

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, March 27, 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
Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

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

Holland

Howard Fife
Elias Gillen
Larry Mandell

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

Wales

Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Karen Blasco (W)

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.

Retiring Member

Mr. Valanzola announced that this would be Pat Barnicle's final meeting as she was not seeking re-election. Mr. Valanzola noted that for every vote taken, Mrs. Barnicle always put the impact to students to the forefront. Mrs. Barnicle served on the Committee from 2007-2013, serving on various subcommittees and was engaged in the formation of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Valanzola thanked Mrs. Barnicle for her dedication and years of service and presented a plaque.

1. MINUTES

Motion 13-14:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the minutes of February 27, 2013.

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

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Students - Due to the change in the regular meeting date due to inclement weather, the students were not available for the meeting.

b. Budget

Motion 13-15:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2014 Total Operating budget of \$20,118,464.00 (includes School Choice Outgoing Tuitions).

VOTE: Carried by Majority (Voice vote); 1 Abstention

Motion 13-16:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2014 Net Operating Assessment of \$10,975,821.00 as follows:

Brimfield	\$1,928,357	Sturbridge	\$5,606,122
Brookfield	\$1,390,038	Wales	\$ 729,112
Holland	\$1,333,192		

VOTE: Carried by Majority (Voice vote); 1 Abstention

Motion 13-17:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2014 Transportation Assessment of \$448,338.00 as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 97,182.	Sturbridge	\$ 168,399
Brookfield	\$ 72,396	Wales	\$ 47,087
Holland	\$ 57,240		

VOTE: All in Favor (Voice Vote)

Motion 13-18:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2014 Debt Assessment of \$395,092.00 as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 70,445	Sturbridge	\$ 184,310
Brookfield	\$ 61,674	Wales	\$ 31,212
Holland	\$ 47,451		

VOTE: All in Favor (Voice Vote)

Change in Agenda

Mr. Valanzola asked if there were any objections to moving the School Resource Officer (SRO) discussion to this point of the meeting. Hearing no objections, Mr. Valanzola invited Sturbridge Police Chief Ford to the table.

Chief Ford indicated the Sturbridge Police Department, with the support of the Board of Selectmen, is hoping to re-establish the SRO Program and is therefore seeking funding in their budget. If funded by Sturbridge taxpayers, one SRO would have a presence at the Senior and Junior High Schools and Burgess Elementary School. Chief Ford indicated having a SRO would foster a safe school environment and become part of the school culture. An SRO would help break barriers between law enforcement and young adults and would introduce law enforcement/criminal justice as a career path. The SRO would be trained to approach subjects of bullying, dating pressures and violence. It is not the intent that the SRO would be considered full security but would add to the safety of the students and be of assistance in the

development of safety and emergency planning. The SRO would be stationed at the schools with a rotating schedule during the school year and during summer months would provide additional coverage for the Town of Sturbridge.

Chief Ford indicated the SRO would be under his command, but he wanted to work together to establish a mutual plan with the school and work with the Superintendent and Principals in a partnership to best support the safety and well-being of students.

Committee members made the following comments/questions:

- Q - Would the SRO have the right to arrest a student without permission from school administration? A - Yes, all police officers have the right to arrest anyone breaking the law.
- Q - Would the SRO be armed? A - Yes, the SRO would be uniformed and armed unless it was a special event warranting a dress-down.
- Q - Was Chief Ford aware of a study showing the presence of an SRO increases referrals to juvenile facilities? A - No, but if provided the study, he'd make comments.
- Q - Have the teachers made any comments? A - Dr. Nosek said she had not heard any comments from the teachers at this time.
- If approved by Sturbridge taxpayers, an AdHoc Subcommittee should be formed post town-meeting to develop:
 - MOU defining role, responsibilities, chain of command and schedule
 - Mutual plan on the selection/hire process
 - An outcome measurement tool for effectiveness of position
 - Plan to educate all staff, administrators, and Committee members on the role.

Mr. Valanzola invited Mary Dowling, Sturbridge Board of Selectmen, to the table for comments. Mrs. Dowling indicated the BOS voted 4 : 1 to support the SRO position in the Police Department FY2014 budget feeling that the re-instatement of the position would enhance and enrich student experience.

Dr. Nosek reported she had surveyed other school systems with SRO's and of those responding, all responded very positively.

Mr. Valanzola indicated, if approved by Sturbridge Taxpayers, the issue would be placed on the next Committee agenda.

c. Technical - No meeting, no report.

Curriculum - Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated the Subcommittee report was included in the packet. The report included summary discussions of the English, Social Studies, Foreign Language and Physical Education curriculums.

e. By-Law & Policy - Mr. Haggerty indicated the Subcommittee reports of January 29th and March 1st were included in the packet.

Policies:

Motion 13-19:

Mr. Haggerty motioned to approve for Amended First Reading, Policy AC - Nondiscrimination.

Discussion: Mr. Haggerty indicated the amended wording aligns with changes in state statute.

Motion 13-20:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to amend wording in Policy AC as follows:

2nd Paragraph, 2nd sentence beginning with "If someone" - delete all words from "their race" to the word "disability" and replace with "any of the above".

Discussion: Mr. Ehrhard reviewed the legality of the language explaining the reason to keep the wording as is.

Based on the explanation, Mr. Gillmeister made a request to withdraw his motion, which was granted by unanimous consent.

VOTE: Approved by Majority (Voice Vote)

Motion 13-21:

Mr. Haggerty motioned to approve for Amended First Reading - Policy JLC Student Health Services and Requirements.

Motion 13-22:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to amend the wording in Policy JLC as follows:

Under General Services, 4th bullet - amend to read: health counseling **with parental consultation**.

There was discussion on the amendment.

Motion 13-23:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to move the question.

VOTE: Approved by 2/3 vote (Voice Vote)

Mr. Valanzola indicated discussion on the proposed amendment was ended and called for a vote on Motion 13-22

VOTE: Motion fails (Voice Vote)

Motion 13-24:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to amend wording in Policy JLC as follows:

Add the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: **This policy shall not be construed to establish a health clinic.**

There was discussion on the proposed amendment.

VOTE: Motion fails (Voice Vote)

Mr. Valanzola indicated discussion returned to the main motion. The following grammatical

changes were accepted with unanimous consent:

1. First sentence change: “.....health of their students. **The district further recognizes its obligations.....**”
 2. First sentence under Procedures for Emergency at School - reverse the words “give” and “only” to read: “shall **only give.....**”
- VOTE: Approved (Voice Vote)

Mr. Haggerty asked the Chair to appoint an interim member to the By-Law & Policy subcommittee to replace Mrs. Barnicle’s seat. The Subcommittee’s next meeting is scheduled April 8th, the Regional School Agreement is on that agenda.

- f. Negotiations - The next meeting is scheduled on April 1, 2013 with the ESP unit..
- g. Building & Physical Plant - No meeting, no report.
- h. Legislative Subcommittee

Motion 13-25:

Mr. Gillmeister moved that the Committee approve the following resolution:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Guidance document, as written, appears not to be in line with the legislative intent of the Act Relative to Gender Identify, Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011, and we, therefore, as our State Representatives and Senator to have the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education review and revise the Guidance document such that it is in accordance with the legislative intent.

In addition to sending the resolution to State Representatives Smola and Gobi and Senator Brewer, the Subcommittee would like copies of the resolution to be sent to Commissioner Chester and Governor Patrick.

The motion was discussed extensively.

Motion 13-26:

Mr. Valcour, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to postpone indefinitely a vote on the resolution stated in Motion 13-25.

Discussion - Mr. Valcour noted that the document referred to in the motion is a guidance document rather than a prescriptive document, therefore the school is not required to follow the guidance if it feels it does not comply with the law.

There was extensive discussion on the motion.

Motion 13-27:

Mr. France motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to move the question.

VOTE: Carried by 2/3 vote (Voice Vote)

Mr. Valanzola indicated all discussion on Motion 13-26 was ended and called for the vote:

VOTE: Yes 10 (show of hands)
No 5

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Aaron Berthiaume, Tantasqua Education Association representative, on behalf of all educators thanked Mrs. Barnicle for her service.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Letter to L. Stattenfield and S. Rowden re: Massachusetts State History Bowl
- Division IV Legislative Forum - MASC
- Policies AC & JLC (see 3.e By-Law & Policy Report)

6. STAFF REPORTS - No comments

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Handout information, re: Superintendent evaluation process
- 5/31 meeting to discuss Superintendent goals.
- Hopes to schedule a Joint meeting to solely focus on Superintendent's goals before June 20th.
- Updates to the language in contracts as it relates to the new teacher evaluation process. Will come back to the Committee with any agreements for approval.
- Division IV - Legislative Forum - Invitation from Algonquin Regional to meet with legislators to discuss funding and educational issues on 3/28/2013
- Thank you offered to Mrs. Willard, Mrs. Canavan and students to arts and culinary snacks provided for the Public Hearing.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Environmental Science - Mr. Valanzola indicated that due to concerns with copyright protections, a decision was made to not copy pages from the textbook. Mr. Valanzola notified Committee members that copies of the full textbook would be made available to Committee members, allow each to read the entirety of the book rather than taking one chapter in isolation. Therefore, discussion on the matter has been postponed to a future meeting to allow time for all members to review the materials.

Mrs. Barnicle questioned why Committee members only received one point of view entitled "Is the Tail Wagging the Dog" in the packet. Mr. Valanzola interjected that if any members had another opinion and wanted it distributed, he'd be happy to provide that information in the packet for a future meeting.

Transfer of Land - In response to Mr. Galonek's question at the last meeting, Dr. Nosek reported the neighboring land was transferred on June 28, 2012.

10. NEW BUSINESS

School Resource Officer - Discussion occurred earlier in the meeting. Mr. Cooke asked that copies of the study he researched regarding SRO's could be included a future packet.

Obsolete Materials

Motion 13-28:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to declare obsolete the list of library books described in a memo dated 3/13/2013 to Dr. Nosek from Mr. Starczewski.

VOTE: All in Favor

11. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Valanzola thanked Mr. Lucas, Mr. Wood and Ms. Joseph for the tour of the high school.

Mrs. Austin asked that the committee re-visit all the feedback and suggestions brought forth teachers and community members during the Superintendent's Search.

Mrs. Tichy asked that the Committee consider moving Staff Reports towards the beginning of the meeting because she felt that important matters of student education and activities provided in these reports seems to get buried at the end of a meeting. Mr. Valanzola indicated the order of the meetings is governed by the Special Rules of Order and that the matter would be placed on the next meeting agenda for consideration.

Mr. Valanzola offered Mrs. Barnicle parting words as this was her last meeting. Mrs. Barnicle indicated she had mixed emotions. She thanked the committee for their work and for the opportunity to work on important issues, including the strategic plan. She asked that every committee member always remember that the center of every discussion should always be focused on the students of this school district.

12. ADJOURN

Motion 13-29:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, March 27, 2013
Junior High Cafeteria

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2014 BUDGET

Mr. Valanzola called the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014 Tantasqua Regional School District Budget to order at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Valanzola introduced the Budget Subcommittee: Mrs. Sheila Noyes-Miller, Brimfield; Mr. James Cooke, Brookfield; Mr. Howard Fife, Holland; Dr. Susan Waters, Sturbridge and he served from the town of Wales. The Committee intended to hold their meetings in each district community but due to winter weather some of the meetings were re-scheduled and the subcommittee didn't get to every town.

Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business and Finance, and Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent, presented the summary of the budget, reviewing the trends, challenges and significant cost saving measures that were instituted, and prior budget cuts made from FY10-FY13. The Budget Subcommittee presented a Total Operating Budget in the amount of \$20,037,464.00 representing a 2.7% increase.

The largest areas responsible for the increases are:

- Salaries 39% of the increase
- Insurances 33% of the increase
- Guidance 4.8% of the increase
- Grant Reductions 8.6% of the increase
- Out of District Tuitions* 5.7% of the increase
- Miscellaneous 2.0% of the increase

*moved from local school budgets to the regional budget

Mrs. Boyd and Dr. Nosek reviewed the return to three teaching teams at each grade level at the Junior High, a strong recommendation made by the Curriculum Subcommittee. Senior High & Technical Division.

Enhancements to the budget included

- Level staffing
- Increased Virtual High School slots to allow more AP and variety of courses
- Guidance Resource Area, including Naviance
- Year 1 of NEASC accreditation process
- Increased Special Needs costs due to grant reductions
- an additional Technical .5 Allied Health position

Beyond the general budget, discussion included anticipated grant funding, revolving funds the capital items funded via school choice. Questions were fielded from the audience. When there were no further questions, Mr. Valanzola closed the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m.