

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, June 16, 2015
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Michele-Lee Shea
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Jacob Ryan
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Steve Anderstrom

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
William Gillmeister

Wales

Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Megan Panek (S), Edward Boyce (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; Michael Poulin, Technical General Advisory Committee and audience.

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

RECOGNITION OF JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT LEADERS

Dr. Nosek and Mr. Starczewski discussed the achievements of the Project 351/NELMS Scholar leaders. The students were introduced as asked to comment on their programs and interactions with other student leaders.

REORGANIZATION

For the purposes of reorganization, Dr. Nosek presided over this portion of the meeting. Dr. Nosek called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Mr. Haggerty nominated Michael Valanzola for the position of Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Dr. Nosek closed nominations. A paper ballot vote was taken asking members to write the name of their choice.

VOTE: 12 – Michael Valanzola

Mr. Valanzola thanked the Committee for their vote of confidence and called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Mr. Ryan nominated William Haggerty for the position of Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Valanzola closed nominations. A paper ballot vote was taken asking members to write the name of their choice.

VOTE: 12 – William Haggerty

Mr. Valanzola called for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Mr. Galonek nominated Mr. Gillmeister.

Mr. Ryan nominated Ms. Austin

VOTE: 6 - William Gillmeister (elected) 4 - Sharron Austin

1. MINUTES

Motion 15-99:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept the regular session minutes of May 19, 2015.

VOTE: All in Favor (10)

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending May 31, 2015. She indicated there were no issues closing the year. The funds for purchasing the Go Math materials have not yet been encumbered. The projected fund balance for E&D is \$100,000 - \$150,000.
- FY16 Budget – Mrs. Barnicle congratulated the administration on getting the Tantasqua budget passed by its member towns.

3. STAFF REPORTS

- Mr. Valanzola reported he had spent time with student leader, Thomas Brady, at the State House.
- Mr. Haggerty commented on his involvement with graduation in Mr. Valanzola's absence.
- Mrs. Barnicle commented on how much she enjoyed Class Day and on how many scholarships were distributed to the students.

Motion 15-100:

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the trip to Costa Rica in April 2016 as presented in a memo from Steve Kelly, Science teacher.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 15-101:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve the 8th Grade Band Trip to Washington DC/New York, NY in June 2016 as presented in a memo from Mr. Starczewski dated 6/16/2015.

VOTE: All in Favor

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students – no report

b. Budget – No report

c. Technical

Mr. Poulin provided the Technical General Advisory Committee report. As mandated by Ch. 74 regulations, the Advisory Committee reviewed programs, equipment and materials and made recommendations. Mr. Poulin reviewed the Committee's activities and how their recommendations were built into the budget.

The Committee thanked Mr. Poulin for the report.

d. Curriculum – No report.

e. By-Law & Policy

Motion 15-102:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to adopt the Tantasqua Regional School District Retirees' Health Insurance Trust Fund Declaration of Trust as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

f. Negotiations

Mr. Valanzola reported the negotiations with Unit B would be commencing Saturday, June 13th.

g. Building & Physical Plant

Mr. Galonek discussed handicap access to the Press Box. Mrs. Boyd indicated that because costs were prohibitive, only employees were allowed in the press box. There are plans to put this item on the capital plan list.

h. Legislative Subcommittee – No meeting, no report.

i. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty indicated non-membership revisions should move forward. A copy of these proposed amendments to the agreement were included in the packet.

Motion 15-103:

Mr. Haggerty moved to adopt the all amendments to the Regional School District Agreement Between the Towns of Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge and Wales with respect to the formation of the Tantasqua Regional School District except Section III and to submit these amendments to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for their review.

Discussion:

- There is currently a case in front of the Supreme Court regarding the one-man-one-vote issue so the RAAC will continue to monitor this.
- Because of this the revisions contained in this vote do not address the membership or the one-man- one-vote issue in Section III.

VOTE: All in Favor

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Christine Randall asked whether parents had on-line access to their children's grades at the High School. It was noted that there is no formal access, but teachers of at-risk students are in contact with parents regarding their children's achievements.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- MASC Talking Points – distributed at meeting
- Building Project Acceptance

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek discussed the following:

- Graduation & Class Day
- OSV – Charter School – Dr. Nosek spoke with James Donahue, President/CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. He indicated that the plans are currently in the exploratory phase, but agreed to come before the Tantasqua Committee if they proceed. Mr. Galonek indicated that they have already hired a "Founding Principal" and as a member of the OSV Board of Trustees, he reported OSV is moving forward focusing first on elementary education.

He recommended that a meeting with the Sturbridge Elementary School Committee would be in order. Tantasqua will re-extend an invitation for the September meeting.

- Personnel – still in the process of hiring for open positions. The Committee asked for a list of retirees and asked the Chair to send a note of congratulations and best wishes to each on behalf of the Committee.
- August meeting – the next meeting was scheduled on: Wednesday, August 26th
- Dr. Nosek thanked the Committee for their support throughout the 2014-15 school year.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion 15-104:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve two policies for Second Reading and adoption:

- Policy EEAF Digital Video Cameras on School Transportation and Remote Participation Policy
- Policy BEDA Notifications of School Committee Meetings.

VOTE: All in Favor

10. NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed By-Law changes (2/3rd vote required)

Motion 15-105:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve the amendments to By-laws of the Tantasqua Regional School District Committee as submitted.

Discussion:

- Functions of the Legislative subcommittee incorporated into the functions of the By-Law subcommittee. (Art VI, Sec 5 & 8)
- By unanimous consent: Eliminate Legislative subcommittee listed in Art VI, Sec 1.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Regional Agreement Amendments – see Committee Reports – RAAC

11. OPEN FORUM

- REMINDER - Meeting scheduled: June 25th 7:30 a.m.
- Sub-committee selection process – members were asked to watch their emails during the summer. Members will be asked to submit their top three choices for subcommittee assignments. Assignments will be made for the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.
- Request for agenda item – Mr. Ryan requested the subject matter “Resolution calling for moratorium on high-stakes testing standardized tests” be placed on the August meeting agenda.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 15-106:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary