

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, October 20, 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
Megan Panek
Jacob Ryan
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Erik Iller

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
Megan Cunningham
William Gillmeister

Wales

Edward Boyce

NOT PRESENT

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.

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

1. MINUTES

Motion 16-14:

Ms. Ryan moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of September 15, 2015.

Motion 16-15:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Ms. Ryan, to amend the minutes of August 26, 2015 as follows:

To amend the text of Motion 16-11 so as to read: “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.’”

VOTE: All in favor.

Vote on **Motion 16-14** as corrected: All in favor.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

FY16 Budget Transfers

Motion 16-16:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Ryan, to approve the FY2016 Budget Transfers as attached to these minutes.

Discussion: Mrs. Boyd indicated the transfers are needed to reflect appropriate starting balances to salary lines now that the contract has been negotiated. The transfers have zero net impact to the budget.

VOTE: All in favor.

Out of District Technical Tuitions/Special Ed

Motion 16-17:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Ms. Ryan, to approve the recommendation of the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Business to approve the Special Ed out-of district technical tuition increment of \$1,800 for FY16.

Discussion: This move will increase tech tuition revenues for FY16 by \$14,400.

VOTE: All in favor.

Snow Plow Bids

Mrs. Boyd reported the snow plowing bids came in within the budget.

3. STAFF REPORTS

Field Trips

Mr. Robert Jefferson, HS Science teacher, attended the meeting and shared a slide show presentation of last year's Black Hills trip.

Motion 16-18:

Mr. Anderstrom moved, seconded by Ms. Ryan, to approve the Black Hills 2016 field trip as presented.

Motion 16-19:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Anderstrom, to amend Motion 16-18 to include all field trip requests as follows.

- Black Hills 2016 – a field study by Tantasqua SH school students
- Costa Rica – April 2016 – Ecology tour
- Washington DC/NY City – April 2016 – English & history focus
- New York City – March 3-6, 2016 – Show Choir trip

VOTE: All in favor.

VOTE on **Motion 16-18** as amended: All in favor.

Mrs. Barnicle thanked Mr. Starczewski for his report posting the bullying awareness objectives.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Topics included:

- NEASC Evaluations from a students' perspective
- NHS Book Drive – books delivered to Harrington Memorial & UMass Memorial
- NHS Food Drive
- Student Council – Spirit week activities
- Homecoming Day
- Sports updates

b. Budget – No report. Meeting scheduled for Nov. 2nd – 7:30 am

- c. Technical – Dr. Waters reviewed the report from the Oct. 19th meeting. Topics included:
- Program Advisory meeting – November 3, 2015
 - Coordinated Program Review
 - Tech Division Improvement Plans
 - Enrollment

d. Curriculum – No report. Meeting scheduled for Oct. 26th – 6:30 pm

e. By-Law & Policy

Mr. Gillmeister indicated, as voted by Motion 16-12, the Bylaws & Policy Subcommittee, considered at length the Resolution Calling for a Moratorium on High-stakes testing standardized tests.

Motion 16-20:

Mr. Gillmeister moved the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Subcommittee to adopt the following substitute resolution:

WHEREAS, our future well-being relies on a high quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, our school systems in Massachusetts and across the country have been spending increasing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes testing in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators, schools and districts; and

WHEREAS, the overreliance on high-stakes and standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and increasingly global society; and

WHEREAS, high-stakes standardized testing sometimes has negative effects on students from varying demographics;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Tantasqua Regional School Committee supports the development of an authentic state assessment that would permit more time for educators to teach and students to learn;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Tantasqua Regional School Committee calls on state and federal education policymakers to adopt a moratorium on the use of standardized high stakes tests as a graduation requirement so that educators, parents and other members of our communities can work in conjunction with the state to develop assessment systems that support positive teaching practices and better prepare students for lifelong learning.

DISCUSSION – There was significant discussion on the motion.

Motion 16-21:

Mr. Galonek moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek, to move the question.

VOTE: In Favor (13) Opposed (3)

VOTE (Motion 16-20): Motion is defeated (voice vote)

f. Negotiations – No report.

g. Building & Physical Plant

Mr. Galonek reported the subcommittee began discussions regarding the capital plan.

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - No report.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Proposed Amendments to the MASC By-Laws

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Distributed: DESE – State Releases Statewide PARCC Results. Tantasqua opted for MCAS. Plans to report on MCAS results at the November meeting.
- Expected DESE vote to adopt PARCC or MCAS – 11/17/15
- Enrollment document with corrections
- Attended 10/7 & 10/8/15 – Multi-Hazard Planning Event/Training.
- Contract negotiations – Units C & D have requested contract negotiations be opened.
- All Bands Night – Friday, Oct 23rd.
- Resignation of Elda Dwyer – will be working with the Town of Holland to identify a new member and make a joint appointment.
- Updated subcommittee list distributed.
- Hockey – Co-op hockey team approved by MIAA – District E. Auburn High School needed players. The agreement will require annual approval. Parents to be responsible for transportation and any fees.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS - No comments.

MASC Delegates

Motion 16-22:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to designate Mr. Gillmeister as Tantasqua's voting delegate at the 2015 MASC Conference.

VOTE: All in favor.

Motion 16-23:

Mr. Galonek moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to designate Mr. Valanzola as the alternate voting delegate at the 2015 MASC Conference.

VOTE: All in favor.

11. OPEN FORUM - No comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 16-24:

Ms. Ryan moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

VOTE: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag