

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Meeting of Tuesday, December 20, 2016  
Senior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Dan Valcour

Brookfield

William Gillmeister

Sturbridge

Cheryl Wood Creeden  
Michelle Fitzgerald  
William Haggerty  
Kristen Leo  
Megan Panek  
Dr. Susan Waters

Holland

Debra Bertrand  
Erik Iller (\* 2 votes)  
\* Serving in 2 roles: elected TRSD  
member and Elementary representative

Wales

Christine Randall  
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Michele-Lee Shea (Bm); Megan Cunningham, Sharron O'Day (Bk); Patricia Barnicle (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 Taive Muenzberg and Ashlee Pope, Student Representatives.

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

PRESENTATION – SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHOLARS

Dr. Nosek indicated she was honored to announce the two Superintendent's Scholars Alexis Freitas and Nathan Lachapelle. Nathan was unable to attend this evening, but will be presented the certificate at the January meeting. Dr. Nosek asked Alexis and her parents to join her. Dr. Nosek reported on Alexis' accomplishments and presented the Superintendent's Scholar Certificate.

1. MINUTES

**Motion 17-27:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Iller, to approve the November 15, 2016 Regular Session Minutes as presented.

VOTE:            In Favor (11)      Abstained (1) Waters

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2016 was included in the packet. While there are no budget issues at this time, Mrs. Boyd will be monitoring the utility line items.

Donation

**Motion 17-28:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept with appreciation a donation from Mike Zanghi of:

- Yamaha DD-55 digital drum
- 8 Cymbals (various) with case
- 1 Gretsch snare drum

VOTE:            All in Favor

### 3. STAFF REPORTS

a) Cooperative Swim Team – Mr. Lucas indicated that with declining participation for the swim team, that a co-op has been formed with Quaboag Regional High School allowing our team to expand. This has no negative effect on the schedule or divisional placement by the MIAA.

b) The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) Document – Mr. Starczewski indicated the Germplasm Agreement – Regional Adaptability Breeding Program is an agreement entered with TACF to have Tantasqua participate in the “backcross method” breeding program, following the criteria set for planting, maintaining the trees in a breeding orchard; not selling any of its products; and maintaining the rights of the foundation if the trees ever need to be harvested. Mr. Starczewski indicated that the students participating in this initiative spoke at a Spring TRSC meeting and have collected enough seeds to plant 100 seedlings which will be weeded out to approximately 30 each year to maintaining 100 from year to year. The students are researching cross pollination and he indicated he’s moving to include the project into the ecology unit’s curriculum.

It was noted the legal counsel has not yet reviewed the document

#### **Motion 17-29:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to authorize the Chair to sign the TACF Germplasm Agreement pending a positive review by legal counsel.

VOTE: All in Favor

### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students – Students reported on the following activities:

- Skills USA Food Drive
- 86% of Carpentry and 100% of Electrical students passed OSHA Testing
- Culinary Arts – upcoming Best Chef Competition
- Health Careers program
- Sports Updates
- Performing Arts: Holiday and Winter Concerts
- Student Council
  - Toy Drive
  - Student Government Day
  - Cookie Swap
  - Holiday Spirit Day
  - Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey Tournament Fundraiser

b. Budget - No meeting, no report. FY18 budget review meetings begin in January.

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum – No report. Mrs. Barnicle will report in January.

e. By-Law & Policy - No meeting, no report.

f. Negotiations – No meeting, no report.

g. Building & Physical Plant – The Subcommittee will discuss use of the fields, fees and community use. The Committee will review the school use policy.

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - No meeting, no report.

i. Ad Hoc Turf Committee – Mr. Gillmeister indicated that the Turf Committee has completed the activities/tasks associated with the project with no foreseeable actions needed. Therefore, he recommended the subcommittee be disbanded.

6. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- Copy - Thank you letter to Representative Smola for flag donation.
- School Committee Self-evaluation documents were distributed at the meeting for review and discussion at the January meeting.

## 8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Holiday office schedule
- Upcoming Professional Development Day – January 13<sup>th</sup>
- MASC Public Record request – After January 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Nosek will be named as the contact.
- MARS – Dr. Nosek asked Mrs. Boyd to report. Approximately two years ago, the Committee voted to support a legal fund to specifically challenge an expected reduction in 9C funding. The regional transportation funding was not cut and it does not appear the current 9C funding is at risk.

### **Motion 17-30:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to send a letter to MARS requesting a refund of the \$500.00 that Tantasqua had contributed to the legal fund as described.

VOTE: All in Favor

9. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- No comments.

11. NEW BUSINESS - No comments.

## 12. OPEN FORUM

- The Committee thanked the Culinary Arts department for the Sweet Potato & Apple Autumn Chowder and holiday snacks.
- *Foodies of New England* magazine – Tantasqua mentioned in the *Pork Belly Futures* and *Toasting 10 Tasty Years* articles.

## 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

### **Motion 17-31:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, at 7:40 p.m. to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, Section 21A(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The Committee announced its intent to adjourn in Executive Session without returning to Open Session.

DISCUSSION – Mr. Valanzola indicated that in accordance with the law the individual to be discussed was notified at least 48 hours prior to this proposed Executive Session.

A roll call vote taken.

YES: Valanzola, Waters, Noyes-Miller, Valcour, Gillmeister, Wood Creeden, Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Leo, Panek, Bertrand, Iller, Randall

14. ADJOURNMENT

Record of adjournment posted in Executive Session minutes.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag