

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Junior High Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Delia Brover
Sheila Noyes-Miller
Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

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

Holland

Mary Lovett
Cheryl Raymond

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham

Wales

Christine Randall
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

William Gillmeister (Bk); Erik Iller (H)

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent; 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.

NOTE: This regular meeting followed the Public Hearing on the FY2019 Tantasqua budget.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with members rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Motion 18-41:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the February 28, 2018 Regular Session minutes.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes
Abstained: Randall

Motion 18-42:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the February 28, 2018 Executive Session minutes.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes
Abstained: Randall

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd indicated the Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2018 was included in the packet. At this point in the year there are no significant concerns.

Mrs. Boyd gave a mid-year report on the food service management company. The program is currently operating slightly above “break even”, which is an improvement. Overall participation is up in all schools both for lunches and ala cart items. The SH breakfast program is down, but will be revisited to improve numbers for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Boyd discussed the JH dishwasher. The committee asked for a more comprehensive food service management report at the end of the year.

- FY2019 Budget Recommendation

As Chair of Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller presented the following recommendations in the form of motions not requiring a second.

Motion 18-43:

As recommended by the Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2019 Tantasqua Regional School Total Operating Budget at \$23,166,453.65.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 18-44:

As recommended by the Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2019 Tantasqua Regional School Net Operating Assessment at \$13,174,899.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 18-45:

As recommended by the Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2019 Tantasqua Regional School Transportation Assessment at \$376,961.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 18-46:

As recommended by the Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to set the FY2019 Tantasqua Regional School Debt Assessment at - \$358,538. (refund)

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 18-47:

As recommended by the Budget Subcommittee, Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to support Capital and Technology Items of \$554,000 from School Choice funds and to transfer \$252,000 of school choice funds to pay for the turf debt. Total transfers from school choice: \$806,000.

VOTE: All in Favor

4. STAFF REPORTS

Committee members discussed the following:

- Committee congratulated Taive on her election as the MASC President.

Motion 18-48:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to declare the following equipment obsolete:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Taft-Peirce Manual Surface Grinder | 5. Allen Drill Press |
| 2. Bridgeport “Stubby” Vertical Mill | 6. Clausing OD Grinder |
| 3. South Bend Lathe (2) | 7. Supermax Lathe |
| 4. Leland-Gifford Drill Press | |

VOTE: All in Favor

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Taive Muenzberg reported on student activities in the academic programs

- Sports update – Spring sports try-outs
- Student Council – Winter Formal Dance held on March 2, 2018, raised \$3,000.
- “Dude, Be Nice Week” – prior to April vacation.
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Planning special activities for the final week of school for seniors.
 - Seniors going to the elementary schools to thank a special teacher.
- Science Fair: April 3rd
- Relay for Life: April 6th
- Student Council Gold status – Taive explained the 50 indicators and guidelines that must be met, reaching between 46-50 points. Tantasqua achieved 49 points to achieve the Council’s Gold status.

Mathew Sexton reported on Technical Division student activities:

- Business Tech
 - Handling money
- Mechanical Design
 - Blueprints
- Architecture Program
 - Seniors working on tiny house projects
- Carpentry Program

- Finishing garage project
- Culinary
 - Running the Cornerstone Café
 - St. Patrick’s Day buffet
 - Annual Chef competition: April 8th at the Host Hotel. Theme: cheese
- Electrical
 - Working on district projects
 - Motorized labs
- Health Program
 - Childcare
 - Medical terminology
- Hotel/Rest Management – customer service skills and working in the Café’
- IT – Working on hardware and assembling computers
- Manufacturing – Working on in-class assignments
- Exploratory Programs – Freshman introduced
- All shop will be participating in SkillsUSA

The Committee asked Taive to comment on the 17-minute walk out that was discussed at last month’s meeting. She indicated it went very smoothly and all were respectful of the purpose. 300-400 students participated. On the minute, one of the names of the 17 victims who were killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida was read. Participating students then wrote reflections. A “We Stand with Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School” banner will be signed and sent to the Florida school.

- b. Budget – Votes were taken under Financial Report
- c. Technical – Dr. Waters indicated the next meeting is scheduled for April 11th 6:00 pm in the cafeteria.
- d. Curriculum – Mrs. Barnicle reported the Subcommittee met on March 12th. The following matters were on the agenda:
 - School Choice – The committee voted to support the Superintendent’s recommendation on school choice (see Superintendent’s report).
 - October 1 counts – included in the meeting packet.
 - Civic Education –Mrs. Barnicle noted that in part, Tantasqua’s mission is to “Promote responsible participation in democracy.” The School Committee also has a goal “To foster respect for good citizenship and to help prepare citizens to become contributing members of a democratic society.” By meeting with teachers and administrators the committee has been studying what is currently being taught in our schools. Two new courses have been added to HS curriculum:
 - We the People: Law and Civics in America
 - Dynamics of Democracy: Connecting to CommunitiesThe committee would like to start with a small project of voter registration for students who turn 18 this year and invite town officials, students, staff and community members to join them. The committee will continue to monitor and support the statewide effort to broaden civics education from 7-12 grades, and particularly at the 8th grade level.
- e. By-Law & Policy – Mr. Haggerty presented on behalf of Mr. Gillmeister. The Subcommittee has recommended the vote on Policy AAA be postponed allowing additional time for research and review. The Subcommittee is discussing whether the Agreement for the Tantasqua Regional School belongs in the policy handbook. The Subcommittee will be reviewing all existing policies one-by-one to ensure they meet any changes in law. Mr. Valanzola asked if there was any objection to the postponement; hearing none, he declared the action approved by unanimous consent.

As a representative of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Haggerty presented the following recommendations in the form of motions not requiring a second.

Motion 18-49:

As recommended by the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Haggerty moved to accept the following new language for the JHS 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.”

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 18-50:

As a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Haggerty moved to accept for first reading Policy File IHAMB – Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs.

Discussion: Updated changes are inclusion of 5th paragraph, beginning with “In order to....”.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 18-51:

As a recommendation of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Haggerty moved to accept for first reading Police File JJIF – Athletic Concussion Policy.

VOTE: All in Favor

The Committee was advised for any member interested in reviewing the policies, they can be found on the Tantasqua website.

- f. Negotiations – See Executive Session.
- g. Building and Physical Plant – No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were included in the meeting packet:

- DESE – School Choice
 - Discussion: Dr. Nosek indicated the Curriculum Subcommittee had asked her to provide information regarding other school choice options. Beyond the typical vocational and charter schools, other options include the Commonwealth Virtual Schools, Mass Academy of Arts and Sciences and Mass Recovery Schools.
- October 1, 2017 Enrollment – Dr. Nosek noted the information was used for the School Choice enrollment recommendation.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reported on the following:

- MSBA Update – No report whether the grant proposal will be funded, but she indicated it received support from local legislators.
- Upcoming Events
 - Science & Art Show: April 3rd
 - Team Chef: April 8th
- Last day of school (without any additional snow days): June 22nd
- JHS Principal Vacancy – the position is posted, currently putting together a Search Committee.
- April School Committee Meeting -- Wednesday, April 25th
- Education Evaluation Working Group – update
- Day on the Hill – Members wishing to register can contact Dr. Nosek.
- School Choice Recommendation: Dr. Nosek recommended that the school continue to accept 38 school choice students incoming to 7th grade. Of that count, 16 are coming in from the region’s elementary schools. The application period closes March 31st. The recommendation is supported by the Curriculum and Budget Subcommittees.

Motion 18-52:

As a recommendation of both the Budget and Curriculum Subcommittees, Mr. Valanzola moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to accept 38 school choice students incoming to the 7th grade in school year 2018-19.

VOTE: All in Favor

9. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No comments.

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. OPEN FORUM

Ms. Leo reported her recent attendance at Summit on Poverty held in Worcester, MA. Discussions included putting aside a fund for yearbook or prom expenses for students will financial challenges. Mr. Lucas indicated the school works with financially challenged students to ensure they can also have the full student experience. All students are advised they can approach their teachers, principals or other staff with their concerns.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 18-53:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to enter Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. 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; and
- MGL Chapter 30A § 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto.

The Committee will convene in Executive Session following a five-minute recess. Further, the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session but will adjourn from Executive Session.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Brover, Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Kline, Leo, Lovett, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Raymond, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

Following a five-minutes recess, the Committee moved directly into Executive Session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: The following motion was made in Executive Session

Motion 18-54:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to move out of Executive Session at 9:16 pm and adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Brover, Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Kline, Leo, Lovett, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Raymond, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary