

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Brookfield

James Cooke
William Gillmeister
Marie Pecore

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle
William Haggerty
Megan Panek

Jacob Ryan

Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Howard Fife
Elias Gillen

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Aimee Campbell (Bm); Michelle Fitzgerald, Gary Galonek (S)

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 Principle; Mark Wood, Principal Director - Technical and audience.

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

1. MINUTES

Motion 15-41:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of December 16, 2014.

VOTE: In Favor (11)
Abstained (3) Anderstrom, Fife, Waters

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending Dec. 31, 2014. She indicated there were no significant concerns.
- OPEB – Other Post Employment Benefits – Mrs. Boyd discussed funding future liability with the recommendation to establish an OPEB trust fund and to develop the fund's agreement with legal counsel. She indicated that the audit reported indicated that not having a provision/fund to cover this unfunded liability, determined to be \$27M by an independent actuarial firm, may affect future bond ratings. Once money is added to the trust, the funds may only be used for the expressed purpose of the trust. Currently retiree's health insurance costs are covered in the annual budget.

Motion 15-42:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to establish an OPEB Trust Fund and develop the agreement with legal counsel.

Discussion: There was significant discussion. Mrs. Boyd indicated that in the last 10 years the cost of health insurance has increased 68%. She noted that changes made in the school health insurance coverage resulted in a slowing of that rate, with the past 5

years showing a 20% increase. The motion does not include putting any money into the fund, just establishing the fund. Mr. Gillmeister added that he thinks the legislature should review and the Negotiation subcommittee going forward should also look at options in any negotiations related to retiree's insurance coverage.

VOTE: In Favor (9)
Opposed (5)

Motion Carries

Without objections Mr. Valanzola moved Public Access to allow the attending legislative contingency to address the Committee.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Attending: Representative Tom Smola, Representative Peter Durant, Representative Don Berthiaume and from Ann Gobi's office, Tyler Wolan.

Each of the attending legislative members addressed the Committee indicating they were looking forward to working with and hearing about the Committee's concerns regarding local school budgets and other concerns such as PARCC, Common Core and MCAS testing. They are currently looking into the legal aspects of the previous Governor's decision on the 9C cuts. Mr. Valanzola thanked the distinguished delegation for coming to the meeting and expressing their desire to work with the Committee.

3. STAFF REPORTS

- Mr. Haggerty indicated he appreciated seeing the AP information. Mr. Lucas discussed the rate of return on the Mass Insight project.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students – No report (students are amid final exams)

b. Budget

Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported the Budget subcommittee has met three times, reviewing the JH, SH, Tech and 5000 series. The next meeting is scheduled in Wales. She indicated there was little chance to have the Governor's budget in time to report at the Feb. meeting.

c. Technical

- Dr. Waters reported on the subcommittee meeting held earlier in the evening. The discussion included a review of the Exploratory program and how students select their area of interest. Students rate their choice for program 1 – 4. Once student rank is determined using each student's grades as well as a rubric on their safety, technical skills, interacting, initiative and attendance in each of the nine-shop rotations, they are placed into the tech programs. As programs fill, students are then put into their next choice. Shifting occurs if openings occur on any program's wait list. This year, placement results are: 97% in their 1st choice, 99% is either their 1st or 2nd choice.
- Post graduate – 18 month follow-up – The state requested Perkins follow-ups asks graduates if they are working or in school beyond high school. The response rate was 91.43%.
- Culinary Arts participating in Worcester's Best Chef Competition
- Next meeting: March 17, 2015 – 6:00 pm JH Library

d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report.

e. By-Law & Policy

The following motions made by subcommittee, no second required.

Motion 15-43:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for Second Reading and adoption: Policy ADDA – Background Checks.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-44:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for Second Reading and adoption: ADDA-R – DCJIS Model Cori Policy.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-45:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for First Reading: JH – Student Absences and Excuses.

Discussion: Suggestion to include a provision for visits to schools/colleges and for employment opportunities.

Mr. Gillmeister agreed that the subcommittee will review the suggestions prior to presentation for 2nd reading.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-46:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for First Reading: JII – Student Complaints and Grievances.

Discussion: Questioned on whether there was a policy providing due process.

Mr. Gillmeister referenced Policy JIC which sets forth a due process procedure.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-47:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for First Reading: JK – Student Conduct.

Discussion: The Committee discussed whether the building rules reference should be spelled out in the policy. Mr. Gillmeister indicated he had suggested an amendment at the subcommittee level, but the motion was presented in accordance with the subcommittee's vote.

Motion 15-48:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to amend Policy JK – Student Conduct as follows:

- 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: strike the word “staff” so the sentence reads: “In order to do this, each school in the District.....”
- 2nd paragraph, add to the end of the final sentence: “and shall be published in the Student Handbook,”

VOTE: In Favor (9)
Opposed (3)

Motion Carries

Mr. Valanzola called for a vote on Motion 15-47, as amended by Motion 15-48.

VOTE: All in Favor

The next meeting of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee is scheduled Feb. 2, 2015.

f. Negotiations

Mr. Fife reported that negotiations have begun with the teacher unit. Members of the subcommittee attended the negotiation training held Jan. 10, 2014 from 8:00 – 4:00. Next meetings are scheduled: Jan 21st and 24th.

g. Building & Physical Plant – No meeting, no report.

h. Legislative Subcommittee

The subcommittee's report was included the meeting packet.

Motion 15-49:

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, that the Tantasqua Regional School District Committee ask that our state representatives file legislation related to nullification of the Common Core Standards.

NOTE: The legislation language is detailed in the Legislative Subcommittee report/minutes for their meeting of December 3, 2014.

Motion 15-50:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek, to table the motion (15-49) indefinitely.

Motion 15-51:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek, to move the question.

Discussion: Mr. Valanzola indicated a vote in favor will stop all discussion and move to an immediate vote on Motion 15-50.

VOTE: In Favor – determined by voice vote by the Chairman

VOTE: (Motion 15-50 to table indefinitely)

In Favor (7) – Chair tie vote required: (+1 In Favor)

Opposed (7)

Motion Carries

i. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC)

Mr. Haggerty noted the subcommittee is still waiting for information/decision from Christine Lynch. Dr. Nosek indicated she had followed-up, but had not heard back yet.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were included in the packet:

- Legislation letter re: 9C cuts
- Congratulatory letter to Reagan Paras/Students
- Letter to Stephen Hemman (MARS)
- SWCEC Annual Report 2013-14
- News article on AP Program

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Chap 70 Public Hearing to be held at the Nashoba HS in Bolton

- ½ PD Day – 1/23/15
- TEd Foundation RFP process
- TEd fundraiser – Tastefully TEd at the Publick House on Jan 30th
- Prep for NESAs visit
- Reminder that the February School Committee meeting is Wednesday, Feb 25th
- Superintendent Evaluation – Mr. Valanzola indicated the mid-year review has been completed with indication for all is “on target”. The documentation is available for member review.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments

Motion 15-52:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

VOTE: In Favor (3)
 Opposed (11)

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Fife indicated that as the Chairman of Holland’s Open Space Committee, he wished to extend his appreciation to the administration for helping with the student surveys.

Mrs. Pecore asked whether the Committee could get a copy of the survey given to the students regarding Holland’s current and future recreational needs. Dr. Nosek indicated she could email the link to members.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 15-53:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. William Gillmeister, Secretary