

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, November 16, 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 7:03 pm with those in attendance rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Motion FY22-32:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Leo, to accept the October 19, 2021 meeting minutes – Regular Session as amended.

Amendment: Page 2, Committee Reports –Technical – change to: There was a brief Technical report.

VOTE: Voice Vote: All in Favor

Motion FY22-33:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the October 19, 2021 meeting minutes – Executive Session.

VOTE: Voice Vote: All in Favor

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

FY22 – Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending October 31st. The ESSER II funds have been encumbered for technology and Chromebook purchases.

FY23 – Beginning to work on the FY2023 budget.

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

Technical

Mr. Wood discussed:

- Cooperative work program
- Skills Grant purchases
- Craft Fair – hoping to raise \$10K for SkillsUSA via raffle sales and table rentals

Junior High

Mr. Sturges discussed:

- Vocational tours
- Parent Night for new Vocational students
- Doors and Window project

- Project 351 student nominations
- Food Drive to provide 30 Thanksgiving dinners to local families

High School

Ms. Joseph discussed:

- Thanksgiving football game to be held on Wednesday, November 24th at 5:30 p.m.
- Homecoming activities
- NHS Induction
- Professional Development updates
- Fall Concert
- Seniors of the Month: Lorelai Soper and Nicholas Colangione
- Program of Studies

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students –

Ana reported on Technical Division activities:

- Business Technology operating School store with new products introduced.
- Allied Health – Working on clinical hours, infection controls and PPE.
- Carpentry – working on a double garage projects and sheds.
- CAD – Working on plans for a new reception area.
- Hospitality/Café – the Café is open to teachers and staff with students working on serving. The Cornerstone Café is not yet open to the public
- Culinary – working with the new equipment (grant funded).
- IT – working on projects throughout the schools.
- Electrical – assisted with Grade 8 Technical tours
- Craft Fair – both Hospitality and Culinary made offerings and lunches to go; carpentry offered wooden items for sale.

Lorelai reported on the following:

- Intergenerational Club is collecting coats and shoes.
- Homecoming Dance on Oct. 23rd had 640 students attending
- Powder Puff Football for breast cancer awareness
- Pep Rally
- NHS Induction event
- Food Drive
- The “Shack” is open
- MASC Officer Shop/workshops

- b. Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee did meet and they approved the Central Office budget which was voted upon during the preceding Joint Meeting. The review on the full FY2023 budget is scheduled January 29, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
- c. Technical – No report.
- d. Curriculum – Mrs. Barnicle reported the subcommittee met on November 15th and they discussed in-person learning and review of the student handbooks. Other matters discussed included the level of anxiety among staff and students; vaping and bathroom use, hall monitors; and SRO role evolving into a very meaningful position. The next meeting is scheduled January 10, 2022
- e. By-Law & Policy - The following motion was supported by the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, therefore do not require a second to the motion. The next meeting is November 18, 2021.

Motion FY22-34:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to accept the following policies as noted:

- Policy IHB – Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations (Programs for children with Special Needs) – Amend Second Reading and Adoption
- IHA – Basic Instruction Program – RESCIND Second Reading and Adoption
- IHAE – Physical Education – RESCIND Second Reading and Adoption

- IGBE – Remedial Instruction – RESCIND Second Reading and Adoption
 - IGBH – Alternative School Programs – RESCIND Second Reading and Adoption
- Voice Vote: All in Favor - Motion Carried

f. Negotiations – No report.

g. Building and Physical Plant – No report. Next meeting is December 13, 2021.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- Mask Mandate Extension – DESE document 10/26/21
- Strategic Plan Documents – February 2015

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Proposed OSA Charter School Amendment/Expansion – Requested amendment submitted to DESE from the Board of trustees of the Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School (OSA) to add grades 9-12 and increase enrollment by 420 seats. Written comments are to be submitted to DESE by January 7, 2022.

Motion FY22-35:

Mrs. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to instruct the Superintendent and Committee Chairman to consult with legal counsel to review the OSA application.

Voice Vote: All in Favor - Motion Carried

- MCAS Presentation – Mrs. Bourassa reviewed the 2021 Tantasqua MCAS results. She reminded everyone that there were no comparative 2020 test results due to Covid, but the results can be used to help identify any learning gaps. The Principals discussed action plans to address learning gaps found as a result of the Covid crisis. Because the MCAS results are posted on the school's website, Mr. Haggerty asked if a narrative report could be developed to help everyone better understand the data presented, highlighting the positive data, pointing out strengths and adding a plan of action to address any lower testing results.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – See Committee Reports, By-Law & Policy

9. NEW BUSINESS – No comments.

10. PUBLIC ACCESS – No comments.

11. OPEN FORUM

Members who attended the MASC Conference discussed the various workshops they attended:

- Collective Bargaining
- Polarized Community Debates
- Anti-Racism – Equity for Students
- Equity Audits
- Communications and Social Media
- Declining Enrollment
- Project 351 Alumni Presentation
 - Suicide Epidemic - #1 killer of young people aged 11-22

12. ADJOURN

Motion FY22-36:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in Favor - Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Noyes-Miller, Secretary