

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Junior High School Library

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

Steve Anderstrom
Elias Gillen

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
William Gillmeister

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Aimee Campbell (Bm)

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 and Brytni Simmons, Student Representatives and audience.

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

Recognition

• Emergency Service

Mr. Valanzola indicated the Committee would recognize two faculty members, Jackie Berube, School Nurse, and Keith Ventimiglia, teacher, for taking actions to save a student's life. Mr. Starczewski reported that just prior to February vacation week, a student was found unresponsive. Following the emergency protocol, 911 was called, the school nurse asked for Mr. Ventimiglia (an EMT) and the team engaged an AED to help save the life of the student. The student was hospitalized, but recovered and was able to return to school after vacation.

Mr. Valanzola welcomed Representatives Smola and Berthiaume, along with representatives from the Sturbridge Police and Fire Departments to present citations to Ms. Berube and Mr. Ventimiglia on behalf of the State Senate and the House of Representatives. Committee members were invited to attend the Sturbridge Town Meeting where the Police and Fire Departments will also recognize the two faculty members.

• Membership

Mr. Valanzola welcomed back Sharron Austin from Brookfield.

He indicated that this meeting was the last meeting for both Aimee Campbell and Eli Gillen.

1. MINUTES

Motion 15-84:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of April 29, 2015.

VOTE: In Favor (10)
Abstained (4) Austin, Haggerty, Panek, Ryan

Motion 15-85:

Mr. Anderstrom moved, seconded by Mr. Gillen, to accept the Executive Session minutes of April 29, 2015.

VOTE: In Favor (10)
Abstained (4) Austin, Haggerty, Panek, Ryan

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2015. She indicated there were no issues closing the year. She noted that the Go Math project was a 7th grade pilot program but it was too late to budget funds for program materials in next year's budget. She indicated she anticipated using some FY15 funds for next year's Go Math materials.
- FY16 Budget – Mrs. Boyd indicated that the region may receive some excess funds for regional transportation. In discussion with the Budget Subcommittee, she recommended the establishment of a Regional Transportation Reserve Fund with any reimbursement funds in excess of \$590,000 to be placed into this fund to be used for future transportation costs.

Motion 15-86:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to establish a Regional Transportation Reserve Fund and that any state reimbursement funds received in excess of \$590,000 be placed in said Regional Transportation Reserve Fund to be used for future regional transportation costs.

VOTE: All in Favor

- OPEB – Retiree's Health Insurance Trust Fund

Motion 15-87:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, that the Tantasqua Regional School District adopt MGL c.32B, §20 and authorize the creation of a Health & Welfare Trust Fund which shall be known as the Tantasqua Regional School District Retirees' Health Insurance Trust Fund as described in the Declaration of Trust presented to the Committee.

Motion 15-88:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to commit the Declaration of Trust as described in Motion 15-87 to the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee for review and that the recommendation of the subcommittee would be brought back to full committee in June.

Discussion

- Not looking to immediately fund the Trust.
- How would the trust be amended? Mrs. Boyd indicated she would check with legal counsel.
- Discussion on whether the review should be in the hands of the By-Law & Policy or the Budget subcommittee.

Motion 15-89:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to amend motion #15-88 by changing the subcommittee committed to review from the By-Law & Policy to the Budget Subcommittee.

VOTE: Voice Vote – Fails

Discussion returns to Motion #15-88.

By unanimous consent, the time frame to return the Subcommittee's recommendation to the full committee would be June or September.

VOTE: Voice Vote – Motion #15-88 passes

Mr. Galonek questioned whether the current vacancy on the By-Law & Policy subcommittee would be filled. Mr. Valanzola asked for any volunteer to contact him, but generally appointments are made at the September meeting.

3. STAFF REPORTS – No comments.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Technical program report

- Skills USA state conference results
- Freshman & Sophomore hospitality students visit to Sturbridge Host
- 22 students attended construction day
- Culinary & Hospitality students visit to the Castle Restaurant in Leicester
- Manufacturing trade show
- Nurse Assistant pinning ceremony
- Non-residents reception for new students

Academic activities

- AP Testing / MCAS testing
- Finals for seniors
- Field trips
- Student Council – blood drive
- Teacher Appreciation week
- Class elections
- Student Council elections
- NHS Inductions
- Sports updates

Mr. Boyce requested that Mr. Lucas provide a summary report of colleges and job placements for graduating seniors.

Mr. Lucas commented on the extraordinary schools to which Tantasqua students had been accepted noting that more financial aid packages were offered and he felt a degree of credit should be given to the additional AP course opportunities available to students.

b. Budget – No report

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum – No report.

e. By-Law & Policy – Mr. Gillmeister indicated the subcommittee met to discuss the policies to be reviewed under Unfinished and New Business. He apologized to the Committee as there was supposed to be included in the packets a proposal for an amendment to the Bylaws to strike the section establishing the Legislative Subcommittee and adding the responsibilities of the Legislative Subcommittee to the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee. That proposed amendment will be brought forward at the June meeting.

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 the subcommittee remains in limbo regarding the membership issue, but the other revisions should move forward. The agreement with non-membership issues will be brought forth to the June meeting. It was noted that other changes regarding membership could be presented to the towns for approval, and with local support of the amended agreement, the Committee could return to DESE for approval. The next RAAC meeting is June 25th at 7:45 a.m.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments

6. COMMUNICATIONS – No items

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek discussed the following:

- Superintendent's Evaluation – members will be sent both hard copy and electronic versions of the documents needed to complete the Superintendent's evaluation, including the DESE rubric. The documents will be provided allowing a 7-10 day turn-around time and an allotment of time for the Chairs of Tantasqua and Union 61 to compile the results prior to the Joint Committee meeting scheduled on Tuesday, June 16th at 6:00 pm. The Joint Committee agreed to publicize the names of those members who completed the evaluation by the deadline.
- Graduation: June 7th at 2:00 p.m.
- Class Day: June 4th.
- Memo re: BEDA (see New Business)

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion 15-90:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve Policy JIC Student Discipline for Second Reading and adoption.

VOTE: All in Favor

10. NEW BUSINESS

Motion 15-91:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve Policy EEAF Digital Video Cameras Transportation for First Reading.

Discussion: Most of McCarthy buses are equipped, but not being used due to the lack of a policy. Sturbridge buses will need to be equipped and Mrs. Boyd has been in discussion with the Town of Sturbridge.

VOTE: All in Favor

- BEDA

Motion 15-92:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to amend Policy BEDA – Notification of School Committee Meetings to include the adoption of 940 CMR 29.10 – Remote Participation Policy.

Discussion: This move will allow the school to post their own meetings rather than relying on each town clerk, some of whom are part-time positions. Meeting notices will still be provided to the town clerks, but for legal purposes, the school will be able to post its own meetings.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Handbook Revisions

Motion 15-93:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve the High School and Junior High School Handbook revisions as presented.

Discussion: The following two corrections were accepted by unanimous consent:

- JH – Pg 1, 4th bullet under Absence/ Excessive absenteeism – should read: “....to cause **school attendance.**”
- JH – Pg 2, sentence under Discipline – should read: “.....respectful **and responsible....**”

VOTE: All in Favor

11. OPEN FORUM

Old Sturbridge Village Charter School – It was suggested that a letter be sent to OSV inviting them to a meeting to discuss the proposed Charter School. The Committee was surprised that OSV hadn't contacted the administration. It was noted that the OSV Letter of Intent to operate a Charter School must be filed by early June. The matter will be added to the next meeting agenda. Mr. Galonek indicated that he would be happy to ask James Donahue, President of OSV, to make a presentation at the upcoming Joint Committee meeting as the matter will be of interest to all the local school committees.

Dr. Waters thanked Dr. Nosek for sending a letter of appreciation to the town of Sturbridge DPW and Police Departments regarding the safety of the roads during this past winter. Dr. Nosek indicated the information received from the local towns' DPW and Police departments was critical in making the decisions whether school should be cancelled, and she was thankful for the information provided. She indicated the same appreciation letter was sent to each town.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 15-94:

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

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary