

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Meeting of Wednesday, April 27, 2016  
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Michele-Lee Shea  
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle  
Michelle Fitzgerald  
Kristen Leo  
Megan Panek \*  
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Wales

Edward Boyce  
Michael Valanzola

Brookfield

William Gillmeister  
Megan Cunningham  
Sharron O'Day

\*Arrived 7:11 PM

NOT PRESENT

Steve Anderstrom, Erik Iller (H); Jacob Ryan, 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; and Grace McHugh and Taive Muenzberg, Student Representatives.

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

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion 16-65:**

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to enter into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, §21A(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair. Further, the Committee shall reconvene in open session.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Barnicle, Boyce, Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Gillmeister, Leo, Noyes-Miller, O'Day, Shea, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

**Motion 16-66:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to reconvene in open session at 7:10 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Barnicle, Boyce, Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Gillmeister, Leo, Noyes-Miller, O'Day, Shea, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

**Motion 16-67:**

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Ms. O'Day, to ratify the contract between the Tantasqua Regional School Committee and the Tantasqua Education Association (Unit C).

VOTE: All in Favor

2. MINUTES

**Motion 16-68:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept the minutes of March 15, 2016 on the Public Hearing on FY2017 Proposed Budget.

VOTE:           In Favor (8)  
                  Abstained (4)

**Motion 16-69:**

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 15, 2016 as presented.

VOTE:           In Favor (10)  
                  Abstained (2)

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

**4. STAFF REPORTS**

Mrs. Barnicle thanked Mr. Lucas for the department spotlight on the Science program.

Mr. Starczewski distributed information on the (1) Open Classroom event, and (2) One Tribe/One People Project on display in the Library.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Students - Grace McHugh discussed the following:

- Introduced Taive Muenzberg as the incoming student representative.
- Self-defense program provided to senior girls.
- NHS Earth Day
- Spirit Week activities
- Seniors – discussion of the schedule during last months
- Credit for Life
- Upcoming Blood Drive
- Walk for Hunger
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Sports Updates
- *Almost, Maine* – upcoming play

b. Budget – No meeting, no report

c. Technical – Dr. Waters indicated the subcommittee met earlier this evening and discussed the following matters:

- Coordinated Program Review – Technical
- Spring Program Advisory Committee to meet and review curriculum, budget and identify needs.
- Improvement goals
  - Tutoring at-risk students
  - Atlas Computer Program (curriculum mapping)
- Professional development
- Recruitment & retention of technical students

- Marketing plan for all programs to attract outside students
- Craft Fair 11/14/2016 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report. Next meeting scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>.

e. By-Law & Policy

Mr. Gillmeister indicated a copy of Senate Bill 254 was included in the packet for the Committee's review.

**Motion 16-70:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, as a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, that the Tantasqua Regional School Committee endorse a study consistent with Senate Bill 254 and that our state legislative delegation be notified of the Committee's endorsement.

VOTE: All in Favor

• Policies:

**Motion 16-71:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, as a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, to approve revised Policy JJF – Student Activity Accounts for first reading.

Discussion: Add the source, prior to presentation for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 16-72:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, as a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, to approve Policy JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students for first reading.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 16-73:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, as a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, to rescind Policy JIE – Pregnant Students.

VOTE: All in Favor

• Subcommittee Minutes:

Mr. Gillmeister indicated he discussed with the Attorney General the matter of subcommittee minutes being presented to the full committee prior to the subcommittee approving said minutes at their level. The full committee is often taking actions/votes based on the recommendations of the subcommittees prior to the subcommittee approving their meeting minutes. Mr. Gillmeister indicated the AG will continue to review the matter.

f. Negotiations – Discussed in Executive Session at the beginning of the meeting.

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

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mrs. Boyd indicated the RAAC has been visiting with the member towns to ensure the town meeting warrant articles addressing the regional agreement are understood and supported.

i. Ad Hoc Turf Committee

Mr. Gillmeister indicated the Turf Committee is about to approve the bid specifications for the project. The local Conservation Commissions are both holding hearings on the project –

Brookfield's hearing has been continued to May 19<sup>th</sup> and the Sturbridge hearing is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>. Both Commissions conducted a combined walk-through on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gillmeister indicated that Mrs. Boyd has researched and found a national bidding contract for field materials which would help reduce the costs. The materials would be purchased outside of the contractor bid specifications and need to be married once the contractor is decided. The decision to use a cork/coconut husk alternative to crumb rubber will add approximately \$200,000 per field to the cost of the project.

Mr. Gillmeister indicated he decided to resign as the Chairman of the Turf Committee because of his personal concern about the added cost of using an organic alternative to the crumb rubber option.

**Motion 16-74:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to instruct or support the Turf Committee's decision to use organic materials instead of using crumb rubber materials.

**DISCUSSION:**

There was extensive discussion allowed by the Chair on the matter:

Mr. Gillmeister indicated a study was included in the packet regarding allergies/pulmonary function abnormalities among Coir workers of Alappuzha.

NOTE: Coir is the commercially natural fiber obtained from coconut husk. He also felt there were no studies that show crumb rubber is a health risk and felt the additional costs were not warranted.

Other Committee members felt that community members and parents feel strongly about not using the crumb rubber materials.

Mr. Lucas indicated he had contacted a number of schools and found that everyone he spoke with was very supportive of the organic infill – that it was well accepted and performing well.

Mrs. Noyes-Miller added that the Coir material is only 10% of the total infill.

Mrs. Boyd indicated that the Budget Subcommittee will need to meet to discuss any changes in the funding structure for this project and that she would not advise accepting any bid without having adequate funding.

**Motion 16-75:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek, to withdraw the motion.

VOTE: Failed (voice vote)

VOTE (on Motion 16-74): In Favor (9)  
Opposed (3)

**6. PUBLIC ACCESS I** - No comments

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

Communications included in the packet:

- Tantasqua JHS Memorial Day Ceremony & Veterans' Breakfast
- Letter to TRSD Boys Basketball Team
- Letter to TRSD Boys Track Team

**8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Day on the Hill 4/26/2016.

- All Choral Concert – 4/28/2016.
- Coordinated Program Review – update. Dr. Nosek introduced Brenda Looney, Director of Special Education. Ms. Looney reviewed the findings from the Program Review and actions taken.

9. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments.

11. NEW BUSINESS – Votes on Policies and on start time legislation taken under By-Law & Policy Subcommittee Report.

12. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Boyce indicated he will be leaving the Tantasqua School Committee, but asked that the Committee look into the weight of student's book bags as a health issue and consider moving toward electronic text books.

13. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion 16-76:**

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,  
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag