

# TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, September 18, 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

Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Dan Valcour

### Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle  
James Ehrhard  
Michelle Fitzgerald  
Gary Galonek  
William Haggerty  
Beth Tichy  
Dr. Susan Waters

### Holland

Larry Mandell  
Howard Fife  
Elias Gillen

### Brookfield

Sharron Austin  
James Cooke

### Wales

Michael Valanzola

## NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France - Br; William Gillmeister - Bk; Karen Blasco - W

## ALSO PRESENT

Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Jeffrey Zanghi, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance; Michael Lucas, High School Principal; Christopher Starczewski, Junior High Principal; Mark Wood, Technical Division Director/Principal; Grace Korman and Will Katsogridakis, Student Representatives and audience.

Mr. Valanzola indicated the Committee members held the Committee retreat on Saturday where a number of topics were reviewed.

## 1. MINUTES

### **Motion 12-59:**

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular meeting minutes of August 21, 2012.

VOTE: All in Favor

## 2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending August 31, 2012. She indicated she is still working to encumber all known salaries and expenses and that she would be asking for some line item transfers at the next meeting once reviewed and recommended by the Budget Subcommittee.

The FY2014 Budget packets have already been given to the Principals.

Ms. Austin inquired about the revenue generated from the Summer Camps. Mrs. Boyd indicated that not all invoices were in related to the program, but she anticipated a \$15,000 to \$20,000 net. The account is a separate revolving account and she works with the athletic department to discuss athletic capital expenses.

Earnings on Investments - in response to Mr. Ehrhard's question at the last meeting, Mrs.

Boyd indicated the earnings were minimal from the basic interest on standard accounts (savings/checking). She indicated the school did not have at their disposal significant balances to use for investments. The member towns, per the agreement, make quarterly assessment payments and some of the communities at times have struggled to make their payments due to cash flow issues. However, if funds were available for investing, it would be the responsibility of the Treasurer. Mrs. Boyd will check to see if there are any policies in place with regard to investments. However, she indicated that the Treasurer would need a vote by the Committee to purchase Certificates of Deposit or other investments.

Warrants - Mr. Valanzola reminded members that the meetings are officially posted for 6:30pm to allow time for members to review and sign the warrants.

### 3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Students - Students reported on the following activities:
  - Golf Team 8 - 0
  - Election of Skills USA Officers
  - Carpentry and Electrical Programs
  - Aloha Dance
  - Cornerstone Café passed the Board of Health inspection
  - Student Council activities and fundraising
  - "Stepping Out" - a walk to raise funds for programs that fight against domestic violence
  - Homecoming
- b. Budget - No meeting, no report.
- c. Technical - No meeting, no report.
- d. Curriculum - No meeting, no report.
- e. By-Law & Policy - No meeting, no report.
- f. Negotiations - No meeting, no report.
- g. Building and Physical Plant - No meeting, no report.
- h. Legislative Subcommittee - Mr. Cooke indicated the subcommittee would be looking at proposed federal and state legislation related to education and its impact on local education programs and budgets. One topic to be discussed is the Massachusetts law enacted relative to student access to education services and exclusion from school which will affect the responsibilities of school departments in regard to students who have been suspended or expelled.

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

5. COMMUNICATIONS - The following correspondence included in the packet was reviewed:

- Letter from TRSD Committee to Governor Patrick. As voted by the Committee at the

August meeting, the letter was compiled from the materials on Mrs. Boyd's letter and the letters from the local boards of Selectmen.

- Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane - Education Alert
- An Act Relative to Student Access to Education Services & Exclusion from School
- Job Description Athletic Director

Mr. Haggerty voiced his concern that the legislation related to alternate education for suspended and expelled students appears to promote a society where there's no consequence for bad behavior. Mr. Cooke felt the Committee should develop policies related to this issue.

## 6. STAFF REPORTS

Comments:

- Mr. Lucas indicated the add/drop period had just closed and the guidance office has been quite busy. He hoped to schedule Mrs. Cantrell for a Guidance Dept. presentation at the Committee's November meeting.
- Athletic try-outs JH- discussion of the number of try-outs for Cross Country.
- After school activities JH - discussion whether there were enough activities available. Mr. Starczewski answered yes, programs run Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday; 18 clubs will be up and running by next week.

## 7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- The Special Rules of the Committee were distributed
- Members were invited to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- HS Guidance to offer an early admissions program to help students and parents
- Add/drop period has closed.
- Enrollment figures will be set on October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Update on potential USED Federal funding reductions
- Appreciation of the Ted Foundation's donation of water bottles for staff.
- Mr. Wood announced that Lt. Governor Murray would be visiting the Technical Division on Thursday. Mr. Wood indicated the Lt. Governor is a strong supporter of technical and vocation education.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS - No comments were made.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### School Uniforms

Dr. Nosek reported the survey request went to all School Superintendents in the state. She located two policies - copies from Dennis/Yarmouth Public Schools and Springfield Public Schools were included in the packet. All 19 survey responses indicated they had no uniform policy. MASC indicated that the MGL does not allow for mandatory uniform policies.

**Motion 12-60:**

Mr. Ehrhard motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to refer the matter of school uniforms to the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee for review and a subsequent report back to the Committee within a reasonable time frame.

Discussion -

- Mr. Ehrhard noted he is an advocate of a uniform policy. He felt uniforms allow students to focus on studies rather than looks.
- Mrs. Barnicle questioned the value of committing a subcommittee’s time to invest on this issue if they feel it is not something the Committee wants. She added that she had seen studies discounting the value of uniforms in schools.
- Mr. Cooke didn’t feel there was a connection between uniforms and academic performance.
- Mr. Galonek indicated we are a school culture which prides itself on individualism and felt it would be a tremendous waste of time to task the subcommittee with this issue.
- Through the Chair, Mrs. Fitzgerald asked why the issue was brought forth. Mr. Ehrhard answered that members of his community had discussed it with him. Mrs. Austin added that members of her town had also discussed the issue with her.

VOTE:           In Favor (8)  
                   Opposed (6)  
                   Abstained

Special Education/Technical Division Tuitions

**Motion 12-61:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve an increment of \$1,700 to be added to each out-of-district technical tuition, if a student is receiving any special needs services for FY2013.

VOTE:           All in Favor

Other

**Motion 12-62:**

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review this year’s Superintendent’s goals and to make recommendations to the full Tantasqua School Committee before the joint meeting with Union #61. The Ad Hoc Committee shall be five members, one from each town to be appointed by the Chair.

There was extensive discussion on the motion.

Mr. Cooke indicated he wanted to provide a mechanism for developing Tantasqua specific goals that should be discussed by just this committee.

Point of Information - Will the AdHoc Subcommittee include the Union #61 Chair - no, not necessarily. This committee will be discussing Tantasqua specific goals. In addition, the Tantasqua School Committee has no legal authority to motion Union #61’s involvement on any committee.

Although the position of Superintendent is shared and the goals need to reflect the shared goals, Tantasqua and the Union could have distinct, but separate goals.

Timing of setting the goals as it relates to the upcoming meeting schedule was viewed as problematic, not only for calling a special meeting, but also for goals set in October with expectations to meet those goals by the next review period in May.

Mrs. Boyd indicated that going forward the Superintendent’s goals should be

discussed in April/May to align with the contract period.

Point of Information - the goals must be agreed upon by the Superintendent and then the goals must be voted upon/accepted by both committees.

Dr. Nosek indicated she thought the Chairs would meet and present the shared goals for her approval prior to the joint meeting. She indicated that if amendments are made to the goals after her initial approval, that she would need time to consider any changes

**Motion 12-63:**

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Galonek, to move the question.

VOTE:	In Favor	14	
	Opposed	2	Motion carried (2/3 required)

VOTE on original motion:

	In Favor	5	
	Opposed	9	Motion Fails

**Motion 12-64:**

Mr. Fife motioned, seconded by Mr. Galonek, to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review FY2014 Superintendent's goals and to make recommendations to the full Tantasqua School Committee for consideration prior to the joint meeting with Union #61 at which this matter is an agenda item. The Ad Hoc Committee shall be five members, one from each town to be appointed by the Chair.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 12-65:**

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald, to add "**Good of the Order**" as the 11<sup>th</sup> agenda item. (Between New Business and Adjourn)

**Motion 12-66:**

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to commit motion 12-65 to the By Law & Policy Subcommittee for review and recommendation.

Discussion - Mr. Haggerty expressed his concern that the full committee should use its subcommittees to review issues and concerns. He felt that too often the full committee is pushed to a vote before adequate review and study is done. He assured the committee that as Chair of the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee this matter will move to the top of their agenda.

VOTE (to amend): All in Favor

VOTE (on amended motion) All in Favor

**Motion 12-67:**

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mrs. Austin, to direct the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee to, by FY2014, draft a policy and develop criteria on alternate education/placement for expelled students as it relates to new legislation "An Act Relative to Student Access of Educational Services and Exclusion from School", as Chapter 222 of the Acts of 2012.

VOTE: Motion fails

The Chair reminded members to provide in writing any special motions to the secretary.

ADJOURN

**Motion 12-68:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag