

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller

Michele-Lee Shea

Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Michelle Fitzgerald

William Haggerty

Kristen Leo

Holland

Erik Iller

Wales

Christine Randall

Michael Valanzola

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham

William Gillmeister

Sharron O'Day

NOT PRESENT

Patricia Barnicle, Megan Panek, Jacob Ryan, 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; Mr. Starczewski, JH Principal; Mark Wood, Principal Director – Technical; and audience.

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag. Mr. Valanzola welcomed Christine Randall of Wales to the Tantasqua Committee.

1. REORGANIZATION

Mr. Valanzola called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Motion 16-89:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller nominated Michael Valanzola as Chair, seconded by Mr. Haggerty. Hearing no others, nominations were closed. Per policy, the vote for Chair is a paper ballot.

The paper ballots were collected and counted.

VOTE: 12 for Valanzola (All)

Mr. Valanzola thanked the Committee for the vote of confidence.

Vice-Chair:

Motion 16-90:

Mr. Valanzola nominated William Haggerty for the position of Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Valcour.

Hearing no others, nominations were closed.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 16-91:

Mr. Valanzola nominated William Gillmeister for the position of Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Leo.

Hearing no others, nominations were closed.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. MINUTES

Motion 16-92:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Leo, to approve the May 17, 2016 Regular Session Minutes as presented.

VOTE: In Favor (7)

Abstained (4): Shea, Gillmeister, O'Day, Iller

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending May 31, 2016 was included in the packet and is without concerns. The following comments were made:

- Every member town has paid their assessments.
- All member towns have voted through the FY2017 Tantasqua budget.
- Information on the financial position for the turf project was included in the Financial Report. Mr. Gillmeister recognized Mrs. Boyd for her work on the complex process for bidding the turf project and getting bids in below budget.

4. STAFF REPORTS

Student Recognition - Mr. Starczewski welcomed the opportunity to recognize students involved in three programs, allowing each group to discuss their programs and their involvement.

- Project 315 and NELMS Scholar Leaders: Gillian Gaboury, Jessica Shiers, Cole Warren (NELMS Scholar Leader), Megan Frisella (NELMS Scholar Leader), Jordan LaPierre (absent)
- Jump-a-thon & Books for Homeless Shelters & Hospitals: Lydia Boland, Toby Emerson, Molly Ryan (Teacher: Melissa Bergeron)
- American Chestnut Project (Restoration of the American Chestnut tree): Sydney Leanna, Quinn McHugh, Nadine Chidester, Emma Foley, Alexis Carson (Teachers involved: Jesse Greene, Kristin Daley, Talia Quinta)

The Committee thanked all students for their presentations and involvement in the varied groups.

NEASC Chairs - Deb McKinstry and Peter Dobrowolski, Co-Chairs of the NEASC Assessment attended the meeting. Mr. Valanzola indicated that the Committee was impressed and happy with the results of the NEASC assessment and wanted to personally thank the co-chairs for their work and impressive results. Mrs. McKinstry thanked the administration and committee for their support allowing adequate time to thoroughly prepare for the self-study NEASC process.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Students – No report
- Budget – No meeting, no report
- Technical – No meeting, no report
- Curriculum – No meeting, no report
- By-Law & Policy - No meeting, no report
- Negotiations – Discussion in Executive Session
- Building & Physical Plant – No meeting, no report.
- Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty reported that four of the five towns have passed the Regional Agreement amendments at their town meetings. Brimfield had an error in posting the articles on the warrant and therefore, the articles will be posted to the next town meeting. Mr. Haggerty reminded the members that Section 3 – Membership was not included in the agreement amendments presented to the towns.
- Ad Hoc Turf Committee – Mr. Valanzola indicated the project has started and it was good to see the bids come in below the budget allowances. There was a brief discussion regarding whether there might be enough funding left over for field lighting. Mrs. Boyd indicated there

would probably not be enough to cover the costs of lighting, but the project committee could discuss all possibilities towards the end of the project.

6. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications included in the packet:

- Letter from Rep. Todd Smola
- Letter of thanks to Chief Ford, Sturbridge Police Dept.
- Letter to thanks to Holland DPW
- Letter of thanks to Ted Foundation
- Memo from M. Wood re: Outdated textbooks

Motion 16-93:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to declare obsolete the textbooks described in a memo from M. Wood, dated 6/3/2016.

VOTE: All in Favor

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Graduation: Sunday, June 5th
- SWCEC Graduation – 3 children from our district graduated from the SWCEC program on June 7th. Dr. Nosek attended to present their diplomas.
- Lead Testing at JH – Dr. Nosek indicated the DEP tested for lead with two samples at the high school, one at the junior high. The JH sample caused some initial concern, but was re-tested and results were within standard levels. The Sturbridge Board of Selectmen has asked whether the school would be willing to let them test lead levels twice a year at their expense. Dr. Nosek indicated she had no objection to the requested testing.
- Roadwork – temporary easement. Dr. Nosek indicated the town has requested a temporary easement on school property for Route 148 road improvements. She detailed the scope of the work. Project start date: August 2017

Motion 16-94:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to grant a temporary easement for Route 148 road work.

VOTE: All in Favor

9. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Committee asked that in addition to verbally thanking Mrs. McKinstry and Mr. Dobrowolski for their work on the NEASC assessment (see page 2), that they also be sent a letter of appreciation.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 16-95:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Iller, to move into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. as provided under MGL C. 30A, §21A(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as discussion in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position as declared by the Chair. The meeting will reconvene in open session.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Gillmeister, Haggerty, Iller, Leo, Noyes-Miller, O’Day, Shea, Valanzola, Valcour

Motion 16-96:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to return to open session at 8:56 p.m.
A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Gillmeister, Haggerty, Iller, Leo, Noyes-Miller, O’Day, Shea, Valanzola, Valcour

NOTE: Motions 16-95 and 16-96 are also posted in the Executive Session minutes.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- August Meeting – Mr. Valanzola indicated that with the Committee planning a retreat for the morning of Saturday, September 10th that there would be no meeting held in August. With no objections, the August meeting will be cancelled.
- List of Colleges – Mr. Lucas is still finalizing the list of colleges related to our 2016 graduates, but the list will be provided in the next meeting packet.
- Sub-Committees – Mr. Valanzola indicated that the members will be sent a request to choose their top three subcommittees. The subcommittee assignments will be made during the summer and generally, every committee member will be assigned to their first or second subcommittee choice.
- Field Construction – The construction on the fields is a “hard hat” site and for safety reasons, access to the track will be closed during the construction timeframe.
- Field Use Requests – Mrs. Boyd will be reviewing the comparable pricing for turf field usage. All requests for field usage will continue to go through the high school.
- North Brookfield Request – Dr. Nosek reported that a request has been received from North Brookfield regarding joining the Technical Division as a member town.
- Votes on Contracts:

Motion 16-97:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to ratify and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract with Local 888 Custodians and Food Services for FY17-FY19.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 16-98:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Iller, to ratify and authorize the Chairman to sign the contact with the Tantasqua Unit D Administrative Support Unit for FY17-FY19 with either the compensation #1 or #2 package presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

13. OPEN FORUM - No comments.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 16-99:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag

NOTE: The first two digits of the motion numbers declare the fiscal year in which the votes were taken.