

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, January 18, 2022

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

Ted Goodwin

William Haggerty

Kristen Leo

Megan Panek

Holland

Laura Alden

Eli Gillen

Wales

Christine Randall

Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Michele Fitzgerald (S), Erik Iller (H)

ALSO PRESENT

Deborah Boyd, Superintendent; Jodi Bourassa, Assistant Superintendent; Stephen Nembirkow, Director of Business and Finance, Leigh Joseph, Interim HS Principal; Greg Sturges, JH Principal; Mark Wood, Principal Director – Technical (arrived 6:15 pm); Ana Lima, Student Representative, and audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with those in attendance rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Motion FY22-37:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to accept the November 16, 2021 meeting minutes – Regular Session, as amended.

Amendment – Pg. 3, Mtn #FY22-35, change Mr. to Mrs. Randall.

VOTE: All in Favor

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Nembirkow reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending December 31st. 42% of the budget is expended, with an addition 53% encumbered for known expenses. Revenues received = 46%. The figures are as expected, with no concerns at this time.

The Budget Subcommittee meets January 29, 2022.

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

Junior High

Mr. Sturges discussed:

- Thank you to the custodial staff for their work.
- Sandy Hook Promise Presentation
- Toys for Tots
- Christmas/Holiday baskets provided to 35 local families
- Winter sports update

High School

Ms. Joseph discussed:

- Sandy Hook Promise Presentation
- Spring musical will be *Mama Mia*
- Winter sports update
- Music Programs
 - Annual Winter Concert on 12/16/21.
 - Seven Tantasqua students accepted into the Central District Chorus, of which three scored high enough to earn them an All State audition.
- School Counseling – Senior Futures Celebration week
- College and Career Readiness activities
- Student Council & NHS activities

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students –

Ana reported on Technical Division activities:

- Business Technology operating School store and in the classroom are learning personal finance.

- Allied Health –OSHA modules and clinical hours.
 - Carpentry – working on senior house and a shed project.
 - Hospitality/Café – the Café is open with students working on creating new menus and serving lunch for staff.
 - IT – working on projects throughout the schools.
 - Electrical – Working on small ranch home electrical designs
 - Culinary – still working with new equipment; MRE Challenge participation
- b. Budget – No Report. Meeting scheduled 1/29/22 to work on the FY2023 Budget.
- c. Technical – No report
- d. Curriculum
Mrs. Barnicle reported the subcommittee met and discussed:
(1) JH Math Pilot. Mrs. Bourassa indicated the school is looking at two options for the new math curriculum. Mrs. Bourassa spoke to the strengths of the program which is preferred by the majority of the Curriculum review committee (via survey). She indicated that materials will be available on-line in the event a student forgets to bring his materials home, parental support and fewer consumables needed. Mrs. Boyd noted the review committee included 6th grade teachers. The elementary schools will be reviewing their math curriculum next year. Action: Send a copy of the survey to full Committee via email.
(2) Mission Statement and Strategic Plan – Mrs. Barnicle indicated the Mission Statement is in need of refreshing and the subcommittee will form a group for this task.
- e. By-Law & Policy – (See New Business)
- f. Negotiations – No report
- g. Building and Physical Plant
Mrs. Leo reported the subcommittee met on December 3rd reviewing the Capital Plan. The Subcommittee will submit the projects moving forward to the Budget Subcommittee for their 1/29/22 meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- SWCEC – 1stQtr and FY21 Annual Report – sent to members electronically
- Mask Mandate Update – DESE
- DESE Covid Protocol Updates
- OSA Letter of 12/31/2021 – Mr. Valanzola discussed the letter sent by he and the former Superintendent to the Commissioner of Education addressing some factual inaccuracies stated in the expansion application submitted by the Old Sturbridge Academy Charter School. The timeframe to respond to the application closed on 1/7/22.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Boyd discussed the following:

- Covid Updates –
 - Rapid test kits distributed to staff over the New Year's holiday weekend to help with the safe return to school after the holidays.
 - Thank you to all staff for helping to fill the gaps in staffing.
- Professional Development Day – blended with some staff participating in person and others connecting via computers from their classrooms.
- DESE Update coming on Covid protocols.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments

9. NEW BUSINESS

Bylaw & Policy Votes:

In Mrs. Fitzgerald's absence, Mr. Valanzola presented the following motions as were supported by the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, thereby not requiring a second to the motion. Two additional policies were reviewed but were not changed (IHAM-R and IJNDD).

Motion FY22-38:

Mr. Valanzola moved to amend for First Reading Policy IHAM-1 – Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola called for objections, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

Motion FY22-39:

Mr. Valanzola moved to amend for First Reading Policy IHBF – Homebound Instruction.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola called for objections, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

Motion FY22-40:

Mr. Valanzola moved to amend for First Reading Policy IJ – Instructional and Supplementary Materials Selection.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola called for objections, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

Motion FY22-41:

Mr. Valanzola moved to amend for First Reading Policy IJL – Library Materials Selection, Adoption and Withdrawal.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola called for objections, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

Motion FY22-42:

Mr. Valanzola moved to amend for First Reading Policy IJOA – Field Trips.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola called for objections, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

Motion FY22-43:

Mr. Valanzola moved to amend for First Reading Policy JB – Equal Educational Opportunities.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola called for objections, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

Motion FY22-44:

Mr. Valanzola moved to RESCIND for First Reading the following:

Policy IJJ – Textbook Selections and Adoption

Policy IJOB – Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola called for objections, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

10. PUBLIC ACCESS

Mr. Popp, TEA Representative, indicated the TEA also responded to the Old Sturbridge Academy Charter School's application to expand.

11. OPEN FORUM

12. ADJOURN

Motion FY22-15:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Noyes-Miller, Secretary

TRSD:pag