

## TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, May 20, 2014  
Senior 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

#### Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle  
Michelle Fitzgerald \*  
Gary Galonek  
William Haggerty  
Megan Panek

#### Holland

Howard Fife  
Elias Gillen  
Larry Mandell

#### Brookfield

James Cooke  
William Gillmeister

Jacob Ryan  
Dr. Susan Waters

#### Wales

Edward Boyce  
Michael Valanzola

\*Arrived late

### NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France, Dan Valcour (Bm); Sharron Austin (Bk);

### ALSO PRESENT

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

### 1. MINUTES

#### **Motion 14-68:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to accept the minutes of April 7, 2014.

VOTE: In Favor (7)  
Abstained (6)

#### **Motion 14-69:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to accept the minutes of April 15, 2014 as amended.

Amendments: Dr. Waters was not present; Mrs. Fitzgerald was present.

VOTE: In Favor (10)  
Abstained (3)

### 2. FINANCIAL REPORT & FY2015 BUDGET

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2014. The utility line items were overdrawn due to extreme cold winter weather but with the freeze on spending instituted in the past few months, the budget will cover the expenses through the end of the fiscal year.

### FY15 Budget

The town of Brimfield approved the school budgets; Wales will meet May 21<sup>st</sup>; Holland next week and Brookfield and Sturbridge meet in June.

The state budget is near completion – it is expected Chapter 70 funding will come in as anticipated with possible increases in local aid and school transportation.

### 3. STAFF REPORTS

Matters discussed:

- Teacher evaluation process - Mr. Starczewski commented on the educator evaluation process at the Junior High School. He indicated that while time-consuming, the process provided opportunities to identify strengths of each teacher. He has received some positive feedback from teachers and he felt the staff had a sense of pride at the end of this evaluation cycle. He indicated that he is already thinking about some modifications to the process and will be discussing this with Mr. Lucas. Mr. Lucas indicated the gathering evidence process is overwhelming, but has shown more authenticity in the evaluations. Mr. Wood commented that reviewing each educator's binder allows reflection on their styles and their collaborations. Mrs. Barnicle asked administrators to express appreciation for everyone's hard work. Next phase – Dr. Nosek will be meeting with principals.
- Relay for Life – commended the *Café* and applauded the community's involvement.
- Veteran's Breakfast – Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, JHS, 8:00 am
- Skills USA – Mr. Wood was asked about whether other school systems were receiving greater community resources. Mr. Wood indicated some technical high schools may have more resources available to them, but the Tantasqua students did well at the competitions.
- Naturalhigh.org – Teacher of the Year award given to Jamie Armin (JHS). Mr. Starczewski indicated that Ms. Armin will be recognized at a convention in California in September for her work with students in preventing addictive behaviors. Mr. Valanzola accepted the Committee's wish to send a congratulatory letter to Jamie Armin on behalf of the Committee.

### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### a. Students

Will Katsogridakis thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve as a Student Representative on the School Committee. He provided a report on the following:

- CAD Program Field Trip to MA Dept. of Transportation. Tour of MBTA Hub.
- Culinary Arts Program Field Trips

b. Budget – No meeting, no report.

c. Technical – Dr. Waters reported on Coordinated Program Review.

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. Mr. Galonek indicated that he has been trying to identify any special opportunities for private donations to fund a field restoration and lighting project (\$2.75M)

h. Legislative Subcommittee – No meeting, no report.

i. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) – Mr. Haggerty reviewed the committee's work. Changes in the wording were made, but the dilemma remains with the committee's composition. The current concept for membership is non-compliant regarding using student enrollment counts vs. district taxpayer numbers. He noted the RAAC felt we could continue with the 18 member committee, providing each member's vote is weighted. He indicated that the matter will remain on the table for next year.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I – No comments

6. COMMUNICATIONS – No comments

## 7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Educator Evaluation Process – nearing the end of the first cycle. She will be reflecting on the process with administrators.
- Professional Development has been focused on the State's compliance and regulatory areas. Dr. Nosek will form a PD subcommittee to help plan future professional development for the teaching staff.
- TEd Foundation - \$32,000 was given out in grants to the staff.
- Graduation – June 1<sup>st</sup> 2:00 pm
- Class Day – May 29<sup>th</sup> - traditionally, the School Committee hosts and serves pizza to the graduates.
- SWCEC – the school currently rents the property in Dudley. The Board has asked the property owners if they are interested in selling and will be negotiating with the owner.
- Mr. Robert Casaceli is the new TEA president.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II – No comments.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### **Motion 14-70:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption: Policy JICFB – Bullying Prevention and Intervention.

### **Motion 14-71:**

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to amend as follows:

Add as the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph:

Before the start of every school year, the Superintendent shall report to the School Committee the number and nature of bullying incidents/complaints which occurred in the previous school year.

**Motion 14-72:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to strike the words “and nature” from the proposed amendment.

**Motion 14-73:**

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to send Policy JICFB – Bullying Prevention and Intervention back to the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee.

VOTE: All in Favor

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion 14-74:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to send correspondence to Governor Deval Patrick, Mitchell Chester, the Attorney General, the Board of Education and the State Ethics Commission to support the Peabody initiative, as written by the Peabody School Committee, regarding the Commissioner of Education and his affiliation with the National PARCC Consortium.

VOTE: In Favor (8) – Includes Chairman vote  
Opposed (7)

Mr. Valanzola indicated his letter will reflect the vote was not unanimous.

**Motion 14-75:**

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, that the Tantasqua Regional School Committee request the MASC place the following motion on its agenda for consideration at the annual convention:

“The MASC hereby calls upon the State Board of Education to abandon PARCC testing, drop participation in the Common Core and return the Commonwealth to its original MCAS testing system.”

Upon adoption of this motion, the Tantasqua Chairman is asked to reach out to select school committees in the state to enlist their support for this motion at the Annual MASC meeting.

**Motion 14-76:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Galonek, to strike the last paragraph beginning with “Upon adoption” in Motion 14-75.

VOTE: In Favor (13)  
Opposed (1)

VOTE on Motion 14-75 as amended: Voice vote carries as determined by Chair

**Motion 14-77:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District Job Description for the position of Assistant Maintenance Custodian as presented.

**Motion 14-78:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to postpone action until the next meeting to allow time for the Superintendent to check with legal counsel to see if it is a prescribed responsibility of the School Committee to vote on job descriptions.

VOTE: All in Favor

11. OPEN FORUM – No comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion 14-79:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TRSD:pag