

## TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
Junior High School Library

### MEMBERS PRESENT

#### Brimfield

Delia Brover  
Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Dan Valcour

#### Sturbridge

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

#### Holland

Erik Iller

#### Wales

Michael Valanzola

#### Brookfield

Megan Cunningham  
William Gillmeister

### NOT PRESENT

Sharron O'Day (Bk); Cheryl Raymond, Mary Lovett (H); Christine Randall (W)

### ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Business; Michael Lucas, SH Principal; Sean Gilrein, Interim JH Principal; Taive Muenzberg and Matthew Sexton, Student Representatives.

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with members rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. MINUTES

#### **Motion 18-31:**

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the January 16, 2018 Regular Session minutes.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

#### **Motion 18-32:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Iller, to approve the January 27, 2018 minutes as amended:

- Add: "All in Favor" to show vote for Motion 13-36

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes  
Abstained: Haggerty, Leo, Waters

NOTE: Correction in motion numbering from 18-36 & 37 to 18-29 and 18-30 so as to remain sequential.

### 3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2018 was included in the packet. At this point in the year there are no significant concerns.

- FY2019 Budget Recommendation

Mrs. Noyes-Miller reviewed the Budget Subcommittee's recommendation to bring forth the FY2019 budget to Public Hearing. The overall budget increase is 2.71%.

#### **Motion 18-33:**

As recommended by the Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to bring forth the figure of \$23,166,453.65 to the Public Hearing on the FY2019 Budget.

VOTE: All in Favor

The Public Hearing will be held on March 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the JH Cafeteria followed by the regular Tantasqua School Committee meeting (library).

### 4. STAFF REPORTS

Committee members discussed the following:

- Mr. Lucas indicated the HS gym is back to being fully operational.
- Prize money won by Tantasqua's team at Worcester's Best Chef competition go to the student activity fund to be used for SkillsUSA and other Tech student activities.
- Committee wished Taive good luck in her campaign for the MASC presidency.
- Committee asked Mr. Gilrein to keep them advised whether Jarrod LaPlante will move on to the State Spelling Bee / National Championship.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Students

Mathew Sexton reported on Technical Division student activities:

- Business Tech
  - Handling money
  - Students working on typing skills
- Mechanical Design
  - Drafting
  - 3D Studio program
- Architecture Program
  - Seniors working on outdoor renovation project
  - Students finishing design projects and associated budgeting.
- Carpentry Program
  - Working on garage project
- Culinary
  - Running the Cornerstone Café
  - Students took first prize at Worcester's Best Chef competition on 1/28/2018 with their Strawberry Champagne Trifle.
- Electrical
  - Working on district projects
  - Learning transformers and circuitry projects
- Health Program
  - Working on clinical rotations at Harrington Hospital
  - Learning medical terminology
- Hotel/Rest Management – customer service skills and handling cash
- IT – Working on national exams and certifications
- Manufacturing – Working on independent projects
- Exploratory Programs – Freshman introduced
- Skills USA District competition – March 14, 2018

Taive Muenzberg reported on student activities in the academic programs

- Winter sports update
- Student Council – Winter Formal Dance on March 2, 2018 & week of spirit activities.
- MASC Conference on March 7-9
  - Polar Plunge fundraising for Special Olympics. Goal: \$2,500
- “Spread the Word to End the Word” program
- Show Choir performance – March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Student Walk Out – Taive spoke about the planned student walk out. Students across the nation have been planning walk outs to show respect for the lives lost in the recent school shooting in Florida. The walk out is planned on March 14 at 10:00 am when students will gather outside of the school and have 17 minutes of silence to recognize the 17 lives lost on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lucas indicated that the administration will take appropriate actions to keep all students safe. Students will write a reflection on why they participated. Taive indicated that while this civil disobedience action is not supported by the Student Council it will advance discussion on the underlying problems. Mr. Gilrein reported the walk-out appears to be more focused with the high school students.
- Dr. Nosek indicated that she was presented a Paradise box by students Sarah Monroe and Gabe Rhault. She displayed the box for the Committee.

b. Budget – Budget vote taken under Financial Report

c. Technical – Report included in the meeting packet

d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report

e. By-Law & Policy – Mr. Gillmeister indicated the Subcommittee will be reviewing all policies to be sure they reflect any changes in legislation.

- Policy AAA – Agreement for Tantasqua Regional School District

**Motion 18-34:**

As a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept on first reading Policy File AAA – Agreement for Tantasqua Regional School District for the Five Towns of Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge and Wales.

VOTE: All in Favor

- HS Handbook – Canine Searches

**Motion 18-35:**

As a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept the following new language for the HS Student Handbook regarding canine searches:

*“The school retains the right to periodically inspect lockers, backpacks, pocketbooks, and students’ cars (on the premises) for compliance with these rules. The school may also utilize canine searches for the purpose of ensuring an environment free of drugs, narcotics, and other illegal paraphernalia.”*

Discussion:

- Program helps to train the canines
- Canines do not sniff students.
- Police turn information over to school administrators, without intent to take any legal actions.
- Why is the program not instituted in the JH? The JH Handbook would need a similar amendment and Mr. Gillmeister will add to the agenda for the next meeting of the BL&P Subcommittee.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Ad Hoc Committee on Public Relations

**Motion 18-36:**

As a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Gillmeister moved that:

- Motion 17-82, adopted on June 20, 2017, which called for the amendment of the Bylaws of the Committee to establish a Public Relations Subcommittee be rescinded.
- The By-Law & Policy Subcommittee further recommends the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee on public relations consisting of five members to be appointed by the Chairman. The Ad Hoc Committee on public relations shall study and develop a public relations plan for the school committee and its interface with the district communities. The Ad Hoc Committee will report their findings at the first meeting in fiscal year 2019.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola indicated if any members were interested in serving on this newly formed Ad Hoc Subcommittee, to notify the Superintendent’s office.

f. Negotiations – See Executive Session vote

g. Building and Physical Plant – Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported the Sub-Committee discussed the naming of the Lacrosse field. After deliberations, they decided to present the recommendation to not name the field.

**Motion 18-37:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Iller, to charge the Building and Physical Plant Subcommittee to develop a recommendation to honor Coach Padace by the June meeting.

Discussion:

Without a policy in place, members felt that there may be many worthy individuals for whom the fields could be named and thought there may be other ways to recognize the contributions of individuals of the Tantasqua family.

Mr. Gillmeister withdrew his motion.

**Motion 18-38:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Iller, to charge the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee to develop a policy and process by which to honor individuals who have made contributions to the school.

VOTE: All in Favor

6. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were included in the meeting packet:

- Press Release: New DESE Commission
- Legislative Bulletin 1/25/2018

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- MEMA – Formal shelter agreement
- History & Social Sciences Frameworks
- Resignation of Sharron O'Day – effective 3/1/2018
- May meeting date – the Holland town meeting has been scheduled on the Tantasqua School Committee meeting date. The Committee members chose to change their meeting date to: May 22, 2018.
- MSBA project has been submitted (see minutes of 2/17/18). Dr. Nosek has reached out to local legislators to seek support for the project. Dr. Nosek thanks Mr. Gilrein and Rick Wetherbee, the Facilities Director, for their assistance in preparing the Statement of Interest Form submitted to MSBA.
- Update on HS damage (frozen pipes)

9. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. OPEN FORUM

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion 18-39:**

Dr. Waters moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, at 8:18 pm to enter Executive Session as provided under MGL Chapter 30A § 21A(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declared. The Committee will not reconvene in Open Session and will adjourn from Executive Session

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Brower, Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Gillmeister, Haggerty, Iller, Kline, Leo, Noyes-Miller, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

The Committee moved directly to Executive Session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: The following motion was made in Executive Session

**Motion 18-40:**

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,  
William Gillmeister, Secretary

TRSD:pag