

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, January 15, 2013
Junior High School Library

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Thaddeus France
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle
James Ehrhard
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty

Holland

Larry Mandell
Howard Fife
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
William Gillmeister

Beth Tichy

Wales

Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Sheila Noyes-Miller (Br), James Cooke (Bk), Michelle Fitzgerald, Dr. Susan Waters (S), Karen Blasco (W)

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; Jacob Ryan, Student Representative and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 13-01:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to approve the minutes of December 18, 2012.

Discussion: Mr. Gillmeister noted that he had asked that the Chair and administration send a special letter to the football coach thanking him for his service and offering congratulations on an extraordinary season. He indicated that he didn't see a copy of the letter in the packet along with the other letters. Administration assured him that a letter was sent, just not included in the packet.

VOTE: Carried by Majority (Voice vote); 2 Abstentions

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated there were no issues with the FY2013 budget; at this point, there are no updates on Chap 9c cuts nor has the school seen the transportation reimbursements from the state for the month of January.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - Students reported on the following activities:

- Winter Dance - 1/18/2013 - theme: Black light
- Valentine's Day Heart Program
- 2/15/13 American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Principal's Day
- Winter Sports Updates

- Technical Program:
 - Carpentry project at Sturbridge Police Department
 - Marketing field trip to Boston
 - Computer program helping with Festival of Giving Trees
 - b. Budget - Mr. Valanzola reported the first meeting was held in Brimfield on January 7th. The Subcommittee met with the Curriculum Subcommittee and reviewed the Technical Division and 5000 Series budget sections.
 - The Curriculum Subcommittee advised adding staff to return the Junior High to 3 teaching teams.
 - The committees had beginning discussions on the Athletic Director becoming a full-time position.
 - Mr. Wood discussed adding a .5 Allied Health instructor to meet student enrollment.
 - Insurance costs were reviewed, including Workman's compensation expenses.
 - c. Technical - No meeting, no report.
 - d. Curriculum - The subcommittee met with the Budget Subcommittee - see notes above. If supported by the Budget Subcommittee, and towns, the change to three Junior High teams would be put in place in September 2013. The primary issue driving this request is the class sizes at the Junior High.
 - e. By-Law & Policy - No meeting, no report.
 - f. Negotiations - First meeting with support personnel is scheduled Feb. 6th.
 - g. Building & Physical Plant - No meeting, no report.
 - h. Legislative Subcommittee - No meeting, no report.
4. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Letter to Senator Brewer, Representatives Gobi and Smola re: Section 89 of Chap 139, Acts of 2012. Currently expenses are funded by the district's budget, then invoiced as appropriate to each town. Out-of-district vocational tuitions are paid by each town. The Committee discussed the Town of Spencer's initial legislative proposal as the district and Spencer share legislators and each town may approach this matter differently.
- Letter to Senator Brewer, Representatives Gobi and Smola re: Special Fund for Tuition of Expelled Students
- Letter to Senator Brewer, Representatives Gobi and Smola re: Commonwealth's Curriculum Frameworks.
- Letter to Reagan Paras re: appreciation for December Performance.
- SWCEC - First quarter report. Dr. Nosek indicated if the Committee had any questions, she would take them back to the Collaborative.

The letter to Football Coach to be included in next month's packet (See Minutes-discussion)

6. STAFF REPORTS

The following items were discussed:

- Mr. Ehrhard thanked Mr. Lucas for including a list of early decisions acceptances.
- Mr. Haggerty thanked Mr. Lucas for adding photos to his report.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Superintendent's Scholar Luncheon at Clark University
- Tastefully Ted - Fundraiser for Ted Foundation at Publick House on Feb. 1st
- Ted Foundation will offer a workshop for grant writing.
- 45-50 staff members attended the last Teacher Evaluation System training session, the next session is scheduled Jan. 31st.
- Dr. Nosek will send Committee members the on-line link for the Ethics Training required every two years of all elected officials .
- MA Model System for Education Evaluation - Part IV: Model Collective Bargaining Contract Language. Dr. Nosek asked for the Committee's endorsement to meet with union representatives of all teacher groups to discuss the changes to contract language and related timelines. There were no objections to Dr. Nosek's request.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Legislative Subcommittee - Reconsideration - Motion 12-118.

The Chair called up Motion 12-117 that was postponed at the meeting of Dec 15, 2012.

Mr. Gillmeister discussed the additional information included in the packet related to the draft legislation proposed by Rep. James Lyons. (See Motions 12-117 and 12-118 - 12/20/2012 meeting.)

At this time, the legislation is only in draft status and there is no executive order by the Governor as noted in Motion 12-117. Mr. Gillmeister proposed a substitute motion to reflect the information noted. Because the original motion came out of the Legislative subcommittee, no second is required:

Motion 13-02:

Mr. Gillmeister moved that the Tantasqua Regional School Committee notify its legislative delegation that it supports legislation filed by Representative Jim Lyons that at a minimum, limits in-state tuitions to U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the U.S.

Motion 13-03:

Mr. Valcour moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, that action on Motion 13-02 be postponed indefinitely.

DISCUSSION - There was extensive discussion.

Motion 13-04:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to postpone the matter to the

February meeting.

Mr. Valanzola indicated the vote to “postpone” takes precedence over a motion to “postpone indefinitely” and opened the floor for discussion on Motion 13-04.

Motion 13-05:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. France, to move the question.

VOTE: Carried by 2/3 voice vote.

VOTE (Motion 13-04):	In Favor (5)	
	Opposed (7)	Motion Fails

Discussion returned to Motion 13-03. There was extensive discussion on the relevancy of the matter to the Committee and studies related showing the low numbers of non-citizens who could qualify for in-state state college tuition status.

VOTE: (Motion 13-03) Carried by Majority (Voice vote)

b. Update - Motion 12-119

The press release referred by Motion 12-119 was included in the packet and with no objections, Mr. Valanzola indicated the press release will now be released.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Snow Days - Dr. Nosek discussed the procedures and information used to determine whether to call a snow day._

Superintendent’s Evaluation Committee - The first meeting will be held in early February. Committee includes: Sheila Noyes-Miller (Brimfield), James Cooke (Brookfield), Howard Fife (Holland), William Haggerty (Sturbridge), Michael Valanzola (Wales) and Patricia Barnicle (Union 61).

11. OPEN FORUM

12. ADJOURN

Motion 13-06:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag