

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, November 20, 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
Thaddeus France
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty

Holland

Larry Mandell
Howard Fife

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

Beth Tichy
Dr. Susan Waters

Wales

Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Pat Barnicle (S); Karen Blasco (W); Elias Gillen (H)

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 12-96:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Dr. Waters, to approve the minutes of October 16, 2012.

Discussion - Mr. Gillmeister suggested the following amendments:

- Pg 3, Mtn 12-88, delete 2nd paragraph beginning with "Mr. Valanzola" and substitute with: "The amendment was adopted by unanimous consent."
 - Change VOTE to: VOTE (Motion 12-87): All in Favor
- Pg. 5, delete first sentence on page, replace with: "By unanimous consent the motion was withdrawn."

The amendments were adopted by unanimous consent.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending October 31, 2012. At this time, there are no signs of issues and the heating season has just begun. Mrs. Boyd noted the budget transfers made at the October meeting are shown in this report.

Discussion:

Mr. Haggerty asked if the school was seeing any savings related to the solar panels installed at the Junior High School. Mrs. Boyd indicated there were savings related to the reduced rate, but at this time she could not report on utilization.

Mr. Gillmeister questioned why there were already some budget lines showing in the negative so early in the fiscal year. Mrs. Boyd indicated the SPED accounts reflect actual student related costs and that some students come in after the budget had been adopted. Other line items reflect changes in staff, encumbrances that are related to Union #61 shared costs that haven't yet been reimbursed and the unemployment line item negative balance is based on an anticipated shortfall.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Students - No report.
- b. Budget - Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the Budget Subcommittee met with the Building and Physical Plant Subcommittee. Matters discussed included the 5-year technology plan (computers and phone system). The Budget Subcommittee will meet with the Curriculum subcommittee in December.
- c. Technical - No report.
- d. Curriculum - Mrs. Fitzgerald discussed the Curriculum Subcommittee's review of the class sizes at the Junior High School. Materials distributed for discussion: Class Size Historical Averages (2008 - 2012) and Teacher/Class Size 2012-13. Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated the change from a 3-team teaching model to a 2.5 model was enrollment driven. Currently, there is an enrollment bubble which is not expected to remain high based on the enrollment numbers coming up from the elementary level. Mr. Lucas indicated the high school can absorb the 8th grade bubble next year. There was extensive discussion on co-teaching models, vertical teaching approaches, impact on MCAS results, additional benchmark testing to help identify students with issues and meetings with elementary schools to discuss the skills the students need to continue successful progress at the JH. The Subcommittee will be discussing Junior High math and science at their next meeting.
- d. By-Law & Policy - Mr. Haggerty indicated the Subcommittee's written report was included in the packet. The Subcommittee discussed the following:
 - Student Health Services & Requirements (Policy JLC). This matter will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting.
 - School Uniforms - it was recommended that the School Committee request the Superintendent to seek input from the Senior and Junior High School Councils and Student Councils and that the Subcommittee be directed to use the input to further explore the viability of a school uniform policy at a future meeting. The Subcommittee identified three potential options which might be considered: (1) a Voluntary School Uniform Policy; (2) a Mandatory School Uniform Policy; or (3) no Uniform Policy as it complies with state law.
 - Parliamentary procedures for the joint meetings of the Tantasqua and Union #61 Committees. The procedures are being developed and refined by Mr. Gillmeister.

Motion 12-97:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, as a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee,

that the Superintendent be directed to seek input from the senior and junior high School Councils and the Student Councils and that the Subcommittee be directed to use the input to further explore the viability of a school uniform policy at a future meeting. The stakeholders should be asked to consider the identified options and should be cautioned that this is only a very preliminary inquiry and should not be construed by parents or students as a work in progress at this point.

No second required as a motion submitted by a Subcommittee.

Discussion:

Mr. Ehrhard thanked the subcommittee for their thorough review.

Mr. Cooke suggested if the matter ever moves forward, that a Public Hearing be held.

Clarification - the vote pertains to grades 7-12 only.

VOTE: In Favor (14) Opposed: Galonek

f. Negotiations - No report. Dr. Nosek indicated the office has received letters of interest to enter into negotiations after January 1st from Units C & D .

g. Building & Physical Plant - Mr. Galonek indicated the Subcommittee met with the Budget Subcommittee to seek support of FY2014 expenditures of \$303,500.

h. Legislative - Mr. Gillmeister's report was distributed. At its November 15th meeting, the Subcommittee recommended that the School Committee adopt resolutions, placed in the form of the following two motions:

Motion 12-98:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned that the Tantasqua Regional School District ask that our state representatives file this legislation:

"The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall create a special fund to help school districts in the state defray the costs of tuition for outside school placements for students expelled from public schools. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall allot the money proportionally to all districts qualifying for this reimbursement based on the funding appropriated for this purpose by legislature."

No second required as a motion submitted by a Subcommittee.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 12-99:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned that the Tantasqua Regional School District asks that our state representatives to repeal Section 89 of the FY13 Budget Resolution, which deals with the requirement that regional school districts bear the payment of individual student vocational tuition.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Gillmeister asked that item #3 on his report related to Common Core standards be placed on the December meeting agenda.

The Legislative Subcommittee also notes that the DESE will likely be issuing a guidance document regarding transgender legislation passed in 2011. The Subcommittee will develop recommendations as how to proceed post release of the

DESE documents.

The Subcommittee's next meeting is Dec. 13, 2012.

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Amanda Galonek, a 2009 TRHS graduate, Student Council member and Class President, commented on the Uniform Policy discussed during the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee's Report. Ms. Galonek expressed her opposition to the adoption of the policy and indicated the student body will also strongly protest moving forward with this policy.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Press Release - 2012 AP District Honor Roll - Tantasqua High School was recognized as one of 46 schools for expanding access to AP and maintaining or improving performance. Dr. Nosek congratulated the staff to their efforts to expand opportunities for AP Programs. A few years ago there was 125 AP seats, current there are 346 seats.

Motion 12-100:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to commend the High School administration and staff on the AP Achievement.

VOTE: All in Favor

b. MASC Joint Meeting Summary - The Committee thanked Mr. Haggerty for his comprehensive report. Mr. Haggerty discussed the implementation of the Educator Evaluation System in 2014 and indicated the changes will impact all individuals involved in the evaluation process, including the Committee in the evaluation of the Superintendent. He asked that the Budget Subcommittee be sure to include sufficient funding to provide training in this new process.

With regards to the bullet regarding remote meeting participation by a School Committee member should be reviewed by the administration and ByLaw & Policy Subcommittee.

c. DESE Mid-Cycle Report - Dr. Nosek indicated the report was very good and commended the SPED department for all their hard work.

d. DESE - Ed Jobs Funds Grant Review - Based upon the final audit of this program, the District was found in compliance with the Ed Jobs funds statute and fiscal requirements.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Mrs. Fitzgerald commended Mr. Wood on the positive placement numbers of graduates who are working in the field of studies, studying in their field, or a combination of both. The numbers are based on survey responses from 86% of the class of 2011.

Guidance Presentation - Kendra Cantrell, TRSHS Director of Guidance provided each member with a packet that included information and materials provided to every student as they progress through the grades. She also provided a comprehensive Power Point presentation of the Guidance Department's work.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Evaluation Training - Dr. Nosek reported that administrators, evaluators, teachers and union representatives will participate in five days of training related to the new evaluation process

discussed under Communications - b. She indicated union representatives were asked to participate as the new regulations will result in language changes in the contracts. MASC may offer training for school committee members with regards to evaluations of Superintendents.

MCAS Presentation - Mr. Zanghi provided a Power Point presentation of the MCAS results. Packet materials and handouts included: Effects of NCLB Waiver 11/20/2012; MCAS Report - TRJHS Nov 2012 and MCAS Report - TRSHS Nov 2012.

Suspension of Rules

Motion 12-101:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to suspend the rules and continue the meeting beyond 9:30 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Discussion continued on the MCAS results. The Committee expressed concerns over the Grade 7 math results. The Committee asked Mr. Starczewski to comment on the transition from Level I elementary district schools to the Junior High and downward change in MCAS scores. Mr. Starczewski indicated he and the teams are looking at every aspect of data, breaking it down to individual teachers and students to help determine if there are areas which can be improved. He also discussed changes in teaching methods and styles from the elementary schools and the junior high teaching teams are discussing what skill sets are expected upon entry into the 7th grade. The team is very invested in looking at vertical achievement and is reviewing the elementary math models to assure a positive transition from elementary to junior high school.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Policies

Motion 12-102:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading for adoption the following policy: Policy AC - Nondiscrimination.

Motion 12-103:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to recommit Policy AC - Nondiscrimination to the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee for reconsideration.

Discussion: Mr. Cooke felt the language needs to be re-worked as it relates to the Committee's intent to institute the bullets 1 - 6.

VOTE: Approved by majority - verbal affirmation as determined by Chair
Opposed: Mr. Haggerty

Motion 12-104:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy ACA - Nondiscrimination on the basis of Sex.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 12-105:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy BEC - Executive Sessions.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 12-106:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy EBC - Emergency Plans

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 12-107:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity.

VOTE: Approved by majority - verbal affirmation as determined by Chair

Motion 12-108:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy GCF Professional Staff Hiring.

VOTE: Approved by majority - verbal affirmation as determined by Chair

Motion 12-109:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy IJ - Instructional and Supplementary Materials Selection, Adoption and Withdrawal.

Amendment accepted by unanimous consent:

2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: “.....disabilities or sexual preference orientation,....”

Motion 12-110:

Mr. Cooke motioned seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to recommit Policy IJ back to the ByLaw & Policy Subcommittee for further review.

VOTE: In Favor 5

Opposed 9

Motion Fails

VOTE: (Motion #12-109) In Favor 9

Opposed 5

Motion carries

Motion 12-111:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy JBA - Student-to-Student Harassment.

VOTE: Approved by majority - verbal affirmation as determined by Chair

Motion 12-112:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second

reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy JB - Equal Educational Opportunities.

VOTE: Approved by majority - verbal affirmation as determined by Chair

Motion 12-113:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept as second reading and adoption of the following policy: Policy JFBB-1 - School Choice.

VOTE: All in Favor

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Field Trip

Motion 12-114:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Austin , to approve the Costa Rica April 2013 field trip .

VOTE: All in Favor

NOTE: The conflict of interest vote will be taken after any participating staff member file with the administration anything that may constitute a conflict.

11. OPEN FORUM - No comments were made.

12. ADJOURN

Motion 12-115:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag