

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Wednesday, August 26, 2015
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Michele-Lee Shea
Dan Valcour

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
Megan Cunningham
William Gillmeister

Sturbridge

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

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Elda Dwyer

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Erik Iller (H)

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Business; Michael Lucas, SH Principal; Christopher Starczewski, JH Principal; 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.

INTRODUCTIONS

With newly elected members, Mr. Valanzola asked everyone to introduce themselves and state the town each represented.

1. MINUTES

Motion 16-03:

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of June 16, 2015.

VOTE: In Favor (12); Abstentions (3)

Motion 16-04:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to accept the minutes of June 25, 2015.

VOTE: In Favor (10); Abstentions (5)

Motion 16-05:

Dr. Waters moved, seconded by Mr. Anderstrom, to accept the minutes of July 13, 2015.

VOTE: In Favor (7); Abstentions (8)

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Bond Refinancing – Mrs. Boyd asked for a vote confirming the vote made on June 25, 2015, Motion #15-107.

Motion 16-06:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to confirm Motion 15-107 made on 6/25/2015 as follows:

Voted: That the vote taken by the Committee on June 25, 2015 (the "Vote") to authorize the issuance of refunding bonds in the amount of \$11,520,000 to refund all or a portion of the District's \$39,670,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds dated December 1, 2005 maturing on and after October 1, 2016 (collectively, the "Refunded Bonds"), which Vote

authorized that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to the Vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the Refunded Bonds and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds, in order to reduce interest costs, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, is hereby ratified, approved and confirmed in all respects.

VOTE: In Favor (14); Abstentions (1)

Mrs. Boyd indicated the refinancing savings will be realized by the five member towns will be \$277,142.76 over five years. The state will save \$781,057.94.

- E & D – Mrs. Boyd reported the amount of \$93,432 going to E&D was less than the anticipated \$150,000 due to end of year School Choice expenses. During and towards the end of the school year 13 students moved into member towns, but the students elected to remain in the schools where they had begun their school years. Four of the placements were virtual placements which expense at a slightly higher tuition rate. Tantasqua wasn't billed for the \$60,000 - \$70,000 placements until June. She indicated the Budget Subcommittee may want to revisit the School Choice expenses in the FY16 budget.

3. STAFF REPORTS

- College acceptances and placements - Mr. Lucas provided the list of as requested.
- Obsolete Textbooks

Motion 16-07:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to declare the following materials as obsolete:

- 297 Merrill Pre-Algebra books (Glencoe), 1999
- 160 Math Connects books(Glencoe-McGraw-Hill), 2010
- 155 Pre Algebra (Glencoe-McGraw-Hill), 2010
- 280 Pre Algebra (Addison Wesley), 1990

VOTE: All in Favor

- Tri-Soccer Storage Shed

Mr. Starczewski indicated the Tri-Soccer League has requested permission to place an 8'x8' prefabricated type of storage shed at Tantasqua. The league's equipment had been stored in a Tantasqua storage shed, but the space was needed for school purposes.

Motion 16-08:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mr. Anderstrom, to approve the Tri-Soccer League's request to place a shed to house their equipment.

VOTE: All in Favor

The Committee asked Mrs. Boyd to research the insurance liability.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Students – No report
- Budget – No report
- Technical – No report
- Curriculum – No report.
- By-Law & Policy – No report
- Negotiations

Mr. Valanzola reported the Negotiations Subcommittee, with regards to the Unit B contract, did commence meetings in June and July.

g. Building & Physical Plant

Mr. Galonek reported that a \$45,000 grant was received in August, some of which was used for CAD computer upgrades.

In addition to other projects, the Subcommittee and administration will spend time this year reviewing the building use application including the fee structure.

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty indicated non-membership revisions/amendments were submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for their review as voted at the June 16th meeting. UMass was asked to review the standard deviation dealing with membership composition. At this point, the RAAC has not heard back on any determinations.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Kim Lapworth, President of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council, introduced herself. She attended the meeting to support the resolution in opposition of high stakes testing that is on the meeting agenda under New Business.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito re: Perkins Instructional Equipment Grant
- Letter from Special Olympics Massachusetts

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek discussed the following:

- Change in Calendar – There is a conflict with a ½ PD and the 10th grade MCAS test schedule. Dr. Nosek requested approval to move the ½ PD from Thursday, March 24, 2016 to Friday, April 1, 2016. She indicated this same request will be presented to all Union #61 School Committees for their approval.

Motion 16-09:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to move the ½ PD originally scheduled in March 2016 to April 1, 2016.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Bullying Report for School Year 2014-15
 - High School – 2 confirmed incidents
 - Junior High – 4 confirmed incidents
- New Staff have been invited to come to the September meeting to be introduced to the Committee.
- List of retirees was included in the packet. Mr. Valanzola indicated letters were sent on the Committee's behalf to each retiree in appreciation of their service.
- Old Sturbridge Village Charter Academy – Dr. Nosek received the prospectus. Jim Donahue, OSV President, will be attending the September meeting. Members asked that the prospectus be sent to them electronically.
- Start of School – Staff starts on Aug. 31st; students return on Sept. 1st.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- High Stakes Testing Resolution -

Motion 16-10:

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Mr. Anderstrom, to adopt the Resolution for a Moratorium on High-Stakes Testing Standardized Tests as written.

Discussion: Mr. Ryan stated his reasons for pursuing the resolution.

Motion 16-11:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Ms. Ryan, to amend the Resolution by adding the following words to the second whereas clause: 'high stakes tests, frequently standardized with important consequences, used to make important decisions about students, educators, schools and districts. WHEREAS, high-stakes tests are tests, frequently standardized with important consequences, used to make important decisions about students, educators, schools and districts.

Discussion: purpose of amendment is to clarify what is the meaning of high-stakes testing.

VOTE: Passes – voice vote

Discussion returned to original motion, as amended.

Motion 16-12:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mr. Anderstrom, to refer the Resolution for a Moratorium on High-Stakes Testing Standardized Tests to the By-Law and Policy Submitted to study and recommend back to the full Committee.

VOTE: Passes – voice vote

11. OPEN FORUM

Moment of Silence – Mr. Gillmeister asked that the Committee stand for a moment of silence in memory of Roger Charpentier, a long time Brookfield resident active in the town's governance.

Committee Assignments – Mr. Valanzola distributed the subcommittee assignments for the coming year. Every member secured their 1st or 2nd choice. He asked members to arrive to the next school committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. to allow time for the subcommittees to caucus, elect chairs and set their first meeting date(s) prior to the regular meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 16-13:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. William Gillmeister, Secretary