placed second at Regionals and will move on
to state competition. The Math Counts team placed second at SVSU. Mrs. Studley will be working
with students in grades 8-11 to work on their schedule preferences for next year. Mr. Klinger
reminded the board of the upcoming census and said a digital version will become live on March
12th. He said completing the census is very important as many programs are funded based on the
results. Northeastern Michigan has typically had a low completion rate and schools in the area are
trying to encourage participation.

From the Board – Mrs. Ulman congratulated the Top Ten students on a great job. She thanked
Mrs. Ramsdell for her years of service and wished her well in her retirement. She congratulated
all the other individuals and groups on their recent successes. Mr. VanderVeen said the Top Ten
students would be a great idea for our new billboards as they are a diverse group of students
representing their class well. Mrs. Klenow congratulated the Top Ten and is pleased to hear about
the upcoming AR reading night and the favorite Shoebox parade! Mrs. Bruning agreed that the
Top Ten are a diverse group and it was exciting to hear about their scholarships and future plans.
She also congratulated Mrs. Ramsdell on her retirement. Mrs. Freel agreed with the other
member’s comments. Mrs. O’Connor said we have a great representation of students in the Top
Ten and it speaks well of our staff, administration and the student’s parents. She thanked all staff
at every level for their hard work and efforts to help all students. Mr. Bacarella said he is very
impressed with the Top Ten students and he knows they will do great things in their future. He
also congratulated all the other groups mentioned on their great accomplishments.

ADVANCE PLANNING
Mr. Klinger said there is a special board meeting/workshop next week to go over the
superintendent’s evaluation. He said he would like to schedule a policy committee meeting to
review handbook changes and a curriculum meeting to hear a health advisory board update. The
meetings have been set for March 30th with the policy meeting at 5:00 p.m. and the curriculum
meeting at 6:00 p.m. There will be a CASBA meeting at IRESA on April 27th at 6:00 p.m. The
ISD committee members include Mrs. Ulman, Mr. VanderVeen and Mrs. Bruning, who plan to
attend.

Motion by Klenow, support by Freel to take a short recess at 7:53 p.m. before going into closed
session for student discipline hearings. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Freel, support by O’Connor to go into closed session at 7:57 p.m. for student discipline
hearings. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klenow, support by Ulman to return to regular session at 8:42 p.m. A roll call vote was
taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ulman, support by Freel to suspend student 2019-2020-#7 through March 13, 2020.
The student may return to school on March 16, 2020. A roll call vote was taken and the motion
carried unanimously.
Motion by Ulman, support by Bruning to expel student 2019-2020-#6 for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. The student may return for the 2020-21 school year under a social contract. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by O’Connor, support by Freel to move into closed session at 8:45 p.m. to consider the legal advice contained in a confidential attorney/client communication. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klenow, support by Ulman to return to open session at 8:55 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Freel, support by Bruning to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.