

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, November 17, 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

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Erik Iller

Brookfield

Sharron Austin
Megan Cunningham

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

William Gillmeister (Bk), Megan Panek, Dr. Susan Waters (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 Principal; Mark Wood, Principal Director – Technical; Grace McHugh and Brytni Simmons, Student Representatives and audience.

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag. Mr. Valanzola called for a moment of silence in recognition of the tragic terrorist attack in Paris, France.

1. MINUTES

Motion 16-33:

Ms. Ryan moved, seconded by Mr. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of October 20, 2015.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the transfers voted at the October meeting are reflected in the Financial Report for the period ended October 31, 2015.

Mrs. Boyd reported the heating oil bid through the French River Collaborative came in at \$1.74/gal as compared to the current price of \$2.27/gal.

3. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Haggerty asked if the Principals could add an academic area to their monthly reports.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Topics included:

- Technical Advisory dinner and meeting – 11/3/15
- CAD program has a new 3-D printer
- Craft Fair
- Skills USA State Conference

- Tours - Technical Division for 8th grade students & parents
- Orientation at Harrington Memorial Hospital for Health program students
- Sports updates
- Holiday Music programs
- Student Council
 - Warrior Rally
 - Mr. Tantasqua Show
 - Toy and Food Drives
 - Conference
 - Special Olympics
- Sports Leadership Conference at Gillette

b. Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported the Subcommittee met last week to discuss the Central Office budget approved by the Joint Committee earlier in the evening. The Subcommittee is continuing its practice of holding meetings in each of the towns. This year, the subcommittee scheduled these meetings for the same nights and location as the elementary school committee meetings hoping to increase attendance. Meetings scheduled at 7:30 p.m. as follows: Burgess – 1/7/16; Brookfield – 1/12/16; Holland – 1/14/16; Wales 1/20/16 and Brimfield – 1/26/15.

c. Technical – No report.

d. Curriculum – Mrs. Barnicle reported the first subcommittee meeting was held 10/16/15. Three topics were discussed:

- MCAS updates (presented under Superintendent’s Report);
- AP & SAT - enrollment and outcome data included in the meeting packet.
- Determine additional topics and meeting schedule.
 - 1/4/16 – New budget items and impact on curriculum
 - 3/7/16 – Middle school scheduling
 - 5/2/16 – 6-year state plan and digital literacy

e. By-Law & Policy – No report

f. Negotiations – No report, but negotiations will be starting with three different units.

g. Building & Physical Plant - The subcommittee met 11/19/15 and discussed the athletic fields. The Committee hopes to come to the December meeting with a recommendation on the fields, tracks and making the press box handicap accessible. The next meeting is scheduled 12/7/15.

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty reported that DESE recommended some minor changes to the proposed amendments submitted. The changes are as follows:

- Page 2 - Section VI, D regarding the language for transportation making sure that the district is providing transportation, with a contract out to Sturbridge. This change will ensure costs affiliated with regional transportation are eligible for state reimbursement.
- Page 3 – Section X, D regarding (2) add: “and for post-employment costs of employees that retired while the town was a member,”
- Page 4 – Section XI – clarification of the 2/3rds vote.
- Page 5 – Section B – inclusion of the requirement that the Commissioner approve any future amendments.

Mr. Haggerty indicated that the RAAC doesn't know how to proceed with Section III of the agreement that deals with membership composition of the Tantasqua School Committee. There are complications regarding how to value counts by either registered voters vs. census numbers. The other sections of the agreement were in desperate need of updates to comply with current law and to reflect current practices. The RAAC unanimously voted to recommend approval of the proposed amendments and to submit the amended agreement with the exclusion of any changes in Section III to the member towns for their annual town meeting warrants.

Motion 16-34:

Mr. Haggerty moved to approve the proposed amended Regional School Agreement, excluding the current Section III-The Regional School District Committee, and submit the proposed amendments to our member towns for consideration at their respective annual town meetings.

VOTE: All in Favor

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Memo – re: FY17 School Budget Liaisons
- TEA – Request for Negotiations Unit C
- TEA – Request for Negotiations Unit D
- Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Quarterly Report
- Oct. 1st – Enrollment
- MASC/MASS Joint Conference Report

MASC/MASS Joint Conference Comments:

Mr. Haggerty commented that one of the items discussed at the MASC/MASS Conference was agenda items and minutes. He noted the following:

- All subcommittees needed to keep minutes which include date, time, location, attendees and a summary of discussion.
- The monthly agenda should include topics under the Superintendent's report.

Mrs. Barnicle discussed the sessions she attended:

- Meaningful Community Engagement
- Vocational Education
- General Session
- Superintendent's Evaluation – make sure other administrator's goals roll into the Superintendent's goals.

Ms. Ryan discussed the sessions she attended:

- GLBT Student Issues
- Less Testing, More Learning
- Student representation on the Committee – a possible issue for By-Law & Policy to review.

Motion 16-35:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Ms. Ryan, to direct the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee to take up the matter of a policy regarding Subcommittee minutes.

VOTE: All in Favor

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Distributed - OSV Charter School was invited to final application. DESE announced the public hearing on the application: Sturbridge – Tantasqua HS Auditorium – 12/7/2015, 4:00-6:00 pm
- Distributed – DESE approves path to next-generation MCAS. This public announcement was made this day of the meeting. Dr. Nosek indicated more information will follow regarding the transition to the new MCAS assessment. She indicated the 2019 graduating class is still taking the full MCAS.
- Musical presentation – *Once On This Island* is this weekend.
- Ted Foundation – Turkey Trot fundraiser
- For Thanksgiving Day Football tickets see Mr. Lucas. Kick-off at Shepard Hill is 10:15 a.m.
- Acts of 2014 – Dr. Nosek is serving on the state's Advisory Committee regarding the law passed relative to 6-year career plans for students.
- MCAS Data Review – Dr. Nosek turned the meeting over to Mr. Zanghi to present the MCAS overview. Following the PowerPoint presentation and discussion, Dr. Nosek thanked Mr. Zanghi and the principals

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS - No comments.

11. OPEN FORUM

Giving a personal anecdote, Mr. Boyce talked about the importance of the Juniper grade and reporting system.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 16-36:

Ms. Ryan moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor