

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, June 17, 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
Dan Valcour *

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Megan Panek
Jacob Ryan
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Howard Fife
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
James Cooke
William Gillmeister

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

*NOTE: Mr. Valcour was provided two votes due to a vacant seat in Brimfield.

NOT PRESENT

Larry Mandell (H)

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; Grace McHugh, Student Representative and audience.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Valanzola turned the meeting over to the Superintendent for the purpose of reorganization.

Dr. Nosek called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Motion 14-86:

Mrs. Fitzgerald nominated Michael Valanzola for Chairman, seconded by Mr. Boyce.
Hearing no other nominations, Dr. Nosek closed nominations and called for a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola thanked the members for their vote of confidence and continued the reorganization by calling for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Motion 14-87:

Mr. Ryan nominated William Haggerty for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Panek.
Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Valanzola closed nominations and called for a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola called for nominations for the position of Secretary

Motion 14-88:

Mr. Haggerty nominated Sharron Austin for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Galonek. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Valanzola closed nominations and called for a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

1. MINUTES

Motion 14-89:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of May 20, 2014.

VOTE: In Favor (13)
Abstained (3)

Agenda Order - Mr. Gillmeister requested the 2nd item under Unfinished Business on the agenda (Request to rescind Motion #14-74) be moved to New Business as it is a new request. Mr. Valanzola honored the request.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending May 31, 2014. The utility line items were overdrawn due to extreme cold winter weather but due to the freeze on spending instituted in the past few months, the budget will cover the expenses through the end of the fiscal year with an expected balance of \$100,000 to go into E&D.

Mrs. Boyd indicated that the Budget subcommittee was asked to consider an additional \$75,000 from School Choice funds to the FY2015 Capital plan to fund the additional costs associated with the JH Fire Alarm upgrade project. (see Budget Subcommittee Report)

3. STAFF REPORTS

Matters discussed:

- Graduation – Committee members commented they were impressed with the robed faculty members attending the graduation.
- Class Day – Committee members commented the day was very uplifting.

Obsolete Equipment

Motion 14-90:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, that the following phys-ed and weight room equipment be declared obsolete:

Weight Training Machines/Devices:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| - Lat Pull Machine | - Tricep Press Machine |
| - Preacher Curl Bench | - Incline Bench |
| - (2) Leg Extension/Flexion Machines | - Calf Raise Machine |

Cardio Machines:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| - SciFit Elliptical | - Cybex Stationary Bike |
|---------------------|-------------------------|

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 14-91:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, that a manual lathe (Jet #2, Serial #090680919A, Model BDB-1340A, Stock #321360A be declared obsolete.

VOTE: All in Favor

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Grace McHugh reported on the following student activities:

- Sports – spring sports wrap-up; fall sign-ups; summer leagues.
- Performing Arts
- NHS Inductions
- Student Council – focus to revamp school spirit
- Community Garden
- Floor Hockey fundraiser and lemonade stand fundraisers for fellow student diagnosed with leukemia

b. Budget

Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the following motion was unanimously supported by the Budget Subcommittee.

Motion 14-92:

As a recommendation of the Budget Sub-Committee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved that \$75,000 be transferred from School Choice Funds to the FY2015 budget to cover the increased costs for the JH Fire Alarm update project.

VOTE: All in Favor

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report.

e. By-Law & Policy

Mr. Gillmeister commented the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee met to discuss their recommendation on the policy referred to them (JICFB). Reference: See 5/20/14 minutes, Motions 14-70 through 14-73.

Mr. Cooke withdrew the amendment offered at the last meeting (#14-71).

Motion 14-93:

As a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Gillmeister moved that the following be added as the 2nd paragraph to Policy JICFB – Bullying Prevention and Intervention and further, that the Policy with this addition be approved for second reading and adoption.

“The Superintendent shall annually report in September to the School Committee the number of confirmed bullying incidents and within that report, identify the number of verbal, cyber, and physical bullying instances as long as such report is consistent with the confidentiality provisions of this policy and state law.”

VOTE: All in Favor

- 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 his report on the meeting of May 29th was included in the packet.

Motion 14-94:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to not hold an August meeting, but rather hold an additional September meeting on Saturday, Sept. 6th to be considered as a workshop day with a large percentage of the agenda dedicated to a presentation by the RAAC to discuss their recommended changes to the Regional School Agreement.

Motion 14-95:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to strike the words: “not hold an August meeting, but rather”.

Discussion – Mr. Gillmeister indicated his amendment would allow for an August meeting, and would also provide for the special meeting for the RAAC discussion.

VOTE: Voice vote – failed as declared by the Chair.

VOTE (on #14-94) Voice vote – carried as declared by the Chair

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I – No comments

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter to J. Armin from TRSD Committee
- Resolution Draft
- Interest-Based Bargaining Information – Mrs. Boyd indicated that any member considering serving on the Negotiations Subcommittee Committee should review this information. This negotiation approach requires some training. Units A & B will be coming up for negotiations.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Graduation
- Class Day
- Closing the school year – June 19th
- MASC Conference – reduced costs for early registration.
- Finger printing / background checks for workers in schools (will need a policy)
- The District's Determined Measures report submitted by the June 1st deadline
- Massachusetts Education Partnership Conference attended by Dr. Nosek, Mrs. Boyd and Mr. Casaceli, TEA president.
- Dr. Nosek, Mr. Valanzola and Mr. Boyce welcomed Secretary Malone to Wales Elementary School

Motion 14-98:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to affirm the SWCEC agreement as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Cooke indicated he had concerns over the indemnification clauses and felt that approving the agreement left the school vulnerable to legal suits. Dr. Nosek indicated that the indemnification language was not highlighted as being changed from the prior agreement. Mr. Gillmeister noted that the document included a procedure to amend the agreement.

Motion 14-99:

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to postpone the vote on the SWCEC agreement and refer the SWCEC agreement to the By-Law and Policy subcommittee for their review and recommendation.

Discussion:

Committee members expressed their concern that not approving the agreement could jeopardize the education of students in the 2014-15 programs provided by SWCEC.

VOTE: Voice vote - failed as declared by Chair

VOTE (#14-98) Voice vote – carried as declared by Chair

Motion 14-100:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to refer the SWCEC agreement to the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee to review with the potential to make recommendations for amendments to said agreement. The By-Law & Policy report shall be presented at the October meeting.

Friendly amendment by Mr. Haggerty, seconded by Mr. Boyce, accepted by unanimous consent to add: Any recommendations of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee to amend the SWCEC agreement shall be submitted to legal counsel for review and comment prior to presentation to the School Committee.

VOTE: All in Favor

Request to Rescind Motion

Motion 14-101:

Mr. Valcour moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to rescind Motion 14-74 made and passed at the May 20, 2014 meeting.

Point of Order – Mr. Gillmeister indicated that you can not rescind a motion when an action has been taken based on a vote. Mr. Gillmeister noted he understood that the correspondence, as directed by the motion, had been written which constitutes an action and therefore was not eligible to be rescinded.

Mr. Valanzola ruled against the Point of Order.

Mr. Gillmeister voiced his request to appeal the Chairman's ruling and was provided the opportunity to speak to his appeal. Mr. Gillmeister indicated that once the letter was written, it constituted an action and that it was at the discretion of the Chair to hold back the mailing. Mr. Gillmeister felt the Chair should not have used that discretion because he was directed by majority vote to take an action which he failed to do.

Mr. Valanzola spoke to his reason to accept the request to place an agenda item to rescind the motion. Mr. Valanzola indicated that within 48 hours of the May 20th vote, a member brought forth his request to place on the next meeting agenda consideration to rescind the vote. Mr. Valanzola indicated that the vote was tied and that he, as Chair, broke the tie with his vote and that with such a close vote he wanted to be sure the body had an opportunity to consider the request and he couldn't in good conscious send the letter when a request was made by a fellow member. He added that the motion did not include a timeline to get the letter out and that the request to rescind/reconsider was made before the action of mailing the letter.

Mr. Valanzola reviewed the voting choices – a Yes vote will uphold the decision of the Chair; a No vote will uphold the original vote and the letter as directed by the original motion will be mailed immediately.

VOTE: YES (7)
 NO (9)

Mr. Valanzola indicated the letter will be sent out.

NEW BUSINESS

School Resource Officer – Mr. Ryan requested that an agenda item be placed on the September meeting agenda. Committee members asked that all previous reports and discussions posted in the minutes be redistributed in the meeting packet.

Minutes – Mr. Ryan expressed his concern that the minutes only show the count votes or voice declared votes and do not reflect who was voting for or against the motions. Mr. Valanzola indicated the committee made the decision to use voice votes and when the voice vote is too close to call, to conduct a count vote. He added that any member can ask for a role call vote to be recorded in the minutes.

Sub-Committees – Mr. Valanzola indicated members will be receiving a sub-committee service request asking each member by August 1st to indicate their top three sub-committees choices. He indicated that he tries to give each member their first or second choice.

11. OPEN FORUM – No comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 14-79:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Austin, Secretary

TRSD:pag

NOTE: Motion number sequence include those votes taken during the Joint Meeting of 6/17/2014.