

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Tantasqua Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Jennifer Custance *

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle

William Haggerty

Megan Panek

Holland

Laura Alden

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham

Andrew Dunn

Danielle Lamoureux-Kane

Wales

Christine Randall

Michael Valanzola

* Two votes – elected and local school cmte rep

NOT PRESENT

Sheila Noyes-Miller (Bm); Eli Gillen, Erik Iller (H); Mary Bellezza, Michele Fitzgerald, Ted Goodwin, Kristen Leo (S)

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance; Jodi Bourassa, Assistant Superintendent; Leigh Joseph, Interim HS Principal; Greg Sturges, JH Principal; Mark Wood, Principal Director – Technical; Stephen Nembirkow, incoming Director of Business and Finance; Lorelai Soper, Ana Lima, Student Representatives, and audience.

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm with those in attendance rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Valanzola welcomed to the meeting Ms. Joseph in her role as Interim HS Principal.

1. MINUTES

Motion FY22-11:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Randall, to accept the June 15, 2021 meeting minutes – Regular Session.

VOTE: Voice Vote: Motion Carried, Abstained: Panek

Motion FY22-12:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept, but hold the June 15, 2021 meeting minutes – Executive Session.

VOTE: Voice Vote: Motion Carried, Abstained: Panek

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

FY21 Financial Report – Mrs. Boyd reviewed the FY21 Final Expenditures Report.

FY22 Financial Report – Mrs. Boyd indicated known expenses will be encumbered for next month's report and she will be requesting budget line transfers to reflect final negotiations. She noted there have been an unusual number of long-term medical leaves impacting the substitute teaching expense line item.

3. STAFF REPORTS – In addition to their written reports, the principals highlighted the following.

High School Ms. Joseph discussed:

- Summer Camps and Summer School activities
- Student Orientation
- Staffing – 26 positions filled (11 via internal personnel, 15 new staff)
- Senior Sunrise – 1st day of school
- Booster Club Casting Call
- Fall Sports

Junior High

Mr. Sturges discussed:

- Summer School participation – 40 students attended 4 days/week.

- Show Choir Update
- Student Council – “Hello Week”
- Sidewalk and Window Project Updates.

Technical

Mr. Wood discussed:

- SkillsUSA
 - Capital Grant was able to replace and/or add to the Culinary’s program equipment and will also be used to update the Cornerstone Café.
 - National Competition – 2021 graduate (carpentry program), Conor Krochmainycky was awarded the Gold Medal.
- Culinary – Evening Cooking Classes in collaboration with Holyoke Community College being investigated.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Lorelai reported on the following:

- Student Council activities:
 - Hosted the New Student Orientation for 9th graders
 - First in person meeting held this year with 150 members
 - Organizing committees with a focus on upcoming major events, including Homecoming on Oct. 23rd.
 - The “Shack” is up and running in coordination with Chef Popp
- NHS – Rescheduling induction ceremony

Ana reported on Technical Division activities:

- Business Technology opened School store
- Allied Health students are participating in clinicals and participating in Worcester’s Alzheimer’s Walk
- Machining reviewing mass production
- Hospitality/Café – working on point of sale, “Square” program
- IT – working on projects throughout the schools and assisting Hospitality program with printer set ups, etc.
- Electrical and Carpentry Updates

b. Budget – No Report

c. Technical – No Report

d. Curriculum – No Report

e. By-Law & Policy – The following motions were supported by the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, therefore do not require a second to the motion

Motion FY22-13:

Mr. Haggerty moved to accept the following policy:

JFE3 – Technical Division Admission Policy – Replacement of Policy – First Reading

Discussion: Mr. Haggerty indicated that after first considering in-district students, the admission policy will be going to a lottery system in compliance with federal standards. The new policy is recommended at DESE.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

Motion FY22-14:

Mr. Haggerty moved to suspend Policy EBCFA – Face Mask Policy.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

Mr. Haggerty also reported that the Committee is drafting a new School Committee Orientation to be a presented in a “mini” session.

- f. Negotiations – The Subcommittee is currently in negotiations with Unit A, re: change in working conditions.
- g. Building and Physical Plant – No Report
- h. Superintendent's Goals & Evaluation – No Report

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- Family letters – 8/21 & 8/24/21 – letters sent to parents regarding COVID policy updates.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek discussed the following:

- Appreciation for all members of the school community for a great opening, with a special shout out to the school nurses.
- The new School Resource Officer (SRO), Officer Nick Mardirosian, is from the Sturbridge PD. Officer Mardirosian will be invited to a future meeting.
- DESE COVID update was sent to members electronically.
- MCAS Update – Scores will be sent to schools electronically, but with no testing last year, there will be no annual comparison. The state suggests the data be used to look at student competencies. The data will be presented to the Committee once reviewed and a report prepared.
- Vaccine site – Still reviewing whether Tantasqua can serve as a vaccine site.
- School Committee Retreat – Tony Bent was well received two years ago and will be returning. The retreat is planned for October 23rd, with an 8:30 am start time. The meetings will be relocated to the JH, as Homecoming activities are planned at the HS.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments

8. NEW BUSINESS – No comments

9. PUBLIC ACCESS – No comments

10. OPEN FORUM – Mr. Haggerty indicated he has been serving on the MASC Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee. The group recently met and are drafting a policy concerning discrimination in sports. The draft which will be sent to members electronically and he asked for the Committee to review and make comments. He indicated MASC is always looking for involvement and he recommended serving on one of their committees.

11. ADJOURN

Motion FY22-15:

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Noyes-Miller, Secretary

TRSD:pag