

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, November 18, 2014
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Aimee Campbell
Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty

Holland

Howard Fife
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

James Cooke
Marie Pecore

Megan Panek

Jacob Ryan

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

William Gillmeister (Bk); Larry Mandell (H); Dr. Susan Waters (S)

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Jeffrey Zanghi, Assistant Superintendent for Learning & Teaching; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Business; Christopher Starczewski, JH Principal; Mark Wood, Principal Director - Technical; Grace McHugh and Brytni Simmons, Student Representatives and audience.

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

1. MINUTES

Motion 15-33:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of October 21, 2014.

VOTE: In Favor (14); Abstained (1) Panek

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending Oct. 31, 2014. Heating oil price was previously locked in at \$3.15/gal. The French River Collaborative is expecting to put out the oil bid in February for the following year.

3. STAFF REPORTS

- Mrs. Boyd will share the staff reports with local Town Administrators, Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees to showcase activities at the schools.
- Dr. Nosek indicated the Program of Studies was included in the packet as requested at the prior meeting. Kendra Cantrell, HS Guidance Director, was available at the meeting to field any questions.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Brytni Simmons reported on the technical student activities:

- Culinary – Cornerstone Café activities
- Framingham State College visit

Grace McHugh reported on the following student activities:

- Sports
- Musical, *Anything Goes*
- NHS Can drive
- NHS/Student Council – Toy drive/Battle of the Classes
- Student Council – Pep Rally – 11/26/14

b. Budget

Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee met on Oct. 28, 2014 and voted to approve the Central Office budget which was presented at the joint meeting. The next meeting is scheduled on 1/7/15 to be held at Burgess Elementary in Sturbridge.

c. Technical – No report.

d. Curriculum

Mrs. Fitzgerald reported the subcommittee met on Oct. 27, 2014 and discussed:

- Curriculum initiatives: JH French, AP Physics, Signs of Traditional Crafts (in conjunction with OSV) and Latin
- Class Sizes reviewed: JH revisiting SPED model; SH consistent
- Spring test scores – MCAS and remedial action steps
- Scheduling model at JH
- HS – Increased in enrollments for AP offerings.

Handouts to be provided in the December meeting packet. Next subcommittee meeting is scheduled 12/8/2014.

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

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were included in the packet:

- Memo from Mrs. Boyd re: FY2016 School Budget Liaisons

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- MASC Conference – six members from various school committees attended. Sessions attended: Student and staff feedback – surveys the last piece of the evaluation process; Unfunded mandates; How to speak to the State Auditor (new discipline law); How to receive feedback well and College Boards – changes in SAT & AP tests. She invited other attendees to comment on the sessions they attended.
 - Mr. Haggerty indicated he attended workshops on the following subject matters:

- Use of Social Media to enhance school committee relationships; MIAA – upcoming changes and Conflict of Interest Law/State Ethics. The last session focused on the requirements of keeping school committee and subcommittee minutes and waiving of the conflict of interest related to field trips. The waiver should be done by the hiring authority and needs a form to be filed by the teacher.
- Mrs. Boyd indicated she attended a workshop on OPEB – post employment benefits and will share that information at the December meeting. She also attended a motivational workshop where Herman Boone was the speaker.
- Mrs. Barnicle commented on the social media workshop and the workshop “Less testing, more Learning”.
- Mrs. Pecore noted this was the first conference she’s attended. She attended a workshop related to schools connecting with schools in other countries through technology as well as a workshop on identifying learning problems as early as possible.
- Educator evaluations were completed for 94.3% of eligible licensed educators. Breakdown: 0.6% Exemplary; 98.8% Proficient; 0.6 Needs Improvement; 0% Unsatisfactory. Dr. Nosek thanked all staff for their hard work. Mr. Haggerty congratulated all staff for adhering to the rubric. There was discussion on whether DESE would review the variances submitted by all MA schools to ensure the scores are reliable and valid. Dr. Nosek did not think there would be a review, but she felt the Tantasqua evaluations reflected a genuine and thoughtful review.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments

10. NEW BUSINESS

MCAS Presentation

Mr. Zanghi reviewed the 2014 MCAS results for the Junior High, Senior High and Technical Division. The review and materials prompted discussions on planned action steps and the engagement of parents through technology.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 15-34:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor