

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, August 21, 2012
Library - Junior High School

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members rose to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Thaddeus France
Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle
James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek

Holland

Laurence Mandell
Howard Fife
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

William Haggerty
Beth Tichy
Dr. Susan Waters

Wales

Karen Blasco
Michael Valanzola

ALSO PRESENT

Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Jeffrey Zanghi, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching; Michael Lucas, High School Principal; Christopher Starczewski, Junior High Principal; Mark Wood, Technical Division Director/Principal; and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 12-50:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 19, 2012 with the following amendments:

- Page 3 - under Communications - define SRO as School Resource Officer
- Page 3, #6, 4th bullet - correct Sundays to Sunday
- Page 4, Under Executive Session - add Motion 12-71 made in Executive Session.
- Page 5, Motion 12-74 - change "Mr. Gillmeister accepted Mrs. Barnicle's friendly amendment".... To: "There were no objections to Mrs. Barnicle's amendment."

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 12-51:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the Executive Session minutes of June 19, 2012 as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Nosek reviewed the Financial Report for FY2012, Final Expenditures. The Committee requested the following for Mrs. Boyd to present at the September meeting:

- Information regarding the Investment Income
- Report on the School Choice funds
- Review math with regards to the Net Surplus toward future E&D figure

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Subcommittee Assignments - Mr. Valanzola indicated that he distributed the FY13 Subcommittee assignments. He noted that he and Dr. Nosek worked to ensure each person was placed on either their first or second choice, each grouping has 5 members and that no one is serving on more than two subcommittees. As the assignments are new at this point, hence there were no Committee Reports at this meeting.

Retreat - Mr. Valanzola indicated the Committee would solidify a date for a Committee Retreat under New Business, but he noted the purpose of the retreat is to help each committee member, new and old, better understand their function and to help each subcommittee with setting up structure and processes. If any of the subcommittees decide to hold a meeting prior to the retreat, it is standard procedure that the first person listed on the assignment list hold the temporary position of subcommittee chair until the committee votes on their structure.

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

5. COMMUNICATIONS -

- Mr. Wood noted the two new Chapter 74 approved programs are: Hotel and Restaurant Management and Business Technology. Mr. Wood indicated the programs were approved late as it related to students signing up for the program, but that each program at this time has five enrollees and he's confident both programs will grow.
- The letters from both the Brimfield and Sturbridge Selectmen and one from Mrs. Boyd to the Governor regarding Section 73 of the Budget Resolution re: out of district tuitions was discussed. The resolution shifts fiscal responsibility from the sending town to the regional district's budget. Because some schools accept out of district applications post their deadline dates and after budget/town meeting approval dates, this could result in the school's budget not having enough funds to cover those costs.

Motion 12- 52:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to send a letter from the Committee to Governor Patrick consistent with and reaffirming the letter sent by the Associate Superintendent of Business and Finance.

VOTE: All in Favor

6. STAFF REPORTS

Comments:

- Mr. Lucas reported the Philadelphia trip was great and the highlight was the re-enactment of writing the draft of the Declaration of Independence.
- Mr. Lucas indicated that he and Mr. Wood chose Mrs. Cantrell for the Guidance Director position at the High School. Mrs. Cantrell has great experience and a passion for what she does. The Committee indicated they'd like Mrs. Cantrell to present to the Committee once she's settled in to her new position.
- Mr. Starczewski discussed the open position of Jr. High Assistant Principal. He indicated that they will look to place an interim in the position and conduct the search later in the school year.
- Expanding after school usage of the Jr. High Library was discussed. Mr. Starczewski

indicated he is looking into grant funding to cover costs of extending the after school hours of the library.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- The new teacher orientation was held jointly for Tantasqua and Union 61 - new teachers were introduced to their mentors. All principals were present.
- There are still a few vacancies; Dr. Nosek will give a follow-up report in September.
- The Welcome Back Breakfast for all staff is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 28th, School Committee members are welcome to attend.
- Professional Development days are scheduled for Aug. 29th & 30th.
- Students arrive back in school on September 4th.
- The transition to the new phone system is almost complete. Dr. Nosek will give a follow-up report in September.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ehrhard voiced his concern over the limited time allotted to members to review the issue related to the property easement vote taken at the last meeting.

Motion 12-53:

Mr. Ehrhard motioned, seconded by Mr. Galonek, that whenever the Committee is confronted with an issue related to real estate/property matters, that it be brought to the Committee for consideration for a minimum of two meetings.

VOTE: All in Favor

10. NEW BUSINESS

Introductions

With new members at the table, the Committee members and administration introduced themselves.

School Committee Retreat - Mr. Valanzola indicated his purpose for requesting the retreat is to help new members better understand the roles and processes. He indicated the following matters will be topics of discussion: Roberts Rules review, By-Law Review, Goals for committee and district, Subcommittee Caucuses/election of Chairs for each and questions/answers with administration personnel. Mr. Valanzola will be asking different members of the Committee to facilitate discussion on the varied topics.

Motion 12-54:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mrs. Austin, to schedule the School Committee retreat on September 15th from 8:30 am - noon to be held at either the Jr. or Sr. High - location determined by administration based on room availability.

VOTE: All in Favor

Role & Function of the Athletic Director (AD)

Mr. Valanzola indicated that Mr. Cooke requested the topic on the agenda and asked Mr. Cooke to address the Committee. Mr. Cooke indicated that he wanted a discussion to occur on the expansion of the AD position and the role. He felt that athletic scholarships provide college opportunities for students and the AD should get more involved in helping students get sports scholarships while building a winning athletic tradition at Tantasqua. Mr. Lucas indicated that the \$11,000 stipend position's duties include selecting coaches, scheduling games and buses and overseeing the student selection process.

Motion 12-55:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to ask both the Budget and Curriculum Subcommittees to jointly study the matter of increasing the Athletic Director position to either a half-time or full-time position.

Discussion:

Mr. Lucas indicated that for this coming year, the position has been filled. He added that very few students receive Division #1 scholarships especially in the northeast. He noted that he is not opposed to the matter being reviewed, but noted that when there is an outstanding student athlete of Division #1 caliber, the big schools will find that individual. Mr. France agreed that Division #1 scholarships are rare, but thought the position could add value through life skills development promoting school and after-school activities.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Lucas was asked to provide the AD job description to the Committee.

Treasurer Appointment

Motion 12-56:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to appoint Roger Pontbriand to the position of Treasurer, as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Business and Finance.

VOTE: All in Favor

Gender Identity/Policies

Motion 12-57:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to refer to the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee the following matter: Non-discrimination policies and regulations voted into law in November 2011 relative to gender identity as it may impact fairness and safety of students.

Discussion:

Mr. Gillmeister felt the way the regulations are written, that it could cause unfairness and safety issues particularly in interscholastic sports related matters and felt the subcommittee should review and study the matter.

VOTE: In Favor (16)
Opposed: Galonek

Agenda & Motioned Items

- Agenda - Mr. Valanzola advised the Committee that if there were items that anyone wanted on the agenda, that they should contact him or the Superintendent prior to the

release of the agenda. The agenda is posted and provides the public an opportunity to see the topics of discussion when making their decision whether to attend the meeting to address the Committee under Public Access.

- Motions - Mr. Valanzola asked the Committee that when they anticipate making a unique motion, that the motion be pre-prepared and provided in writing to the recording secretary.

Members of the Committee asked that the following items be placed on the upcoming September meeting agenda:

- School Uniforms
- Discussion on new Legislation related to alternative education for suspended students.

ADJOURN

Motion 12-58:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. France, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary