

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle
Michelle Fitzgerald *
Gary Galonek

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

James Cooke
William Gillmeister
Marie Pecore

Dr. Susan Waters

*Arrived 7:53 PM

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Aimee Campbell (Bm), William Haggerty, Megan Panek, Jacob Ryan (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 7:02 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members

Mr. Valanzola indicated there are two outgoing members: Howard Fife and James Cooke. He noted that Mr. Fife had served for 11 years and Mr. Cooke for 12 years. Mr. Valanzola asked the Committee to join in him thanking both members for their dedication and years of service. Mr. Cooke accepted a certificate in recognition of his service.

1. MINUTES

Motion 15-75:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to accept the regular session minutes of March 17, 2015.

VOTE: In Favor (10)
Abstained (1) Anderstrom

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2015. She indicated the expenditure for heating oil was higher, but there were other reductions that offset the higher heating oil expense.
- FY16 Budget – Mrs. Boyd indicated that the House Ways & Means budget has added a small increase in Chap. 70 funding. The Regional transportation reimbursement shows an approximate increase of \$27K over the Governor's Budget. The Budget Subcommittee met prior to the meeting to discuss distributing the expected increase in transportation reimbursement to the member town's assessments.

Motion 15-76:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to revise the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2016 Transportation Assessments at \$520,820.00 distributed as follows:

Brimfield	Brookfield	Holland	Sturbridge	Wales
\$116,913	\$101,890	\$69,194	\$179,536	\$53,287

.VOTE: All in Favor

Debt Refinancing – Mrs. Boyd discussed refinancing the bonds on the building. The estimated savings is approximately \$1M over the 6 remaining years of which \$750K would be realized by the state and \$250K by the district’s towns. Given the timing of the bond restructuring, Mrs. Boyd indicated she would need a formal vote by the Committee after June 24, 2015 and asked the Committee when would be the best date and time to achieve a quorum. Based on a poll of the members present, the Committee scheduled a special meeting for the purpose of voting on Debt Refinancing on **Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 7:30 am.**

3. STAFF REPORTS

- Overnight Trip

Motion 15-77:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to approve the overnight trip to attend the National Conference of the Business Professionals of America May 6th – 10th in Anaheim California as described in the memo dated April 14, 2015 from Mr. Wood to Dr. Nosek.

VOTE: All in Favor

MAVA Outstanding Student 2015

Dr. Nosek introduced Sam Robertson of Wales, the 2015 MAVA Outstanding Student. Dr. Nosek reviewed Sam’s achievements as a student. Sam will be attending Fitchburg State in the fall. The Committee joined Dr. Nosek in congratulating Sam Robertson.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Students – No report
- Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee met earlier and discussed the regional transportation assessments (Motion made under #2 Financial Report) and the Debt refunding.
- Technical – No meeting, no report.
- Curriculum – No report.
- By-Law & Policy – Mr. Gillmeister indicated the subcommittee has scheduled a meeting on May 6th and will take up the policy of cameras on buses referred to the subcommittee by the full committee at the March 17th meeting.
- Negotiations – See Executive Session

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were included in the packet:

- Letter to Louis Lariviere

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek discussed the following:

- Day on the Hill 4/29/15
 - Members attending: M. Valanzola, P. Barnicle, G. Galonek, W. Gillmeister and Mrs. Boyd and Dr. Nosek
 - Met with three representatives: Representatives Berthiaume and Smola and State Senator Gobi
 - Thanked the culinary students and Mr. Lariviere for their participation.
 - Regulations
 - Mr. Gillmeister commented that he thought the Committee should be more aggressive with our legislators regarding over regulations.
 - Mr. Valanzola noted that the Governor has charged all state departments, including the DOE, with a full review of each regulation to determine whether they are over-burdensome and further to make recommendations on whether each regulation should be updated or eliminated.
 - Testing – Mr. Boyce asked whether there was discussion related to the student and teacher time spent on testing. Dr. Nosek indicated that DOE is holding a series of hearings across the state on this issue. Hearings will be held throughout the summer. Dr. Waters added that MASC and MASS can serve as the resource to express the Committee's concerns to our legislators.
 - Mr. Cooke added that all mandated regulations should require a cost benefit analysis.
- Community Innovation Challenge Grant – Dr. Nosek indicated she has filed the final report of the positive impact the grant provided to our communities. She noted that the goals and benchmarks were achieved. Mr. Boyce added that the modern IT infrastructure for the town of Wales could only have been achieved with the schools' help and the grant funding.
- Superintendent's Evaluation – Dr. Nosek reminded everyone that the June 16th meeting is a Joint Meeting with Union #61 with the Superintendent's evaluation on the agenda. Mr. Valanzola noted that prior to that meeting date, the evaluation documents will be sent to each member and he asked that each member complete the documents. He added that as a Committee, one of the most critical investments made is to hire and manage the Superintendent. He emphasized the importance of completing the Superintendent's evaluation documents.
- Professional Development Day – scheduled May 1, 2015 (1/2 day)

- AP Students – Mr. Lucas met with the students taking the AP testing. 300 students are taking 414 exams – the highest number of participants ever.
- MMSI - Mass Insight Education – Mr. Valanzola thanked the administrators and teaching staff on this great partnership.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments

10. NEW BUSINESS

- School Choice

Motion 15-78:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mr. Gillen, to continue as a school choice school – school year 2015-16.

Discussion: Dr. Nosek indicated this is for twenty-two 7th grade seats.

By unanimous consent the motion was amended by inserting after ‘...school choice school’ the words ‘with twenty-two 7th grade seats’ so that the motion now is” to continue as a school choice school with twenty-two 7th grade seats for school year 2015-16”.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Resolution

Motion 15-79:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to direct the Legislative Subcommittee to develop a resolution to express to our Legislators and Governor our concerns regarding over burdensome regulations. The said resolution to be brought before the full school committee at the June meeting for a vote.

VOTE: Voice vote – Mr. Valanzola declared the motion failed.

Mr. Gillmeister requested a counted vote.

Counted vote: In Favor (4) Opposed (7) Motion Fails

11. OPEN FORUM – No comments

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 15-80:

Dr. Waters moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to enter into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, §21A(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effort on the bargaining position as declared by the Chair. The Committee will reconvene the meeting in open session for the purpose of voting and adjournment.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES: Anderstrom, Barnicle, Boyce, Cooke, Galonek, Gillen, Gillmeister, Noyes-Miller, Pecore, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

Motion 15-81:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to end Executive Session and return to open session at 8:34 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES: Anderstrom, Barnicle, Boyce, Cooke, Fitzgerald, Galonek, Gillen, Gillmeister, Noyes-Miller, Pecore, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

Motion 15-82:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Tantasqua Education Association (Unit A) and the Tantasqua Regional School Committee for July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018 and to authorize the Chairman to sign said contract.

Roll call vote requested.

VOTE: In Favor (10)
 Opposed (1) Cooke
 Abstained (1) Fitzgerald

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 15-74:

Dr. Waters moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag