

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Meeting of Wednesday, March 1, 2017  
Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham

William Gillmeister

Sharron O'Day

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle

Cheryl Wood Creeden

Michelle Fitzgerald

William Haggerty

Kristen Leo

Megan Panek

Holland

Debra Bertrand

Erik Iller (\* 2 votes)

\* Serving in 2 roles: elected TRSD  
member and Elementary representative

Wales

Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Michele-Lee Shea, Dan Valcour (Bm); Dr. Susan Waters (S), Christine Randall (W)

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 Matthew Sexton, Student Representatives.

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with members rising to salute the flag.

1. MINUTES

**Motion 17-36:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the January 17, 2017 Regular Session minutes as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 17-37:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Leo, to approve the December 20, 2016 Executive Session minutes.

VOTE: In Favor (10) Abstained: Barnicle, O'Day

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2017 was included in the packet. While there are no significant budget issues at this time, Mrs. Boyd is monitoring the utility line items. Electricity is up; with no control over rates, she'll be reviewing utilization. Other targeted accounts under review were the JH OT/PT and Tech Shop Assistants.

3. STAFF REPORTS –

**Motion 17-38:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept with appreciation the donation of an AED (automated external defibrillator) from Zoll Medical Corporation.

Discussion: Mr. Starczewski indicated the intention is to use the unit for traveling student groups.

VOTE: All in Favor

#### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOTE: Motions recommended and put forth by subcommittees do not require a second.

a. Students – Taive Muenzberg and Matthew Sexton reported on student activities in the following areas:

- Technical Division
  - Business Technology – interview skills
  - Mechanical Design – CAD redesign projects
  - Architectural Design – working on portfolios
  - Carpentry – shed design
  - Culinary Arts – Cornerstone Café activities and business designs
  - Medical – students doing clinical rotation at Harrington Memorial Hospital and working on communication skills
  - Manufacturing – working on programming and coding language
  - Computer technology
  - SKILLS USA – competition on March 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Shop
  - Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Academic Division
  - Sports Updates and upcoming Spring programs
  - Performing Arts
  - Student Council
    - Winter Formal Dance
    - Hyannis Conference
  - Jr. Class – 3/14/17 Basketball Challenge fundraiser
  - Math team results
  - Mrs. Fitzgerald reported on the Mock Trial Competition

b. Budget

#### **Motion 17-39:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to open 38 School Choice slots for the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade and to allow all siblings of current or new 7<sup>th</sup> graders in at the high school.

Discussion:

- Today, there are 49 applications for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Enrollment is down for the region. Committee felt this should result in a deeper conversation and long-term planning. Mr. Valanzola acknowledged the concern and ensured the conversation would be advanced.
- OSV Charter School – Mrs. Boyd indicated she was not overly concerned that the charter school would be pulling a large number of students from the region's elementary schools, but as it is a new school, we will need to wait and see..

VOTE: Carried (Voice vote)

**Motion 17-40:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to bring forth to Public Hearing the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2018 Proposed Total Operating Budget in the amount of \$22,556,046.00.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 17-41:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Iller to earmark \$80,000 from School Choice Funds to the Capital Plan as seed money for Cage Lighting.

Discussion:

- These funds would serve as seed money and encourage community fundraising for the balance needed to complete the project.
- The vote does not authorize the expenditure, but sets the money aside for this defined purpose.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 17-42:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to approve the FY18 Capital and Technology Improvement Plan to be funded from School Choice in the amount of \$427,000.

VOTE: All in Favor

The FY2018 Budget Hearing is scheduled on March 21, 2017 at 6:00 pm prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

c. Technical – No report.

d. Curriculum – No report. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2017.

e. By-Law & Policy - Mr. Gillmeister reporting on the following:

- School Committee Self-Evaluation – Included in the meeting packet were the documents outlining the benefits of a school committee self-evaluation; the process and a sample evaluation instrument.

**Motion 17-43:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved that the School Committee self-evaluation consist of distribution of the evaluation instrument with returns to be collected and assessed by the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee. Further that the By-Law and Policy Subcommittee report its assessment's findings and any recommendation to the full Committee for consideration in a timely fashion.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Policy Updates - The policy amendments reflect new laws.

**Motion 17-44:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for First Reading the amendments made to Policy GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace Policy.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 17-45:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved to strike Policy IHAMA and replace with and approve for First Reading Policy IHAMB – Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 17-46:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved to approve for First Reading the amendments made to Policy JICH – Alcohol and Drug Use.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion 17-47:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved that the Superintendent send a letter to our member towns noting the passage of the Regulation of Taxation of Marijuana in 2016 and to make them aware of the policies adopted by the School Committee on first reading relative to drug and alcohol use policies and, in particular, the school district's alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention programs.

VOTE: All in Favor

f. Negotiations – Mr. Valanzola indicated that as approved by the School Committee he has signed the Unit D contract.

g. Building & Physical Plant – Mrs. O'Day indicated the proposed amendments to Procedures and Guidelines Governing Use of School Facilities as it specifically related to field use charges was included in the packet.

**Motion 17-48:**

Mrs. O'Day moved to approve the updated School Rental Fee Schedule included in the Procedures and Guidelines Governing Use of School Facilities.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mrs. Boyd indicated at this time access to the turf fields is locked when not in use by the school. The organic fill materials in the turf fields can be damaged and the school wants to be sure that it is monitored to maintain the integrity and condition of the fields.

h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) - Mr. Haggerty indicated that they are waiting for Brimfield's town meeting. Mrs. Boyd noted that all articles were submitted for inclusion on the town meeting warrant.

6. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the packet:

- MASC Legislative Breakfast
- MASC Summit on Poverty
- Old Sturbridge Village Charter School Approval

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- MCAS On-line testing. The Junior High is prepared.
- Drop Out Rates – the state released the rates. Tantasqua’s rate is down: 0.7%
- District Improvement work – still in progress, updates coming
- Superintendent’s Evaluation training: rescheduled to April 26, 2017, 6:00 pm.
  - Superintendent’s Goal Subcommittee - Mr. Valanzola indicated he had hoped to begin the meetings after the evaluation training session, but with the MASC’s request to delay the training, he’s pushed back scheduling the subcommittee meetings.

9. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

11. NEW BUSINESS - No comments.

12. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Valanzola reported that he’s been invited and will participate in the local Dancing with the Stars – a fundraiser to be held on April 1, 2017 for the Tri-Town Domestic Violence Taskforce.

13. ADJOURN

**Motion 17-49:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 8: 26 pm.  
VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,  
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag