

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2015
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Aimee Campbell
Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Brookfield

William Gillmeister
Marie Pecore

Sturbridge

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

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Elias Gillen

Wales

Edward Boyce

NOT PRESENT

James Cooke (Bk); Howard Fife (H); Michelle Fitzgerald, (S); Michael Valanzola (W)

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, Principal Director – Technical; Grace McHugh, Student Representative and audience.

In Mr. Valanzola's absence, Mr. Haggerty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

1. MINUTES

Motion 15-54:

Dr. Waters moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to accept the regular session minutes of January 20, 2015 as corrected.

Correction – remove Mr. Fife's name from list of members not present.

VOTE: In Favor (12)
 Abstained (1) Galonek

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending Jan. 31, 2015. She indicated there were no significant concerns.

3. STAFF REPORTS

- Mr. Wood indicated that there are 105 district applicants and 20 out-of-district applicants seeking placement in the various technical programs.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students – Grace McHugh reported on the following:

- Sports updates
- Cheerleading competition
- Spring sports try-outs

- NHS & Student Council working together to create packages for deployed military members.
- Special Olympics fundraiser
- Course selections for Juniors

b. Budget

Motion 15-55:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to bring forth the FY2016 Tantasqua Regional School budget of \$21,000,552.00 to Public Hearing on March 17, 2015.

Discussion:

The budget increase is 3.05%. The drivers of the increase include: health insurance increases, two additional teaching positions recommended by the Curriculum Subcommittee and expected contractual obligations. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Starczewski discussed the teaching positions to be restored – at the JH, the funding would restore the librarian position; at the HS the funding would finance a position focused 2/3 science and 1/3 physical education.

The state funding figures are not available at this time.

VOTE: All in Favor

The Public Hearing on the budget will be held prior to the March regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. (3/17/2015).

Mrs. Boyd indicated she hasn't yet worked out how the increase will impact each individual town. Any residential shift in student population has a direct effect on each town's share of the budget and she will need to discuss the budget's implications with each town finance committee.

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report.

e. By-Law & Policy

The following motions made by subcommittee, no second required.

Motion 15-56:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for Second Reading and adoption: Policy JH – Student Absences and Excuses.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-57:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for Second Reading and adoption: Policy JII - Student Complaints and Grievances.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-58:

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

Motion 15-59:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to amend Policy JK to include language intended by the subcommittee as follows:

Add words (bolded): 2nd para., 3rd sentence: “.....must be consistent with **law and school committee policy.**”

VOTE: All in Favor

VOTE: All in Favor (#15-58 as amended by #15-59)

Motion 15-60:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for First Reading: Policy GCCD - Domestic Violence Leave Policy.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-61:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for First Reading: Policy JIC - Student Discipline.

VOTE: All in Favor

Dr. Waters asked whether the school notifies parents “day of” for any student absences. Dr. Nosek answered that it is Tantasqua’s policy to notify parents “day of”, but adopted policies reflect state legal language.

f. Negotiations

Mrs. Boyd reported the committee is continuing discussions with the union, but have yet to reach any tentative agreements.

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

h. Legislative Subcommittee – No meeting, no report.

i. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC)

Mr. Haggerty indicated the subcommittee is waiting for DESE correspondence regarding the one man/one vote issue. The subcommittee’s next meeting will be March 23rd or 30th.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Mr. Casaceli, Teacher Assoc. President, indicated the dialog between the negotiating parties feels positive.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were included in the packet:

- E & D Report – Mrs. Boyd indicated the figures have been certified. The E & D balance will be discussed by the Budget Subcommittee for a recommendation to see if any amount should be applied to the FY2016 budget.
- Superintendent’s mid-cycle goals update.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Strategic Plan Report - Dr. Nosek reported on the advances in each of the goals listed under the two focus areas: Community Connections and Teaching & Learning. A handout provided a list of activities and actions developed in each of the schools.

Committee members asked:

- That an update report be provided on the website and distributed to member towns.
- Provide in next month's meeting packet a list of extra-curricular activities available to students.

Mr. Haggerty indicated it was good to hear Dr. Nosek discuss all the strategic initiatives that Mr. Zanghi, Assistant Supt. for Learning & Teaching, was instrumental in moving forward.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. OPEN FORUM

- Mr. Boyce asked whether administration could look into the possibility of installing a cell tower at Tantasqua both as a revenue generating opportunity and to improve cell reception for all users.
- Committee questioned whether FCC Net Neutrality Ruling would have any affect.
- April Meeting (falls during school vacation): Wednesday, April 29th

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 15-62:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Gillen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary