

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, June 18, 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

James Ehrhard
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Megan Panek

Holland

Howard Fife
Larry Mandell

Brookfield

Sharron Austin*

*Arrived 8:10 pm

Wales

Karen Blasco
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

James Cooke, William Gillmeister (Bk); Elias Gillen (H); Michelle Fitzgerald, Beth Tichy, Dr. Susan Waters (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 and audience.

1. REORGANIZATION

The meeting was turned over to Dr. Nosek for the purpose of reorganization. Dr. Nosek called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Motion 13-63:

Mr. Haggerty nominated Michael Valanzola for the position of Chair. Mrs. Blasco seconded the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Dr. Nosek declared nominations closed and called for a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola thanked the Committee for the honor of serving as Chair, indicating he looked forward to working with the members during the upcoming year.

Mr. Valanzola called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Motion 13-64:

Mr. Ehrhard nominated William Haggerty for the position of Vice-Chair. Mrs. Blasco seconded the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Valanzola declared nominations closed and called for a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola called for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Motion 13-65:

Mr. Ehrhard nominated Gary Galonek for the position of Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller.

Mr. Galonek respectfully declined the position. Mr. Ehrhard and Mrs. Noyes-Miller withdrew the motion and second.

Motion 13-66:

Mr. Galonek nominated Sharron Austin for the position of Secretary, seconded by Mr. Haggerty.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Valanzola declared nominations closed and called for a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 13-67:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Blasco, to enter into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. as provided under the provisions of MGL Chap. 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 Committee as declared by the Chair. The Committee intends to reconvene the meeting in open session.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES - Valanzola, Noyes-Miller, Blasco, Ehrhard, Haggerty, Panek, Fife, France, Mandell, Galonek, Valcour

Motion 13-69:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to move out of Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES - Valanzola, Noyes-Miller, Blasco, Ehrhard, Haggerty, Panek, Fife, France, Mandell, Galonek, Valcour

NOTE: Motions #13-67 & #13-69 are also posted in the Executive Session minutes.

Mr. Valanzola requested consideration of the Senior High Music Trip posted under Staff Reports be moved to this point in the meeting. There were no objections.

Motion 13-70:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Blasco, to approve the 2014 Senior High Music trip to the Williamsburg Heritage Festival during the April school vacation.

Discussion: There will be adequate fundraising opportunities so that all students can participate in the trip.

VOTE: All in Favor

3. MINUTES

Motion 13-71:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the regular session minutes of May 21, 2013.

VOTE: Majority (Voice vote)
Abstentions: France, Galonek, Mandell, Panek

Motion 13-72:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Ehrhard, to approve the Executive Session minutes of May 21, 2013.

VOTE: Majority (Voice vote)
Abstentions: France, Galonek, Mandell, Panek

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

FY2014 Budget - Mrs. Boyd reported that all five member towns have passed the Tantasqua school budget at their town meetings, but advised the Committee that the state's budget remains unavailable.

- Job Description - Athletic Director

Motion 13-73:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Fife, to approve the revised job description for the position of Athletic Director.

Discussion - Mrs. Boyd indicated the revisions were bolded on the document. She indicated with the Committee's support, the school plans to appoint a .5 position as a one-year pilot model. The AD position is currently a stipend position. She added that administration wants to try the .5 position with hopes that the change, with the additional job functions will advance the athletic programs.

Motion 13-74:

Mr. France moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to amend the job description of Athletic Director as follows:

First bullet under Education amend to read: *A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science or related discipline from an accredited college or university.*

Discussion - there was discussion whether this amendment would be too restrictive.

VOTE: In Favor (7)
Opposed (3)

VOTE on Motion #13-73 as amended by #13-74: All in Favor

- Job Description - Special Education Coordinator

Motion 13-75:

Mr. Fife moved, seconded by Mr. Galonek, to approve the job description of Special Education Coordinator to be in the Unit B contract, with the budget-neutral funding mechanism as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance.

VOTE: All in Favor

5. STAFF REPORTS

- Mr. Valanzola offered his congratulations to all the principals for a successful closing.

- Mr. Haggerty noted he was impressed with the activities included in the Technical Division report and congratulated Mr. Wood and the staff.
- Mr. Ehrhard asked whether Mr. Starczewski is involved with Union 61 discussions about the new math pilot program to be introduced at the grade 3 level. Mr. Starczewski indicated he was involved, along with Mr. Zanghi, reviewing the model and investigating whether adjustments will be needed at the JH level. Mr. Zanghi indicated teachers at all levels have been engaged in the process.

Handbooks

Motion 13-76:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. France, to approve the Junior and Senior High FY14 Students Handbooks as currently published.

VOTE: All in Favor

College Acceptances

Mr. Ehrhard thanked Mr. Lucas for the list the Class of 2013 college acceptances. The data included numbers of accepted and attending. Mr. Ehrhard asked whether next year the list could also include the number who applied to each. Mrs. Austin asked whether the list could also show the technical student numbers separately.

School Improvement Plans

Motion 13-77:

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve both the Junior High and Senior High School Improvement Plans for 2013-2014 as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - No report

b. Budget - Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee reviewed the impacts of the job descriptions approved earlier in the meeting

c. Technical - No report.

d. Curriculum - No report.

e. By-Law & Policy - Mr. Haggerty indicated there was no meeting, but reported that Dr. Nosek contacted the state to see if the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) could be comprised of just school committee members. Dr. Nosek confirmed that because Tantasqua is an existing region, not a region under formation, the requirement to include non-school committee members does not apply and therefore the RAAC may be solely comprised of school committee members.

Motion 13-78:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Fife, to reconsider the RAAC votes taken on May 21, 2013 (see Motions #13-39, #13-40, #13-41) to exclude as voting members external members.

Discussion - This result will change the structure of the RAAC to include only five (5) school committee members with voting authority.

VOTE: All in Favor

f. Negotiations - Discussion on the contract with the Administrative Support Association is on the agenda for Thursday's meeting (6/20/2013).

g. Building & Physical Plant - No report.

h. Legislative Subcommittee

In Mr. Gillmeister's absence, Mr. Ehrhard put forward the following motion.

Motion 13-79:

Mr. Ehrhard moved, as a sub-committee recommendation, to accept the following resolution:

The Tantasqua Regional School Committee hereby requests our state representatives file legislation nullifying the DESE requirement that the school committees adhere to its superintendent evaluation method and process. Furthermore, school committees retain the right to set goals for their superintendent and evaluate the superintendent on any metrics that the school committee deems appropriate and in the best interest of its school district.

VOTE: Motion failed (voice vote declared by the Chair)

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Common Core Language

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Graduation - Class of 2013
- Union 61 Kindergarten Open Houses welcomed the Class of 2026.
- Thanked teacher, administrators and staff for their hard work and support during her first year in the position of Superintendent.
- Joint meeting scheduled on Thursday, June 20th

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS - No comments were made.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Motion 13-80:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the Education Evaluation Language distributed at the May 21, 2013 meeting.

VOTE: All in Favor

Subcommittee Assignments - Mr. Valanzola indicated Committee members would be receiving a subcommittee assignment sign-up sheet. He asked that each person list their top three choices in order of preference. Each member carries two assignments and he will do his best to appoint each to at least one of their preferences.

Annual Orientation - Mr. Valanzola indicated he was hoping to schedule the 2nd Annual School Committee Orientation in September, possibly on Saturday, September 7th. He asked members to submit some topics each would like to see discussed.

August Meeting

Motion 13-81:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Austin, to not hold a meeting in August, but rather incorporate a meeting as part of the orientation.

VOTE: All in Favor (hand count)

11. OPEN FORUM - No comments.

12. ADJOURN

Motion 13-82:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag