

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, January 23, 2014
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
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
William Haggerty
Megan Panek

Holland

Howard Fife
Larry Mandell

Brookfield

Sharron Austin

Beth Tichy

Dr. Susan Waters

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Sheila Noyes-Miller (Bm); James Cooke, William Gillmeister (Bk); Elias Gillen (H); Gary Galonek (S)

ALSO PRESENT

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; and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 14-37:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. France, to accept the minutes of November 19, 2013.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2013. At this point, she hasn't seen the impact of the extreme cold weather on the heating expense line, but the energy team is always vigilant about watching the heat and electric usage. The E&D account has been certified by the DOR.

3. STAFF REPORTS

No comments were made on the Staff Reports.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - No report.

b. Budget - Mr. Valanzola indicated the subcommittee has held meetings in Holland, Brookfield and Wales. The next meeting will be held in Brimfield on February 3rd. The building principals/directors have presented their budgets with level services. At the request of the Curriculum Subcommittee, Latin will be added to the foreign language offerings. With existing staff, there is no budget impact. The subcommittee is waiting for state funding announcements.

c. Technical - Dr. Waters indicated the subcommittee discussed a continuing education evening program for electrical journeyman/masters licensing. The first step is to apply for approval from the Board of Licensing. This is intended as a tuition based program and would not be run unless there was sufficient interest to cover costs.

Motion 14-38:

Dr. Waters moved to proceed with the application process to the Board of Licensing for a continuing education program for electrical journeyman and masters licensing and to further explore the possibility of running the tuition-based program.

Discussion: The course would be exclusively class work and code study. The school will not run the program without a profit margin.

VOTE: All in Favor

d. Curriculum - The subcommittee met in December and January.

- Foreign language offerings were discussed. Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated the group discussed Mandarin, Chinese and Latin, noting that many schools offer more options than Tantasqua. The Committee agreed that Latin would be offered as a pilot program beginning the next school year. There is no budgetary impact to offer Latin as existing staff is available to teach the course and it was felt the addition would complement the Allied Health & Science program. It was noted that the Junior High foreign language model has not been solidified, but French may be offered.

- The subcommittee discussed the position of Athletic Director and recommends that the school keeps the current model of a year-round half-time person. This model was implemented this school year, so the committee felt they should review the impact of this model before discussing any further changes.

- The subcommittee also discussed the mathematics curriculum being offered at the elementary level and its impact on the Tantasqua programs. Currently two models are being piloted at the elementary level: Envision and Go Math. Administration will choose one program after the pilot period is completed. Junior high teachers are involved in the math curriculum review and selection process.

- The subcommittee reviewed the topic of Civics, but felt most civic matters are components covered in other course offerings.

- The subcommittee was asked if they have reviewed the SPED programs. Mrs. Fitzgerald answered the SPED programs have not been ignored by the subcommittee, but rather discussed as integrated into the overall curriculum topics.

e. By-Law & Policy - No meeting, no report.

f. Negotiations - No meeting, no report.

g. Building & Physical Plant - The subcommittee has met with the Budget Subcommittee to discuss the facility and operations plan.

h. Legislative Subcommittee - No meeting, no report.

i. Ad Hoc - Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty indicated the subcommittee met in November and he had provided the written report in the November

meeting packet. He indicated the subcommittee is comfortable with all the language changes, but the manner of membership remains an issue. What may be of issue is the inclusion of appointed elementary school committee representatives. The subcommittee has contacted the DOE asking them to review the one man, one vote ruling as it pertains to the elementary school committee representatives. Christine Lynch did respond that the appointed elementary members would not be factored into the one man, one vote rule. The subcommittee is still working on the membership structure and cautioned a finalized Regional Agreement would probably not be ready for this year's town meetings.

Mr. Haggerty indicated that the wording regarding appointments for vacated Tantasqua seats would be amended to engage the Tantasqua committee members from the town of the vacated seat in the selection process and jointly vote with the town's Board of Selectmen.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - Martha Sullivan, President of the Tantasqua Teacher Association introduced herself and offered her wish for a Happy New Year.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- It was requested the memo from C. Starczewski regarding obsolete equipment be removed as the equipment was leased, not owned.
- There were no other comments.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Boyd, in Dr. Nosek's absence, reported on the following:

- Professional Development ½ Day - 01-24-2014 - The assessment and evaluation process will be further discussed.
- Ted Foundation - application process for grants will be opening.
- Nurse - training in Epi-pen usage

Motion 14-39:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Austin, to allow the Chairman to sign approval for the nurse to train staff on the use of an Epi-pen.

VOTE: All in Favor

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS - No comments were made.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- Job Description

Motion 14-40:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the job description for ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis)/Behavioral Programming Assistant.

VOTE: All in Favor

- February Meeting - reminder that the meeting is scheduled for the Wednesday following school vacation.

- March Meeting - reminder that the meeting date also serves as the date of the Public

Hearing on the FY2014-15 Budget.

- Annual Taste of Sturbridge, sponsored by Ted Foundation - January 31st at the Publick House.
- Senator Stephen Brewer has announced his retirement. Mr. Haggerty asked the Chairman to send a letter of appreciation to Senator Brewer thanking him for his consistent support of education and school programs. The Committee agreed unanimously.

11. OPEN FORUM - No comments were made.

13. ADJOURN

Motion 14-41:

Mr. France moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TSRD:pag