

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, February 27, 2013
Junior High School Library

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek

Holland

Larry Mandell
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

William Haggerty
Beth Tichy
Dr. Susan Waters

Wales

Karen Blasco
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France (Br), Howard Fife (H); Pat Barnicle (S)

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; Grace Korman and Jacob Ryan, Student Representatives and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 13-07:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to approve the minutes of January 15, 2013 as amended:

Amendments:

Pg 3 - Old Business a - Replace first line with: The Chair called up Motion 12-117 that was postponed at the meeting of Dec 15, 2012.

Pg 4 - Motion 13-05 - Vote should read: Carried by 2/3 voice vote.

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

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

FY2012 - The E&D Account was certified by the MA DOR as of July 1, 2012 at \$368,814.00.

FY2013 Budget - Mrs. Boyd indicated there are no issues and she is optimistic that there will be unspent funds to put into the E&D Account at the end of the year.

FY2014 Budget - See Subcommittee Report - Budget.

a. P-Card - Mrs. Boyd discussed the purpose of the P-Card and asked for the Committee's approval.

Motion 13-08:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr., Haggerty, to grant approval to enter into the P-Card Program through the Bank of Montreal, as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Business

VOTE: All in Favor

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - Students reported on the following activities:

- Winter Dance - 1/18/2013 - theme: Black light
- 2/15/13 American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Student Council - Hyannis Conference. Approximately 14-15 seats are offered. Students are chosen by the Student Council advisor based on student's essays. Conference attendance is funded by Student Council fundraising activities.
- Prom - to be held in May at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield
- Technical Program:
 - Re-design project at Brookfield Town Hall
 - Field trips enhancing programs (Manufacturing, Culinary & Carpentry)
 - Skills USA
 - Upcoming - Chef Competition
 - Upcoming - Day on the Hill

b. Budget

Motion 13-09:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Valcour, to approve the FY2014 Total Operating budget of \$20,038,464.00.

DISCUSSION:

The Budget Subcommittee discussed the highlights and the largest areas of increases:

Sr. High

- Level Staffing
- Increased Virtual High School slots
- NEASC accreditation process - Year 1
- Guidance Research enhancements
- Special Needs - anticipated grant reductions

Jr. High

- Return to full team model with 3 teams per grade (recommended by Curriculum Subcommittee). Budget neutral due to a recent retirement and shifting 1 art and 1 librarian into core academic subjects.
- Level services for remaining budget.

Motion 13-10:

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to amend Motion 13-09 as follows:

That the Committee adopt a Total Operating Budget of \$19,985,348.00 for FY2014 (approximate 2% increase over last year) and based on the assumption of a 2% hike in Chapter 70 aid. Furthermore that the Budget Subcommittee meet before the March

Public Hearing to make \$233,066.00 in cuts in the draft budget.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cooke indicated that he did not vote to support the budget brought forth by the Budget Subcommittee and discussed the state aid revenue assumptions.

The Chair allowed extensive discussion.

VOTE: Failed by Majority (Voice Vote)

VOTE (on original Motion 13-09): Carried by Majority (Voice Vote)

The Public Hearing on the FY2014 Budget will be held at 6:00 pm on March 19th prior to the regular meeting.

c. Technical - No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum - Mrs. Fitzgerald discussed the Subcommittee report (handout) and asked members to review and bring forth any questions to the next meeting. Highlights of the report included: Common Assessments; Every Day Math Program; block scheduling concerns and sequential learning; Environmental Science Program and the class sizes at the Junior High. The Subcommittee will review English, History and PE at their next meeting.

Mr. Gillmeister asked that Environmental Science be included on the next meeting agenda under Old Business. Mr. Cooke asked that Chapter 20 of the Environment Science textbook be copied for the Committee. Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated the Subcommittee had not reviewed that particular piece, but felt it would be reviewed in isolation of the entire program and would not provide a true picture of the curriculum.

e. By-Law & Policy - Mr. Haggerty indicated Policies JLC - Student Health Services & Requirements and AC - Nondiscrimination were not included in the packet; therefore, the request to vote will be placed on the March agenda. The Subcommittee did discuss the matter of school uniforms and voted to take no action. The next meeting will be held on March 11th (change from date posted in report).

f. Negotiations - Three units are in negotiations - support staff, administrative assistants and custodial. The next meeting is scheduled on March 4, 2013.

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

h. Legislative Subcommittee - Mr. Gillmeister reviewed the report included in the packet.

Motion 13-11:

Mr. Gillmeister moved that the Chairman of the School Committee write a letter to USDA regarding regulations associated with the Healthy, Hungry-free Kids Act, expressing the School Committee's objections to this regulation as an overreach of federal authority.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion regarding current state regulations related to vending machines in public schools.

Motion 13-12:

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

VOTE: Motioned carried by 2/3 voice vote

VOTE on original Motion #13-11: In Favor (6) Opposed (8)

Motion Failed

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Letter to Coach Aaron Powell from Committee
- Letter to FY12-13 Warriors Football Team from Committee
- Letter to Tritech/IMC Software Corporation
- Press Release re: Common Core Standards
- Letter from Senator Brewer re: College Board recognition
- SWCEC Annual Report
- Teachers 21 - Improving Instruction & Learning through Supervision & Evaluation (handout)
- MA Model System for Educator Evaluation Part III (handout)
- E&D Certification notification
- Editorial - Worcester T&G

6. STAFF REPORTS

The following items were discussed:

- History Bowl - students made it to the quarter finals.
- Mr. Lucas indicated that Jason Girouard won the Mothers Against Drunk Driving National award for his video. The Award was presented at a Senior assembly and he will provide additional information in his next report. The Committee asked for the following actions:
 - Share the video at the next meeting
 - Share video on Tantasqua's website
 - Have the Chair on behalf of the Committee send a congratulatory letter to Jason Gerard.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Handout - re: Guidance on Executive Session protocols.
- Sequestration Update - impacts on Special Education & Title I funding. Cuts may go into effect on 7/1/2013.
- DOE - Mid-cycle report/endorsed waiver
- Invitation to further the grant process - Mass Math & Science initiative - expansion of AP courses.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Galonek asked if the neighboring piece of land had been conveyed to the state and asked that an update be provided at the next meeting. He indicated that if the land had not been conveyed, he may ask for reconsideration.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Valanzola thanked Mr. Starczewski for providing a tour of the Junior High with the opportunity to interact with students and staff. Stonebridge Press covered the visit.

11. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Cooke asked Mr. Lucas about the MIAA play-off format change. Mr. Lucas indicated MIAA is addressing schools by size and he will know more about any changes in June.

12. ADJOURN

Motion 13-13:

Mrs. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag