

## TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, December 19, 2017  
Senior High School Library

### MEMBERS PRESENT

#### Brimfield

Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Dan Valcour

#### Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle  
Mary Bellezza  
Michelle Fitzgerald  
William Haggerty  
Kristen Leo  
Susan Kline

#### Holland

Erik Iller  
Mary Lovett  
Cheryl Raymond

#### Brookfield

Megan Cunningham

#### Wales

Christine Randall  
Michael Valanzola

### NOT PRESENT

Delia Brower (Bm); William Gillmeister, Sharron O'Day (Bk); 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; Sean Gilrein, Interim JH Principal; Mark Wood, Principal Director – Technical; Taive Muenzberg and Matthew Sexton, Student Representatives, and audience.

The Committee enjoyed a holiday musical performance by the HS Concert Choir in the auditorium prior to the meeting.

Mr. Valanzola presented a plaque to Debra Grimaldi to commemorate her 30 years of service to the Tantasqua Regional School District, spending most of that time as the Superintendent's Executive Assistant.

### Superintendent's Scholars

Dr. Nosek asked Veronica Melican and William Jones to come up with their parents to accept the Superintendent's Scholar Awards. Dr. Nosek described the achievements of both students.

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with members rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. MINUTES

#### **Motion 18-21:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the November 21, 2017 Regular Session minutes.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

### 3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2017 was included in the packet. There were some heating repairs at the high school, but those expenses were covered by the budget. At this point in the year there are no significant concerns.

### 4. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Lucas indicated, that included in the packet, is a copy of the school's profile for 2017-18.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Students

Mathew Sexton reported on Technical Division student activities:

- Business Tech
  - working the School store
  - Seniors – virtual business program
  - Juniors – business cards
- Mechanical Design – working with auto-cad software
- Architecture Program
  - Seniors working on outdoor renovation project
  - Juniors working with auto-cad
- Carpentry Program – woodworking projects (cabinets and furniture)
- Culinary
  - Running the Cornerstone Café
  - Completing co-ops within the district
  - Held Thanksgiving buffet
- Electrical – projects within the district, including the Sturbridge Senior Center
- Health Program – Hands only CPR challenge
- Hotel/Rest Management – customer service skills and handling cash
- Info Technology – learning about network certifications
- Manufacturing – using different types of technology and machines
- Skills USA – finding new members willing to compete

Taive Muenzberg reported on student activities in the academic programs

- Sport teams – swimming, track, basketball and hockey results
- Music Program – Disney Cabaret
- Student Council
  - Pep rally / Spirit Week
  - Fall Conference
  - Mr. “T” Competition
  - Toy Drive
  - Warrior Day of Service
- Fundraiser at UNO’s for Junior class
- MASC Applications to attend conference – approximately 30 students apply, currently have 25 applications. 16 students can attend (4 to a room)
- New Club: United Nations Club (40 students enrolled in the new club and they will be involved with debates with other schools)

### b. Budget

- Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee met earlier this evening with Building & Physical Plant subcommittee.
  - The Building & Physical Plant Subcommittee voted to authorize Dr. Nosek to apply for a Green Energy Grant to replace windows and doors at the JH. The grant is due 1/31/18 and, if approved, will reimburse costs of improvements at 56%.
- The Budget Subcommittee’s schedule of meetings was sent to member towns Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Generally, some of the towns attend the meetings and Mrs. Boyd is always available to discuss budget matters with the towns.

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum

Mrs. Barnicle reported the Subcommittee met on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Topics for discussion included Civics and Civic Education and the MCAS/SAT/AP Assessment data.

History Dept. Chair, Ms. Stattenfield, gave a presentation on the History Dept. civics related courses which include the Dynamics of Democracy elective. Ms. Perrin from the JH History Dept. discussed civics integration into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Greek and Roman Senates in World History and 8<sup>th</sup> grade US Government at the Federal level courses. The Subcommittee discussed broadening certain initiatives, such as:

1. Community Service Learning Initiatives
2. Media Literacy
3. Early American History
4. Mock Trial / Mock Elections
5. Registering students to vote
6. UN Club

Mr. Lucas discussed a new course “Intro to Civics / Law with a focus on the Constitution”. The Subcommittee intends to come forward with a civics education plan in the spring.

The MCAS results were briefly discussed, but the Subcommittee decided to save questions and further conversation for the full committee meeting.

e. By-Law & Policy – In Mr. Gillmeister’s absence, Mr. Haggerty reported on behalf of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee. At their meeting the Subcommittee discussed:

- Establishing a Public Relations Subcommittee and
- Goals and objectives for the school committee.

Mr. Haggerty made the following motions as recommendations of the Subcommittee, requiring no second.

**Motion 18-22:**

Mr. Haggerty moved to accept Policy EFA: School Meal Charges on second reading for adoption.

Discussion:

- The policy is a Federal regulation requirement.
- Mrs. Boyd discussed the debt; she indicated the only way to clear lunch charge debts is by a vote by the School Committee to cover the costs.

VOTE: Voice vote – All in Favor

**Motion 18-23:**

Mr. Haggerty moved to accept Policy JICHA: Use of Evidential Breath Test on second reading for adoption.

Discussion:

- Precision of the instrument used for the testing.
- Sturbridge Police will train school staff using the breathalyzer.
- The instrument only tests for alcohol.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes Opposed (1) Valcour

**Motion 18-24:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to amend the Student Handbook – Illicit-Illegal Substances (Pages 75-76) by adding the following new language to the second paragraph:

*“The possession and/or use of alcoholic beverages, beverages that contain alcohol, or substances including but not limited to medications which contain alcohol, such that alcohol is present in the body, at school, or a school sponsored event is prohibited”.*

VOTE: Voice vote – All in Favor

- f. Negotiations – Tim Fitzgerald will serve as facilitator at the IBB (Interest Based Bargaining) meeting with Unit A scheduled January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. The Subcommittee will hold a strategy session before the IBB meeting. Member town's Boards of Selectmen were notified and four indicated some interest. Dr. Nosek indicated that only one person from the Boards of Selectmen is selected as the representative. Dr. Nosek will alert the Boards of Selectmen that they must choose one representative.
- g. Building and Physical Plant  
Meeting was held with the Budget Subcommittee (see 5b. Budget Subcommittee).
- h. Regional Agreement Amendment Committee – Dr. Nosek reported a letter was received from the Acting Commissioner that the Amendments were approved.

**Motion 18-25:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to disband the Ad Hoc Regional Agreement Amendment Subcommittee.

VOTE: Voice vote – All in Favor

- i. Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – No report.

5. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were included in the meeting packet:

- Letter of thanks to Holland Recreation Commission for the fencing donation

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- Executive Assistant search – Brenda McCann has been hired to replace Mrs. Grimaldi. Mrs. Grimaldi will train Ms. McCann and is willing to come in to help as needed.
- Dr. Nosek wished Jeffrey Zanghi the best as he leaves the district for the Superintendent position with the Berlin/Boylston School District. Dr. Nosek asked Mr. Zanghi to present the following agenda items:
  - MCAS Presentation – Material distributed at meeting
  - Massachusetts Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) – Material distributed at meeting

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- The Committee requested letters of appreciation be sent to both the HS Choir for the holiday musical presentation and the Culinary Program for the holiday treats.
- Committee members wished Mr. Zanghi best wishes in his new position.

11. OPEN FORUM

12. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion 18-26:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,  
William Gillmeister, Secretary