

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller
Michele-Lee Shea
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
Jacob Ryan
Megan Panek

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Erik Iller

Brookfield

William Gillmeister
Megan Cunningham
Sharron O'Day

Wales

Edward Boyce
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Dr. Susan Waters, William Haggerty (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.

NOTE: This meeting followed the Public Hearing on the TRSD FY2017 Budget. (see separate minutes)

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

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE – Gary Galonek

Mr. Valanzola indicated that this would be Mr. Galonek's last meeting after serving 2 terms (6 years). Mr. Valanzola thanked Mr. Galonek for serving on the Building/Physical Plant and Negotiations subcommittees, noting he was the leading force in bringing the turf project to the table. Mr. Galonek was presented a Certificate of Appreciation, and fellow members thanked him for his service.

1. MINUTES

Motion 16-54:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept the meeting minutes of February 24, 2016.

The Secretary noted that there were errors in the draft meeting minutes that were distributed. He distributed a revised draft that was presented in the motion.

VOTE: In Favor (11)
 Abstained (3) Fitzgerald, Galonek, Panek

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending February 29, 2016 was included in the packet and is without concerns.

- School Choice

Motion 16-55:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to approve the school choice recommendations for school year 2016-17 as follows:

- Open 10 more slots for incoming Freshmen at the high school.
- Open 10 more slots for Sophomores
- Accept 27 incoming 7th graders; and
- Accept 5 additional 8th graders

Discussion: Mrs. Boyd indicated that district enrollment is decreasing as a whole across all towns. Outgoing school choice/out-of-district tuitions are increasing from \$100K to \$180K due to Virtual & Recovery school tuitions. By FY18, the HS will see a decrease of 79 students. Mrs. Boyd indicated that of the 27 spots at the 7th grade level, a number of those spots are pre-committed to school choice students enrolled at the elementary level as well as current Tantasqua Regional School District siblings.

Mrs. Boyd recommended that going forward, meetings with appropriate subcommittees begin to discuss strategy, philosophy and vision of what Tantasqua should look like in five years given its declining member town enrollments.

VOTE: In Favor (12)
 Opposed (1) Panek
 Abstained (1) Valcour

- Tantasqua Regional School District FY17 Budget

Motion 16-56:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, as a recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2017 Net Operating Budget of \$21,992,245.00.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 16-57:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, as a recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2017 Debt Assessment of -\$8,913.00 (refund).

Brimfield	- \$1,529	Sturbridge	- \$4,279
Brookfield	- \$1,299	Wales	- \$ 680
Holland	- \$1,125		

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 16-58:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, as a recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2017 Transportation Assessments of \$447,817.

Brimfield	\$ 99,910	Sturbridge	\$ 156,168
Brookfield	\$ 87,072	Wales	\$ 45,537
Holland	\$ 59,130		

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 16-59:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, as a recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, to approve the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2017 Net Operating Assessments of \$12,247,901.

Brimfield	\$2,267,449	Sturbridge	\$6,101,598
Brookfield	\$1,496,113	Wales	\$ 746,314
Holland	\$1,636,210		

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 16-60:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, as a recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, to approve the assignment of \$483,600 from School Choice funds for the capital and technology improvement plan at the Junior and Senior High Schools.

VOTE: All in Favor

3. STAFF REPORTS

The Chair was asked to send congratulatory letters from the Committee to the Basketball and Track Teams.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Students – Mr. Lucas reported that the Tantasqua Student Council received the “Gold Award” at the recent Student Council Conference.

Grace reported on the following:

- Super Tuesday mock elections & discussions
- AP sign-ups and testing schedule
- Scholarship activities
- Sports
 - Spring try-outs
- Relay for Life
- NHS – self-defense program for senior girls
- UMass volunteering
- Upcoming Blood Drive
- Ties to Ties – Be Good to People Club (selling ties)
- Student Council activities:
 - Conference – State-wide students raised approximately \$34,000 for Special Olympics, with Tantasqua students contributing approximately \$4,400.
- Congratulated Mr. Lucas on being the recipient of the Administrator of the Year award.

- b. Budget – Votes taken under #2 – Financial Report

- c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

- d. Curriculum – Mrs. Barnicle reported the Subcommittee met on March 7, 2016 discussing JH scheduling and Frank Bruni’s book, “*Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be*”. Mrs. Barnicle noted the subcommittee will consult with Mr. Lucas about whether to invite the author to come and speak with parents.

e. By-Law & Policy

Motion 16-61:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, as a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, to approve Policy BEDG Minutes for second reading and adoption.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 16-62:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, as a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, to approve Policy JKAA Physical Restraint of Students for second reading and adoption.

VOTE: All in Favor

f. Negotiations – No meeting, no report

g. Building & Physical Plant – With Mr. Galonek’s retirement from the Committee, Mr. Boyce will now be the Chair of this subcommittee.

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - At this time, only the town of Sturbridge has requested a meeting with the RAAC for a discussion of the town meeting articles related to the Tantasqua Regional Agreement.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I

Marie Pecore, Brookfield Financial Advisory Committee, asked the following:

- What is the additional cost of not using crumb rubber for the turf project?
 - A. There are no project proposals under consideration at this time. The project is in the initial stage.
- Where does the money for fuel savings go?
 - A. To the E & D account
- After the vote on School Choice Funds, how much is the anticipated balance and are there regulations governing the balance?
 - A. The anticipated balance will be \$500K. There are no state regulations on the balance of School Choice Funds.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications included in the packet:

- Letter of appreciation from Sturbridge Little League to Mr. Wood

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Day on the Hill 4/26/16. If any member wishes to register, please notify the Superintendent’s office.
- Safety Survey Results were distributed. All items mentioned in the letter have been resolved.
- 6th Annual Chef Competition to be held on 4/3/16 at the Sturbridge Host. Tantasqua’s culinary students are participating.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Bylaw & Policy votes taken under Committee Reports 4e.

10. NEW BUSINESS – School Choice vote taken under #2 Financial Report.

11. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Boyce discussed a recent Globe story on a delayed school day, noting the studies which show teenagers perform better when allowed extra sleep time.

Motion 16-63:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to refer the subject of a delayed school start time to the Bylaw & Policy Subcommittee for review and consideration.

VOTE: In Favor (13)
 Abstained (1) Galonek

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 16-64:

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag