

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Tantasqua Junior High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Jennifer Custance *
Sheila Noyes-Miller
* Two votes – elected and local school cmte rep

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham
Andrew Dunn
Danielle Lamoureux-Kane

Sturbridge

Patricia Barnicle
Mary Bellezza
Michele Fitzgerald
Ted Goodwin
William Haggerty
Kristen Leo
Megan Panek

Holland

Laura Alden
Eli Gillen

Wales

Christine Randall
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Erik Iller (H)

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; Lorelai Soper, Ana Lima, Student Representatives, and audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with those in attendance rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Motion FY22-16:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Randall, to accept the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes – Regular Session.

VOTE: Voice Vote: Motion Carried

Abstained: Bellezza, Fitzgerald, Gillen, Goodwin, Leo, Noyes-Miller

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

FY22– Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending September 30th. The accounts targeted for review are the Central Office salary lines with overages due to overlap in staffing; and the General Liability anticipated shortfall will be covered by OPEB funds. Mrs. Boyd requested action on (1) budget transfers, and (2) appropriation of funds for the JH hot water heater.

Motion FY22-17:

Mrs. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, to approve FY2022 Budget Transfers as noted below.

Account #	Description	Change to Budgeted Amount	New Budget Amount
031	SH Principal Salaries	(\$2,583)	\$140,717
032	SH Asst Princ Salries	(17,629)	\$161,427
064	SH Special Ed Salaries	\$21,679	\$678,746
085	SH Library Salaries	\$1,169	\$91,020
089	SH Guidance Salaries	\$52,219	\$599,479
096	SH Nurse Salaries	\$1,430	\$97,083
175	JH Teach Salaries	\$47,804	\$3,160,658
198	JH Special Ed Salaries	(\$47,598)	\$697,149
224	JH Guidance Salaries	(\$24,695)	\$204,899
231	JH Nurse Salaries	(\$34,765)	\$85,601
303	Tech ACAD Salaries	(\$10,103)	\$1,805,231
304	Tech Shop Salaries	(9,633)	\$1,346,340
306	Tech Asst Salaries	\$11,762	\$180,405
337	Tech Guidance Salaries	\$1,465	\$133,052
982	Tech Sped Salaries	\$9,478	\$351,450
	Net Impact to Budget	\$0	

VOTE: Voice Vote: Unanimous - Motion Carried

Motion FY22-18:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$20,000 for the JH Hot water heater using School Choice funds.

VOTE: Voice Vote: Unanimous - Motion Carried

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

Technical

Mr. Wood discussed:

- The last piece of equipment purchased through the Capital Grant for the Culinary program (used to update the Cornerstone Café) is due to be delivered in November. The Café is currently open.

- SkillsUSA International Competition – The SkillsUSA Board did not include carpentry in the International competition so Tantasqua student, Conor Krochmainyckj, who received the National Gold Medal, doesn't have the opportunity to continue.

Junior High

Mr. Sturges discussed:

- Academic programs are nearing the end of the first quarter.
- It was Day 2 for the Exploratory program
- Home Depot donated buckets for the Music program.
- Large student turn-out for the Halloween dance
- 500 pumpkins were donated for the Pumpkin Decorating fundraiser scheduled for Oct 22nd - \$10 per participant/pumpkin.

High School

Ms. Joseph introduced Bob Bardwell, School Counselor, who discussed the Class of 2021 placement data with students plans represented as: 71% on to post-secondary education, 7% military, 20% work force and 2% unknown. For post-secondary choices, the data is fluent with many students changing their decisions since the survey was taken. He noted many students will be attending the many local colleges.

Ms. Joseph discussed:

- Field Trips
- Fall concert
- NHS Induction
- VR/VR After School Program
- Professional Development
- SRO - "Officer Nick" Mardirosian. Officer Nick introduced himself and spoke about his interactions with the students. Dr. Nosek welcomed Officer Nick in his role as School Resource Officer.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students –

Ana reported on Technical Division activities:

- Business Technology operating School store.
- Allied Health – Studying OSHA modules.
- Carpentry – working on senior house project.
- Machining reviewing mass production.
- Hospitality/Café – the Café is open with students working on creating new menus.
- IT – working on projects throughout the schools.
- Electrical – Working on project for the Sturbridge DPW
- SkillsUSA – elected officers and recruiting new members.
- Pink Day – to bring awareness to Breast Cancer
- Upcoming Craft Fair

Lorelai reported on the following:

- Student Council activities:
 - Intergenerational Club is collecting coats and shoes.
 - Homecoming Dance on Oct. 23rd.
 - Powder Puff Football
 - Pep Rally
 - Food Drive in November
 - Toys for Tots Toy Drive

Thanksgiving Football Game – Last year there was no Thanksgiving game due to Covid. The year prior the game was played on the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving due to weather forecast. The two Athletic Departments are considering the change again this year. If the Wednesday doesn't work, then the game would be played on Thanksgiving. The Committee was asked if anyone objected, hearing no comments, Mr. Valanzola indicated that by unanimous consent discussions on changing game day could be agreed upon when agreed to by all parties.

b. Budget – No Report. November 8th will be the first meeting to begin work on the FY2023 Budget.

c. Technical – No report.

d. Curriculum – Meeting dates have been set, with the first full in-person meeting on Nov. 15th.

e. By-Law & Policy – The following motions were supported by the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, therefore do not require a second to the motion. An additional six policies were reviewed, but were not changed (list included on agenda).

Motion FY22-19:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to accept Policy IHB – Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations (Programs for children with Special Needs) – Amend First Reading

VOTE: Voice Vote: Unanimous - Motion Carried

Motion FY22-20:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to accept Policy JFE-3 – Technical Division Admissions – Amend Second Reading and Adoption.

VOTE: Voice Vote: Unanimous - Motion Carried

Motion FY22-21:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to accept the following four (4) policies:

IHA – Basic Instruction Program – RESCIND First Reading

IHAE – Physical Education – RESCIND First Reading

IGBEA – Title I – RESCIND First Reading

IGBH – Alternative School Programs – RESCIND First Reading

Voice Vote: Unanimous - Motion Carried

f. Negotiations – See Executive Session

g. Building and Physical Plant – No report

h. Superintendent's Goals & Evaluation – No report

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- Mask Mandate Extension – DESE document 9/27/21
- Vaccination Rate Threshold – DESE document 9/27/21

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek discussed the following:

- Thanked all personnel for their hard work to maintain full in-person learning.
- Vaccination rates were reviewed by town for students aged 12-15 and those aged 16-19.
- In collaboration with UMass, a vaccine clinic location is scheduled for November 5th, 1:30-5:00p.m. at the Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge.
- The school's website is updated on any Covid cases.
- MCAS Update – the presentation is scheduled for the November meeting. The report will not include growth information without available data from last year.
- School Committee Retreat – Tony Bent is returning to facilitate the retreat on October 23rd, with continental breakfast served from 7:30-8:00 and an 8:30 am start time. The meetings will be held in the JH library and cafeteria, as Homecoming activities are planned at the HS.
- Joint Meeting – November 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. The Tantasqua meeting to follow.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments.

9. NEW BUSINESS – No comments. See Committee Reports – Bylaw & Policy for votes taken on policies.

10. PUBLIC ACCESS – No comments

11. OPEN FORUM – No comments

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion FY22-22:

Mrs. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mrs. Alden, to enter into Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. in accordance with MGL c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, as so declared by the chair. Further, the Committee will adjourn from Executive Session.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Alden, Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, Dunn, Fitzgerald, Gillen, Goodwin, Haggerty, Lamoureux-Kane, Leo, Noyes-Miller, Panek, Randall, Valanzola

13. ADJOURN

Motion FY22-23:

The vote to adjourn is posted in the Executive Session Minutes – October 19, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Noyes-Miller, Secretary