

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Junior High Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Dan Valcour

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle

Holland

Mary Bellezza

Wales

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham

Michelle Fitzgerald

Christine Randall

William Gillmeister

Susan Kline

Michael Valanzola

Kristen Leo

Dr. Susan Waters

NOT PRESENT

Delia Brower (Bm), Sheila Noyes-Miller (Bm), Mary Lovett (H), Cheryl Raymond (H), Erik Iller (H), William Haggerty (S)

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with members rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Motion 18-55:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister to approve the March 20, 2018 Regular Session minutes as amended:

Amendment: Remove Mr. Gillmeister's name as present (Mr. Gillmeister's name was posted as both present and absent).

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Motion 18-56:

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the March 20, 2018 Executive Session minutes.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Motion 18-57:

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Leo, to approve the Public Hearing minutes of March 20, 2018.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Statement – SRO

Mr. Valanzola read a statement regarding information in the media with regards to the committee's decisions related to the consideration of a School Resource Office (SRO).

Motion 18-58:

Mr. Valanzola asked the committee by unanimous consent to direct the Superintendent and Chair to reach out to all five (District) Chiefs of Police to meet and discuss the topic of an SRO suitable to the Tantasqua district and to advise the respective Boards of Selectmen of this meeting. Then, bring those findings with recommendations to a joint meeting of the Budget and By-Law & Policy subcommittees, who will then report out to the full committee.

Mr. Gillmeister sought to ask the motion to be reread and said he had some questions. Mr. Valanzola stated that no discussion was in order unless there was an objection and a formal motion.

Mr. Gillmeister objected to the motion.

Mrs. Kline then moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to direct the Superintendent and Chair to reach out to all five (District) Chiefs of Police to meet and discuss the topic of an SRO suitable to the Tantasqua district and to advise the respective Boards of Selectmen of this meeting. Then, bring those findings with

recommendations to a joint meeting of the Budget and By-Law & Policy subcommittees, who will then report out to the full committee.

Discussion: Mrs. Kline noted that she supported the motion and the idea of looking into the topic of an SRO at Tantasqua. Mr. Gillmeister stated that he was not opposed to the motion, but noted that the manner in which this motion has come to the floor by the Chairman of the Committee seemed to be a violation of the Open Meeting Law. He further noted that when it comes to school safety which he believed was the driving force behind having an SRO, that we should also be looking at policies that would permit staff who have been properly trained and who have a license to carry a firearm be permitted to do so for the protection of themselves, other staff members, and the students, and such policies should also be a part of the discussion with the chiefs of police. Mr. Valcour stated that allowing staff to carry firearms in schools was an insane idea that should not be allowed. He noted that the risks associated with such policies far outweigh the risks of not allowing staff to carry firearms.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

4. STAFF REPORTS

Motion 18-59:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the trip allowing Hugo Sandin, TRSD Sophomore, to compete at the Business Professional Association National Competition and to exempt any teacher serving as a chaperone from the conflict of interest laws.

Discussion: Funding to support the trip is from the BPA Student Activity Account.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Unanimous consent – The Committee directed the Chair to send a letter of congratulations to Hugo Sandin for finishing first in the State Competition in the category of Business Law and Ethics.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Mathew Sexton reported on Technical Division student activities:

- Business Technology
- Mechanical Design
- Architecture Program
- Carpentry Program
- Culinary
- Electrical
 - Motor labs
- Health Program
- Hotel/Rest Management
- IT
- Manufacturing – Working with new machinery
- SkillsUSA

Taive Muenzberg reported on student activities in the academic programs

- Sports update
- Student Council –
 - Spirit week activities
 - Teacher appreciation
 - Senior sendoff: Planning special activities for the final week of school for seniors.
 - Achieved recognition as: Council of Excellence
 - May 4th – Spring Conference

- Prom
- National Honor Society – upcoming elections and inductions
- SAT's & AP tests

b. Budget – No report

c. Technical – Dr. Waters reported the subcommittee met with the Advisory Board, had a tour of the Technical Division and met with some students.

d. Curriculum – The report was included in the packet. Mrs. Barnicle indicated the subcommittee had discussions with Mr. Lucas regarding the Program of Studies and achieving credits for Dual enrollment.

e. By-Law & Policy – As Chair, Mr. Gillmeister presented the following recommendations of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee in the form of motions not requiring a second.

Motion 18-60:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept Policy File: JJIF, Athletic Concussion Policy, on 2nd reading and adoption.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Motion 18-61:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept Policy File: IHAMB, Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs, on 2nd reading and adoption.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Motion 18-62:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept for first reading Policy File: JJIF-R – Athletic Concussion Regulations.

Discussion: Language updates per Department of Public Health's recommendations.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Motion 18-63:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept for first reading Policy File: BAA, Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

Motion 18-64:

Mr. Gillmeister moved to accept the following policies for first reading.

- Policy File: AC, Non-discrimination
- Policy File: GBA, Equal Employment Opportunity
- Policy File: GCF, Professional Staff Hiring
- Policy File: JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
- Policy File: JFBB-1, School Choice

Discussion: All policy amendments are to address current law as it relates to pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions, therefore paternal rights are not addressed in these policies.

VOTE: Voice vote – Motion passes

The next By-Law & Policy subcommittee meeting is scheduled on May 3, 2018.

f. Negotiations – Mr. Valcour reported that the subcommittee is waiting to for Unit A to ratify and will begin negotiations with Unit B next month.

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:

- Thank you letter from Brimfield Highway Department acknowledging the Electrical students/staff for installing new LED lights, helping to improve safety and security in around the Highway Garage and providing energy savings.

- 4th Annual Carl Beane Memorial Softball Tournament: 6/23/18 Hitchcock Field in Holland to benefit the Tantasqua Regional High School Carl Beane Memorial Scholarship Fund.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Boyd provided the following report in Dr. Nosek's absence:

- Junior High Memorial Day Program
- TED Diamond Brunch Fundraiser – May 6th
- Conflict of Interest Training (on-line). Committee members were asked to complete the on-line training, print out the Certificate of completion and provide a copy to the Superintendent's office. Members were provided a copy of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees.
- No decision has been made yet on the application submitted to MSBA but there has been a visit scheduled by MSBA for a tour and walk through of the Junior High facility. (4/26/18)
- Junior High Principal – There are three finalists for the position of JH Principal. Visits will be completed this week and Dr. Nosek hopes to have final interviews next week and introduce the new Principal at the May meeting.
- Assistant Superintendent position – Interviews will begin tomorrow with a goal of presenting the appointment recommendation at the upcoming joint meeting (TRSD & Union 61) in May..
- May meeting – a reminder that the May meeting was moved to Tuesday, May 22nd because one of the member towns is holding their annual meeting on the regular scheduled meeting date (5/15/18).

9. PUBLIC ACCESS II – No comments.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments.

11. NEW BUSINESS

The vote on the TEA Unit A Contract ratification is postponed until the Unit votes on the contract.

12. OPEN FORUM

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 18-65:

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to enter Executive Session at 7:52 pm as provided under MGL Chapter 30A § 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. Further, the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session but will adjourn from Executive Session.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Gillmeister, Kline, Leo, Randall, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

14. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: The following motion was made in Executive Session

Motion 18-67:

Mr. Gillmeister moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to move out of Executive Session at 8:34 pm and adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Fitzgerald, Gillmeister, Kline, Leo, Randall, Valanzola, Valcour, Waters

Respectfully submitted,
William Gillmeister, Secretary