

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, March 18, 2014
Junior High School Library

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Thaddeus France
Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

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

Holland

Elias Gillen
Larry Mandell

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Howard Fife (H); 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, Will Katsogridakis, Student Representative and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 14-46:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept the minutes of February 26, 2014.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. FINANCIAL REPORT & FY2015 BUDGET

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2014. At this point there is a freeze on all spending. The extreme cold weather during the past few months has increased energy costs and a staff member health issue has resulted in increased substitute teaching expenses.

FY2015 Budget Votes

As recommendations of the Budget Subcommittee, the following motions do not require a second.

Motion 14-47:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2015 Tantasqua Regional School District Total Operating Budget at \$20,478,497.

VOTE: In Favor (15)

Abstained (1) – France

Motion 14-48:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2015 Tantasqua Regional School District Net Operating Assessment at \$11,315,352.00 broken down as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 2,025,368
Brookfield	\$ 1,456,743
Holland	\$ 1,393,990
Sturbridge	\$ 5,757,937
Wales	\$ 681,313

VOTE: In Favor (15)
Abstained (1) – France

Motion 14-49:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2015 Tantasqua Regional School District Transportation Assessments at \$470,281.00 broken down as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 95,983
Brookfield	\$ 79,680
Holland	\$ 56,534
Sturbridge	\$ 191,578
Wales	\$ 46,506

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 14-50:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2015 Tantasqua Regional School District Debt Assessment at \$251,629 broken down as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 44,513
Brookfield	\$ 39,204
Holland	\$ 30,850
Sturbridge	\$ 119,222
Wales	\$ 17,840

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 14-51:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to use \$357,600 from School Choice funds to support FY2015 Capital & Technology Improvements.

VOTE: All in Favor

3. STAFF REPORTS – No comments.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students – Reported on the following activities:

- Technical Program
 - Nurse Assistant Competition

b. Budget

Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee had met on March 2nd where they discussed post employment benefit legislation and the capital plan. She thanked the subcommittee members for their work putting forth the FY2015 budget and acknowledged the difficult decisions that were made in the process.

c. Technical – Dr. Waters reported on the following items discussed at their Feb. 26th meeting:

- Program Advisory will meet on 3/27/2014 and will focus discussion on the budget voted earlier this evening.
- Freshman Applications – The Tech Guidance Counselor received and processed the 138 in-district applications. The Counselor was in the process of completing the out-of-district interviews. The process includes personal interviews with each student. Students who are accepted will be notified by mid-March.
- Perkins Indicators – The DESE completes a report annually on these areas: MCAS, attainment of technical skills, completion rates, graduation rates, placement into technical programs, etc. Review of 2013 data confirmed Tantasqua students met all indicators in the total category. A concern was noted for economically disadvantaged students achieving Proficient or Advanced on the math MCAS. Administrators are discussing the matter.
- Safety Plans – DESE focused on safety and is requiring that in addition to the school-wide safety plan that each program has a specific safety plan. Teachers will be working on developing the plans over the next few months.

d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report.

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 reported the following:

- RAAC is awaiting DOE ideas on a suggested composition of membership.
- RAAC will review all language in early April.
- RAAC has indicated they'd like legal counsel present for some future matters.
- The finished agreement amendments will not be ready for this year's member town meetings.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I – No comments

6. COMMUNICATIONS – No comments

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- MASC Day on the Hill – anyone wishing to attend can contact Deb Grimaldi.

- On-going educator evaluation process.
- Coordinated Program review by DOE – audits on federal programs – Special Education and Civil Rights indicators. Documentation will be submitted electronically, followed by a site visit. The Committee requested a copy of the report when completed.
- Bomb threat – Dr. Nosek thanked all involved in getting the children safely out of the school. She noted the administrators have held a post incident review with the police department.
- BLOOM – Dr. Nosek confirmed the school was not asked to participate in BLOOM (see minutes 2/26/2014 #11-Open Forum)

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II – No comments.

9. OLD BUSINESS – No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Motion 14-52:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to have the administration develop a protocol to allow parents of students scheduled for PARCC field testing to opt out of having their child participate.

Discussion – Mr. Gillmeister felt that participating in field testing of a program that may never be implemented places too great a burden on schools, teachers and students; adding that students are not availing education during the testing times. If a child opts out, it's not a "gate" to graduation.

Dr. Nosek indicated she believed that the DOE does not allow an opt-out option, and she will need to seek advice.

Grade 8 - is scheduled for PARCC math testing 2 classes during March/April and the High School will test on May 21st & 22nd.

The Chair allowed members to express their opinions and then closed discussion.

VOTE: In Favor (8)
 Opposed (7)
 Abstained (1)

Motion 14-53:

Mr. Cooke moved to contact legal counsel with regard to the legality of requiring PARCC testing.

There was no second. No action taken.

11. OPEN FORUM – No comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 14-54:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary