

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Junior High School Library

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Megan Panek

Holland

Howard Fife
Elias Gillen
Larry Mandell

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke

Beth Tichy

Dr. Susan Waters

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France (Bm); William Gillmeister (Bk); James Ehrhard (S)

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. MINUTES

Motion 14-42:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Dr. Waters, to accept the minutes of January 23, 2014.

VOTE: In Favor (11)
Abstained: Noyes-Miller, Cooke, Galonek, Gillen

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2014. At this point there are no issues with expenses or revenues.

3. STAFF REPORTS – No comments.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students – Students reported on the following activities:

- Performing Arts program
- Winter Sports update
- Student Council Activities
- Technical Program
 - Culinary Arts

- Culinary Career Day at Holyoke Comm College
- Day on the Hill – April 29th
- Team Chef Competition – May 3rd
- o Nurse Assistant Certifications
- o Skills USA
- o Construction Programs

b. Budget

Motion 14-43:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to bring forth to Public Hearing the Total Operating Budget of \$20,478,496 for the FY2015 Tantasqua Regional School District Budget.

No second required as a recommendation of the subcommittee.

Discussion:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller and Mrs. Boyd discussed the expenditure decreases which were made to bring the budget down to the recommendation. The Budget Subcommittee met with the Curriculum Subcommittee to discuss the impact of the reductions. Both subcommittees supported the budget as presented, but referred to eight recommendations to adjust the budget as the best of the “bad recommendations”. Mrs. Boyd reviewed each of the reductions in detail and the principals discussed the staffing adjustments and class size impacts of each. The Budget Subcommittee felt these adjustments were necessary to meet each of the member towns’ ability to support the budget. Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated other areas discussed for budget cuts or revenues included:

- Sports activities fees – the committee felt strongly about not instituting fees
- Capital plans – the committee felt it important to maintain the infrastructure
- Building administration model – the committee felt with the upcoming NEASC, PARCC evaluations, Common Core, etc. that it was important to maintain the current model.
- Sports JH and Freshman Sports – the committee felt it was important to maintain as a large number of the student body is engaged in these programs.
- Insurance costs – increased by 6%

VOTE: All in Favor

The Budget Subcommittee will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. and will review revenue targets.

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum – Mr. Cooke indicated the Curriculum Subcommittee met with the Budget Subcommittee and voted reluctantly to support the budget as discussed.

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

f. Negotiations – No meeting, no report.

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 RAAC will meet on Monday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Martha Sullivan, President –TEA, indicated that the budget reductions that were made were important and the TEA regrets that the Committee is going in that direction.

6. COMMUNICATIONS – No comments

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Superintendent Evaluation Update – Dr. Nosek provided in the meeting packet a copy of the End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent. Dr. Nosek indicated she expects to reach proficient in all four standards. The “evidence” file is maintained in the Superintendent’s Office and will be made available to any Committee member wishing to review the materials.
- IT Technology Grant – Tantasqua received approximately 2/3rds of the funding requested.
- Twitter Account – The Superintendent has a Twitter account with about 40 followers.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II – No comments.

9. OLD BUSINESS – No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Motion 14-44:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to accept with appreciation the donation of 160,000 feet of network wire (estimated value: \$20,000) from Quabbin Wire & Cable.

VOTE: All in Favor

11. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Cooke asked whether Tantasqua had been asked to participate in BLOOM. Dr. Nosek indicated the school hasn’t been asked to participate, but she will check with Jeff Wulfson.

Mr. Galonek asked about waiving student attendance fees for MIAA games. It was noted the Student Council sometimes covered the fees.

Mrs. Austin noted that given the financial situation of neighboring schools, the Budget Subcommittee did a really good job maintaining the programs and services at Tantasqua.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 14-45:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Austin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary