

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, May 21, 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

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
William Haggerty
Beth Tichy
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Howard Fife
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

Wales

Karen Blasco
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France (Brm), Larry Mandell (H); Gary Galonek, Megan Panek (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; Mark Wood, Technical Division Director; Christopher Starczewski, Junior High Principal; Will Katsogridakis, Grace Korman and Jacob Ryan, Student Representatives and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 13-36:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Tichy to approve the minutes of April 24, 2013.

VOTE: Unanimous (Voice vote)

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

FY2013 Budget - Mrs. Boyd indicated there are no significant issues; with 9C cuts withdrawn, the budget, at year end, is in better shape and she may consider topping off the oil tanks and making a few purchases at year end.

FY2014 Budget - The state budget has not been finalized. Mrs. Boyd recommended the school committee wait to see if FY2014 budget adjustments will be necessary.

3. STAFF REPORTS

School Committee members appreciate the reports on the SH Science Fairs and JH American Revolution 8th grade task.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - Students reporting on the following:

- Car Wash proceeds to support student activities
- Elections to be held for Class Officers and Representatives

- Prom - 398 attendees
- Sports updates - tennis, varsity softball, baseball, and lacrosse
- Technical Division - Construction career day
- Jacob Ryan thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve as the student representative for the Tech Division.

b. Budget - Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee met and voted to present the following recommendations.

Motion 13-37:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to allocate \$303,500 of School Choice Funds towards the FY2014 Capital and Technology Requests as presented and approved by the Facilities and Budget Subcommittees.

DISCUSSION

Questions: (1) The \$10,000 Field restoration represents patching fields for one year until the Burgess Fields are fully functional. (2) the \$100,000 Telephone Network System is the next installment in a 5-year payment plan.

Although not part of the motion, committee members asked to discuss the reserve balances and FY2013-14 budget adjustment recommendations. Hearing no objections, the Chair allowed discussion to expand beyond the perimeters of the motion.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

Motion 13-38:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to approve the FY13-14 Budget Adjustment recommendations which address the Chapter 70 shortfall of \$287,000 as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

The next meeting of the Budget Subcommittee is scheduled on June 5, 2013.

Town Meeting update: Brimfield and Wales have approved the Tantasqua budget at their respective town meetings; the other member towns have yet to hold their town meetings.

c. Technical - No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum - Mrs. Fitzgerald reported on the following:

- Joint meeting held with Budget subcommittee
- Language model - the subcommittee will re-visit the reduction to one language.
- Guidance program: transition of students from grade 6 to 7; partnership with Harrington Memorial Hospital re: mental health; JH career planning; HS - college prep class information going out to Juniors in June rather than the fall; implementation of the Naviance program - a tool for college focus.
- HS AP Classes
- Environment Science issue revisited and committee reaffirmed text and materials meet standards.

The Committee requested the college acceptance list showing the number of students who will be attending each school to be included in the next meeting packet.

Mr. Lucas discussed the senior exit survey.

e. By-Law & Policy

Motion 13-39:

Mr. Haggerty moved to establish a Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) as follows: The RAAC shall consist of five (5) members of the Tantasqua School Committee (one from each member town) chosen by the School Committee Chair, five (5) selectmen (one from each member town) chosen by each respective towns' Chair of the Board of Selectmen, and five (5) Finance Committee members (one from each member town) chosen by each towns' respective Finance Committee Chair. Further, that the Chair of the RAAC be appointed by the Tantasqua School Committee Chair from among the School Committee members chosen by the Chair to serve on the RAAC.

Motion 13-40:

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller to amend Motion 13-39 as follows:

- Eliminate references to the inclusion of members from Finance Committees
- Under Selectmen - change to read: ".....five (5) selectmen **or designee**....."

Discussion: Mr. Cooke felt a 15 member committee would be too difficult to manage and Selectmen should be able to appoint a designee if they see fit, rather than being restricted by the motion to appoint a member of the Board of Selectmen.

VOTE (on amendment #13-40): All in Favor

Motion 13-41:

Mr. Ehrhard moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to further amend the main motion (13-39) by adding the following statement as follows:

"Once the RAAC produces a revised or amended Agreement, it shall be submitted to the Tantasqua School Committee for its approval, non-approval or changes. Further, the document shall only be forwarded to the Commissioner of Education for preliminary assent upon approval by the Tantasqua Regional School Committee."

VOTE: (on amendment #13-41): All in Favor

VOTE: (on main motion #13-39, inclusive of subsequent amendments): All in Favor

Motion 13-42:

Mr. Haggerty moved that the Central Office be requested to solicit quotes pertaining to resources that might be available to assist the RAAC in its task and to provide such information to the School Committee at its June 2013 meeting.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 13-43:

Mr. Haggerty moved to instruct the Central Office to send letters to the Boards of Selectmen of the member towns seeking identification by July 1, 2013 of each member towns' representatives to serve on the RAAC .

Motion 13-44:

Mr. Ehrhard moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, that the Tantasqua School Committee must approve the language of the letter (referenced in Motion 13-43) before it is sent

to the member towns.

DISCUSSION: This motion will put off the letter to the towns until June, the By-Laws & Policy Subcommittee expressed their desire to see the RAAC in motion as soon as possible because it hopes that any subsequent RAAC recommendations will be presented to each member town for a vote at their 2014 Annual Town Meetings.

Motion 13-45:

Mr. Fife moved, seconded by Mrs. Blasco, to amend Motion 13-44 by placing the responsibility to approve the language of the letter to the Chair (rather than the full committee).

Motion 13-46:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to move all questions on the table.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair

Mr. Valanzola reviewed the votes:

#13-46 Ends all further discussion.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair (2/3rd)

#13-45 - amends the responsibility to approve the language in the letter to the Chair

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined

#13-44 - adds the requirement of language approval, now by the Chair, to the main motion.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair

#13-43 - instructs Central Office to send letters, the language first approved by the Chair.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair.

Mr. Valanzola indicated he will email a copy of the approved letter to all members.

f. Negotiations - See Executive Session.

g. Building & Physical Plant - Report in packet.

h. Legislative Subcommittee - No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- SRO synopsis - Chief Thomas Ford
- Additional Requested School Resource Officer information

Motion 13-47:

Mr. Ehrhard moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to not support the position of School

Resource Officer for the upcoming school year.

DISCUSSION - Mr. Valanzola allowed discussion by school committee members, principals and administration.

VOTE: In Favor (7) Opposed (7) Motion Fails

Motion 13-48:

Mrs. Blasco moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to support the position of School Resource Officer for the upcoming school year.

Motion 13-49:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to amend Motion 13-48 by adding the following procedures:

- Determine how the SRO will assist and support the school climate.
- With all stakeholders, develop a plan for use of the SRO
- Establish an updated MOU between the district and police agency employing the SRO .
- Develop a project team with the school system, police and communities to implement and evaluate the program.
- Educate students, staff and school community about the SRO program
- Evaluate program yearly and re-adjust as appropriate.
- Meet yearly with the SRO, police agency, community representatives, students, staff and parents to monitor and adjust program as appropriate.

DISCUSSION - Mr. Valanzola allowed discussion by school committee members, principals and administration.

Motion 13-50:

Mr. Gillen moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to refer the matter of the SRO to the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee for its recommendation.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Negotiations with the Tantasqua & Union teachers unions with regards to the Education Evaluation Plans.
- Principals will report next month on graduations, class days and end of year activities.
- Elementary schools are looking at a new mathematics pilot program for 3rd grade which aligns with the Common Core.
- May 30th - Class Day - seeking committee members who are available to help serve the graduates pizza and ice cream.
- Committee members interested in presenting diploma's to their children: Mr. Gillmeister and Mrs. Fitzgerald.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Motion 13-51:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept Police AC - Nondiscrimination for second reading and adoption with the following punctuation correction:

Last paragraph, last sentence - add a comma after the word: orientation.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair

10. NEW BUSINESS

School Resource Officer Discussion - see #6 Communications

Resolution - Common Core

Motion 13-52:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to submit the resolution regarding the Common Core, previously approved by the Committee, to the MASC for consideration at their November meeting.

VOTE: All in Favor

Environmental Science

Motion 13-53:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, that the Tantasqua Regional District School Committee finds that the movies shown and text books used for the environmental science program are in violation of Policy IMB in the teaching of controversial issues and that the superintendent is directed to develop and implement a plan to correct this violation no later than the start of fiscal year 2015.

DISCUSSION - Mr. Gillmeister presented his reasoning behind putting this motion forth, feeling that the materials appear to be one-sided on multiple issues and the violation would be on the policy requirement that all sides of an issue are equally presented.

Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated the Curriculum Subcommittee has spoken to this issue at length and feels the motion is not warranted.

Motion 13-54:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Blasco, to postpone discussion on this matter indefinitely.

Motion 13-55:

Mrs. Tichy moved, seconded by Mrs. Blasco, to move the question.

VOTE: In Favor (10) Opposed (3)

Mr. Valanzola noted that all discussion on Motion 13-54 has closed and called for a vote.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair

11. OPEN FORUM

Superintendent's Evaluation Process

Motion 13-56:

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to ask our legislators to rescind the new Superintendent Evaluation system and restore local controls for the Superintendent's evaluation process.

Motion 13-57:

Mr. Ehrhard moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to refer the matter to the Legislative Subcommittee.

VOTE: All in Favor

Suspension of the Rules

Motion 13-58:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to suspend the rules to allow the meeting to pass the 9:30 p.m. timeframe.

VOTE: All in Favor

Day on the Hill

Mr. Gillmeister reported he attended the Day on the Hill. Discussions included unfunded and under funded mandates. He visited Senator Brewer's office to offer appreciation for the Senator's support on transportation funding. Mr. Gillmeister distributed a flyer for a panel discussion: *Can Common Core Standards Make Massachusetts Students Competitive?* Details: May 28, 2013, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Worcester Public Library.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 13-59:

Mrs. Blasco moved, seconded by Mr. Fife, to enter into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m., in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, §21A(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body as the Chair so declares. The Committee has the intent to reconvene the meeting in open session.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES - Austin, Blasco, Cooke, Ehrhard, Fife, Fitzgerald, Gillen, Gillmeister, Haggerty, Noyes-Miller, Tichy, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

Motion 13-60:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Austin, to move back into Open Session at 10:05 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES - Austin, Blasco, Cooke, Ehrhard, Fife, Fitzgerald, Gillen, Gillmeister, Haggerty, Noyes-Miller, Tichy, Valanzola, Valcour

Note: Motions 13-59 and 13-60 are also posted in the Executive Session minutes.

Educational Support Professionals - Contract Agreement

Motion 13-61:

Mr. Fife moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the contract agreement

between the Tantasqua Regional District School Committee and the Tantasqua Educational Support Professionals for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, to incorporate the agreement changes as presented in Executive Session by the Negotiations Subcommittee. Further, to authorize the Chair to endorse said contract on behalf of the committee.

VOTE: Motion passes by voice vote as determined by Chair

13. ADJOURN

Motion 13-62:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag