

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, December 18, 2012
Media Center - Senior High School

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag. Mr. Valanzola called for a moment of silence in memory of those lost to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragic shooting in Newtown, CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Thaddeus France
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle
James Ehrhard
Gary Galonek
Beth Tichy
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Larry Mandell
Howard Fife

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

Wales

Michael Valanzola
Karen Blasco

NOT PRESENT

Michelle Fitzgerald, William Haggerty (S), Elias Gillen (H)

ALSO PRESENT

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

HOLIDAY MUSICAL PRESENTATION - Mr. Valanzola indicated, as is tradition during the Holidays, the Tantasqua Choraleers would perform a musical presentation. Following the presentation, Mr. Valanzola thanked the Choraleers and Mr. Reagan Paras, Musical Director, for the wonderful performance.

SUPERINTENDENT SCHOLARS - Dr. Nosek introduced Jessica Frio and Alison Garrett as the Superintendent's Scholars. Dr. Nosek reviewed the accomplishments of each student. The Committee offered their congratulations.

1. MINUTES

Motion 12-116:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the minutes of November 20, 2012 with the following amendments:

- Pg. 3, #3h - 2nd sentence: "....Subcommittee recommended **that** the School Committee adopts....."
- Pg 3, 2nd paragraph after Motion 12-99 change date: ".....legislation passed in 2011."

VOTE: Carried by Majority (Voice vote)

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd discussed the impact of anticipated cuts of \$15,000-\$35,000 in regional transportation reimbursements in the current fiscal year and noted that the budget for FY2014 will be built with the assumption of cuts in the transportation line items. She also indicated that the state will also be making cuts to local aid not related directly to schools, and urged Committee members to discuss with their local Selectmen the impact of any local aid cuts. Member towns may look at overall budget

reductions in state reimbursements.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - Students reported on the following activities:

- Winter Dance - 1/18/2013 - theme: Black light
- MASC - 12-16 students selected to attend the Conference
- Jr. Class "candy-gram" fundraised - proceeds to Red Cross for Hurricane Sandy
- Winter Sports Updates - Swim Team, Track, Boys Varsity Basketball, Girls Varsity Basketball, Football
- WinterFest in Boston - Toys donated
- Activities related to support recovery - Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy
- NHS Toy drive

Technical Division:

- Field trip to Framingham State
- Skills USA Fall Conference
- Computer Program - Festival of Lights
- Renovation project at Brookfield Town Hall
- Manufacturing tour at Seimen's in Worcester

Mr. Gillmeister asked the Chair to send a letter to the Tantasqua Football "family" offering congratulations on an exceptional year.

b. Budget - Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported the first meeting is scheduled in Brimfield on January 7th - 6:00 pm. The Subcommittee will meet with the Curriculum Subcommittee and review the Technical Division and 1000 Series budget sections.

c. Technical - Dr. Waters reported the Subcommittee met on December 5th and discussed the following:

- Recruitment process - The Subcommittee was impressed by the level of involvement from both the students and the instructors.
- Program Advisory meeting of November 14th - each program area has an advisory group comprised of teachers, students, parents, post-secondary and industry representatives. Each program advisory group reviews the programs and determines needs for equipment, supplies and textbooks which helps to drive the budget process.
- Perkins Grant - the total grant received this year was \$33,025. A mannequin for the health program, an ARC suit for electrical, industrial food processors for culinary and an LCD Projector are among the items purchased from the Perkins funding.
- Craft Fair held on Dec. 1st - student organizations were provided a free table, crafters were charged for a table. There was also a breakfast with Santa and a luncheon. The event raised over \$1,500 which will benefit Skills USA.

d. Curriculum - Mrs. Tichy provided an abbreviated report in Mrs. Fitzgerald's absence. She indicated the subcommittee discussed the class sizes at the JHS and found that 28 - 30 students is now a routine class size. At their meeting of December 6th, the subcommittee felt a priority is to return to 3 teams at the JHS and will discuss the matter with the Budget Subcommittee at their meeting in January.

e. By-Law & Policy - Mrs. Barnicle indicated the subcommittee report was included in the packet.

Items discussed at their Dec. 10th meeting were:

- JLC Student Health Services & Requirements (see New Business)
- School Uniform Policy - student reaction was significantly negative as reported by the Principals.
- Regional School Agreement - developing proposed amendments that might be considered by the School Committee and then at either special town meetings or annual meetings of each member town.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2013 with the following agenda items:

- School Uniforms
- Union-Regional Joint Meeting Standing Rules of Operation
- Policy ACA - Non Discrimination on the Basis of Sex
- Regional School Agreement - review
- Purpose & Philosophy of the Interscholastic Athletic Program (JJIB) - Safety & Fairness as a result of Transgender Equity Law.

f. Negotiations - No meeting, no report.

g. Building & Physical Plant - No meeting, no report.

h. Legislative Subcommittee - Mr. Gillmeister reported the subcommittee met on Dec. 13th and discussed the following:

- 9C cuts affecting Regional Transportation dollars.
- In-state tuition to illegal immigrants. The subcommittee offered the following recommendation in the form of a motion.

Motion 112-117:

Mr. Gillmeister moved that the Tantasqua Regional School District Committee notify our legislative delegation that it supports legislation filed by Representative Jim Lyons that overturns the Governor's Executive Order granting in-state tuition to illegal immigrants.

Discussion:

- The Washington Post article, *Common Core Sparks War Over Words*, published on December 2nd was distributed as a handout.
- Committee expressed their concerns over being asked to vote on an issue without time to review the matter or read the full legislation proposed by Rep. Lyons.

Motion 112-118:

Mr. Galonek moved, seconded by Mrs. Blasco, to postpone action on Motion 112-117 to the January meeting.

VOTE: Carried by voice vote

NOTE: The Legislative Subcommittee will send additional information to all members prior to the January meeting.

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Martha Sullivan, President - Tantasqua Teacher Association, wished everyone Happy Holidays and indicated the Association looks forward to working with the Committee in the upcoming year.

Mr. Valanzola indicated there were still a few members who have not participated in the MASC "Charting the Course" class and that he would discuss scheduling the training with each member.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Letter to TSHS Administration from TRSD Committee - congratulations on recent acknowledgement regarding AP District Honor Roll recognition.
- Memo to Boards of Selectmen/Finance Committees re: FY14 School Budget liaisons.

6. STAFF REPORTS

The following items were discussed:

- Eligibility for Junior High National Honor Society.
- High School Varsity Basketball tryouts. Mr. Lucas was asked to confirm the policy for choosing the team members was followed. Mr. Lucas indicated the policy was followed, but noted he will confirm such with the coaches for the next meeting.
- Mr. Starczewski was asked to provide a report in January on the number of students who tried out and were chosen for JH sports teams.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Provided a handout regarding the Educator Evaluation Training Model. The first training was held November 26th, with additional training scheduled: Jan. 11th, Jan. 31st, April 8th and May 22nd.
- Dec. 3rd - Joint Labor Management Conference - new evaluation process.
- Thanked all involved with the Tantasqua Football team - student athletes, coaches and families.
- 1/2/13 - Meeting with Chairs of the Union and TRSC regarding language and procedures around collective bargaining.
- MASC training offered on new evaluation regulations.-1/15/13 - 5:30 p.m. prior to regular meeting.
- TRSD has received invitation to submit 2nd level application for grant funding - math & science program.
- Thanked everyone for their support related to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy as administrators, staff and students returned to school. Dr. Nosek indicated all emergency procedures and protocols have been reviewed with the Principals and staff.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gillmeister indicated that although the following item was listed under New Business, because it has been previously discussed, he suggested it should be addressed under Old Business. The Legislative Subcommittee has recommended the following in the form of a motion.

Motion 12-119:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to request that the Tantasqua Regional School Committee's state representatives file the following legislation:

*Since state control over the standards at the foundation of the MCAS test is vital for Massachusetts students and since the curriculum on which those standards are based must remain in state and local control, the Tantasqua Regional District School Committee calls upon the General Court and Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to override the July 21, 2010 vote of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopting national education standards, that is, the Common Core standards in English language arts and mathematics and to direct the Board to base MCAS tests based on the Commonwealth's own curriculum frameworks.

Motion 12-120:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to amend the wording in Motion 12-119 beginning at this point above (*) to: "Since Massachusetts has the highest standards in the nation and....." (continue with the sentence as posted above).

VOTE: Accepted by unanimous consent
VOTE: (Motion 12-119 as amended by 12-120) Unanimous

Motion 12-121:

Mr. Ehrhard moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to have the administration and Chair draft a press release regarding the Committee's vote on Motion 12-119 to various print news agencies including the Globe, Worcester T&G, Herald, Washington Post, Springfield Republican, and Wall Street Journal.

VOTE: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Donation

Motion 12-122:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept with appreciation the donation of two (2) Smartboards to the Tantasqua Technical Division from Tritech Software of Grafton.

VOTE: Unanimous

Policy JLC - First Reading

As a recommendation of the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee, the following was put forth as a motion.

Motion 12-123:

Mrs. Barnicle moved to accept Policy JLC - Student Health Services and Requirements on First Reading.

Motion 12-124:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to amend the policy as follows:

- First paragraph - strike
- Second paragraph, 2nd sentence - change to read: ".....provide the services of medical consultants to personnel responsible for school health and athletics. **as required by law.**"
- First paragraph under Procedures for Emergency at School - change first sentence to read: "School personnel shall only give emergency.....(note: words "give" and "only" are reversed).

VOTE: In Favor (3)
Opposed (14)

Motion Fails

There was extensive discussion on the original motion.

VOTE: In Favor (0)
Opposed - Unanimous

The Policy will be sent back to Subcommittee.

11. OPEN FORUM

- Mrs. Austin asked that in light of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, that the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee review all emergency procedures and report back to the Committee. The Committee agreed by unanimous consent.
- Dr. Waters questioned the last sentence in the proposed policy JLC (above) regarding transporting students in an emergency. The administration indicated that 911 is always engaged in an emergency, but the sentence addresses extreme situations.
- Mr. Ehrhard questioned how library books are chosen. Mr. Lucas indicated the Librarian, in collaboration with teachers, chooses the books and makes sure they are school appropriate.
- Mrs. Blasco questioned the practice of calling home late in the day when a high school student doesn't show up for school. She felt that parents aren't alerted until 6:00 p.m. and she felt this practice of calling later in the day posed a safety concern. Mr. Lucas reported that more parents are home in the evening and if a message was left on a machine earlier in the day, the message could be deleted by a family member other than the parents. The JH calls go out earlier in the day, as do the elementary school calls. Mr. Lucas indicated he will be meeting with the district's police departments and he'll bring up the issue for discussion to determine best practices and will report back to the Committee.
- Mr. Gillmeister wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

ADJOURN

Motion 12-125:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag