

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, October 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

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Megan Panek
Beth Tichy
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Howard Fife
Elias Gillen
Larry Mandell

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France (Bm)

ALSO PRESENT

Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Jeffrey Zanghi, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance; Michael Lucas, High School Principal; Mark Wood, Technical Division Director; Christopher Starczewski, Junior High Principal; Grace McHugh and Will Katsogridakis, Student Representatives and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 14-11:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Ms. Noyes-Miller, to accept the minutes of September 13, 2013 as amended:

Amendment: Pg. 2 - Paragraph following Mtn 14-05 - change word sub-committee to subcommittee.

VOTE: In Favor (14)
Abstained: (2) Boyce, Gillen

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the October 1st Enrollment Report. The Budget Subcommittee will meet Nov. 4th and will return with recommendations on budget line adjustments to reflect settled contracts and personnel changes.

3. STAFF REPORTS

- Field Trip

Motion 14-12:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, seconded by Mrs. Austin, to approve the April 2014 ecology tour of Costa Rica as described in the handout and further to exempt any teacher supervisor.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Mr. Ehrhard commented on the opportunity given to parents to view the movie "Bully" prior to the movie being shown to the 7th & 8th grade students (parental permission required).

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Students - students reported on the following activities:
 - Sports
 - Spirit Walk
 - Breast Cancer Awareness Month - student fundraisers
 - PSATs
 - Homecoming dance & football game
 - Fine arts - Fall Spectacular programs
 - Musical: Wizard of Oz - Nov 22nd, 23rd, & 24th
 - Fall Concert
 - Technical Students field trips
 - Health career students currently in clinical rotation at Overlook in Charlton
 - Culinary students participating in Harvest Fest (Sturbridge common)
- b. Budget - No meeting, no report.
- c. Technical - Written report from the subcommittee's October 9th meeting was included in the packet materials.
- d. Curriculum - No meeting, no report.
- e. By-Law & Policy - No meeting, no report.
- f. Negotiations - See Executive Session
- g. Building & Physical Plant - No meeting, no report.
- h. Legislative Subcommittee - No meeting, no report.
- i. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty indicated the subcommittee met two weeks ago. Attorney Toomey provided a regional school agreement template, but the Committee needs to review the new document against the older document. The ratio of committee member representation based on student enrollment will be reviewed, but first the committee wishes to address the other matters of the agreement. Although the subcommittee has an ambitious time line, the new agreement may not be ready for all 2014 annual town meetings. Upcoming subcommittee meetings: 11/4, 11/18.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet & reviewed:

- Updated TRSD Subcommittee List FY2014
- Letter of thanks to Louis Lariviere - Culinary Arts
- Letter of thanks to Schott of North America, Inc.

- Letter of thanks to Akuity Technologies
- Letter to Sturbridge Board of Selectmen/Police Chief re: Vote on SRO
- Letter to Sean Cusick - Teacher of the Week
- Soccer Rubric
- Common Applications Problem Article - Dr. Nosek commented that approximately 500 colleges and university use this new on-line common application, but there have been some technical issues. Mr. Lucas indicated the guidance department is working on each student case, with a focus on the early decision applications.
- MMSI Letter from Rep. Smola
- Congratulatory Letter from Senator Brewer

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- MCAS - see report by Mr. Zanghi under New Business
- Curriculum Subcommittee meeting scheduled on Nov. 13, 2013
- Professional Development Day - 10/1/2013 - All staff completed Phase I of self-assessment. The next phase is goal setting. Dr. Nosek has met with all principals to discuss self-assessment and goal setting.
- Joint Meeting - November 19th at 6:00 pm. The Tantasqua meeting will follow.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Waters asked for Mr. Lucas to comment on the change of time when calls are made to parents of students missing morning attendance. Mr. Lucas indicated calls are going out between 9:30 - 11:30 am. Calls are made to home, work and cell phones (as provided) and emails are also sent.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- MCAS Report - Mr. Zanghi reviewed the Oct 2013 MCAS report. The following elements were discussed:
 - Junior High - models engaged to identify students who need help and administration is monitoring the success of teacher intervention, enrichment & support efforts.
 - Math Pilot Program - Grades 3 & 4 - There has been some variations of teaching materials and methods over the past 1 ½ years to supplement the Everyday Math Curriculum which didn't align with the standards.
 - Transition from MCAS to PARCC - This spring PARCC is a field test given to a segment of students.
 - ACTION STEP - Materials requested to be included in the next meeting packet:
 - MCAS scores for past two years
 - Elementary MCAS scores

Soccer Rubric

Mr. Cooke commented on the soccer rubric included in the packet. He noted that attitude is a subjective measurement and the policy metrics call for the evaluation of skills and ability, not attitude. He asked Dr. Nosek to compare the rubric with the Athletic policy.

11. OPEN FORUM

Cell Phone Service - Mr. Boyce discussed poor cell service at Tantasqua feeling that it was an issue of safety. It was noted that the location of cell towers are governed by the towns and Mr. Cooke commented that it may also be regulated by each town's zoning by-laws.

Motion 14-13:

Mr. Boyce motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to add cell phone service to the next meeting agenda under New Business.

VOTE: In Favor (7)
Opposed (8)

Motion Fails

Casino Impact - Mr. Mandell asked whether the school has reviewed any demographic impact (population growth factors) on the school system if a casino opens in Palmer. Related discussion: application for mitigation funds. Mr. Mandell requested the matter be added as a topic to the next meeting for further discussion.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 14-14:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to enter into Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A §21A(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body as the Chair has declared.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES - Austin, Boyce, Cooke, Ehrhard, Fife, Fitzgerald, Galonek, Gillen, Gillmeister, Haggerty, Mandell, Noyes-Miller, Panek, Tichy, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

Contract Ratification

Motion 14-16:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mr. Fife, to ratify the contract as presented between the Tantasqua Regional School District and Local 888: Custodians & Food Service Union for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2013.

VOTE: In Favor (12)
Opposed (4)

13. ADJOURN

Motion 14-17:

Mrs. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Noyes-Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary