

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Meeting of Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Michele-Lee Shea

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle  
William Haggerty  
Jacob Ryan  
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Steve Anderstrom  
Erik Iller

Brookfield

William Gillmeister  
Megan Cunningham  
Sharron O'Day

Wales

Edward Boyce  
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Dan Valcour (Bm); Michelle Fitzgerald, Gary Galonek, Megan Panek (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, Student Representative and audience.

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

1. MINUTES

**Motion 16-47:**

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session minutes of January 19, 2016.

Discussion: Mr. Gillmeister asked that a notation be added to these minutes to reflect that although Brookfield members, Sharron O'Day and Megan Cunningham, were not present at the January meeting, they were representing the Tantasqua School Committee at a Brookfield meeting discussing the Tantasqua turf project.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2016 was included in the packet and is without concerns.

3. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Lucas reported that there was an error on Page 3 of his report. The Show Choir will be performing on the home stage on Friday, February 26, 2016 (not Saturday). On Saturday, the musical groups will be performing in the Nutmeg Show Choir Festival in CT.

DDMs are the District Determined Measures. The Committee discussed the Apperson Datalink 1200 system.

Mrs. Barnicle thanked Mr. Lucas for the department spotlights.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students – Grace McHugh reported on the following:

- Relay for Life planning
- Show Choir – performance season
- Student Council activities:
  - hosting a dance,
  - working on Spirit week
  - working on the Polar Plunge fundraiser
  - Penny Wars
- Congratulated Mr. Lucas on being the recipient of the *Administrator of the Year* award.
- Sports updates

b. Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported that the Subcommittee wrapped up its budget meetings in the local communities and is prepared to recommend the FY17 budget.

**Motion 16-48:**

As recommended by the Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to bring forth the FY17 Proposed Budget of \$21,992,245 to Public Hearing.

Discussion: Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported the driving forces of the 4.23% increase are: Special Education, Insurance, Out of District Placements and the redistribution of central office costs (due to enrollment increases at the Tantasqua level).

VOTE: All in Favor

By unanimous consent, the Committee agreed to hold the Public Hearing on the FY 17 Budget on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6:00 pm prior to the regular meeting.

c. Technical – Dr. Waters indicated the Subcommittee report was included in the packet. Ms. Ryan noted the report should be corrected to eliminate the random “e” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph under Coordinated Program Review.

d. Curriculum – Mrs. Barnicle indicated the Subcommittee report was included in the packet.

e. By-Law & Policy – See motions under New Business.

f. Negotiations – Mr. Valanzola indicated the Subcommittee met on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the three units entering negotiations: Custodial/Food; Unit C and Unit D.

g. Building & Physical Plant – No meeting, no report.

Mr. Valanzola noted that Mrs. Boyd had reviewed the design and engineering proposals for the turf project and was in negotiations with Gale Associates of Weymouth, MA. Mr. Valanzola indicated there have been community concerns raised about adverse health claims associated with crumb rubber. A discussion arose regarding the increased cost of the project that would result from the use of alternative infill materials. The project is authorized at \$2.1M.

**Motion 16-49:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to direct the Chairman to appoint a Turf Project Committee consisting of the High School Principal, Athletic Director and three members from the Tantasqua School Committee.

Discussion: The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business will also serve as advisory members.

VOTE: All in Favor

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty reported that all documents related to the agreement amendment were sent to the member towns and one town has asked for a meeting to discuss the warrant articles.

Mr. Valanzola indicated that these are complicated documents being presented at each town meeting and asked that if any members hear concerns from their constituents, to share that information with the RAAC Committee or Administration.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- TRSD Membership List FY16
- E & D Certification - \$660,364
- SWCEC 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report – sent electronically to members as requested

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Educator Evaluation Data – 100% of educators were evaluated. Performance ratings: 2.4% Exemplary; 97.0% Proficient; 0.6% Needs Improvement. Data was not compared to other school districts, but Dr. Nosek commented that the process was done very authentically and she felt the information for Tantasqua evaluations was accurate.
- Snow Days – as of Monday, the last day of school is Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>
- OSV Charter School – press release emailed to members noting the Commissioner was not moving forward at this time with the OSV Charter School application.
- Vocational Grant – Tantasqua's proposal for funding under the Governor's Office-Vocational RFP was approved for \$100,000 for the purchase of manufacturing equipment. Sixty-eight proposals were submitted, 35 were funded. The Committee thanked those involved with the grant application.
- Calendar 2016-17

**Motion 16-50:**

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the amended 2016-17 School Calendar, as presented.

Discussion:

The calendar will also be brought to each elementary school committee for approval.

VOTE: All in Favor

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS

**Motion 16-51:**

As a recommendation of the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept for first reading Policy BEDG – Minutes.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 16-52:**

As a recommendation of the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept for first reading Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students.

Discussion:

Mr. Gillmeister indicated the changes in the Policy were reflective of changes in law.

There was discussion re: ANV (Applied Non-Violence Restraint) Training and its application. The primary focus is on de-escalation with students when there is a situation where there may be harm to others or themselves. There are restraint protocols built into some student's IEP's. Mr. Lucas indicated that there are a very small number of occurrences where restraint techniques are engaged. When needed, the nurse can be called in, as well as 9-1-1. A limited number of staff is trained in ANV; however, other staff training may include de-escalating techniques.

VOTE: All in Favor

11. OPEN FORUM

12. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion 16-53:**

Ms. Ryan moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,  
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag