

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Library – Tantasqua Junior High School

Mrs. Neal called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Committee members rose to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Geoff Earls
Sheila Noyes-Miller

Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle
James Ehrhard
Michele Fitzgerald
Kathleen Neal

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Howard Fife
Eric Iller

Brookfield

James Cooke
Donald Faugno
Peter O'Connell

Francis Simanski
Beth Tichy

Wales

Brenda Tooley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Marc Richter (Bm), William Haggerty (S), Michael Valanzola (W)

ALSO PRESENT

Daniel Durgin, Superintendent; Ted Friend, Associate Superintendent; Tim Prouty, Technical Division Principal; Jennifer Lundwall, Jr. High Principal; Michael Lucas, High School Principal; Leanna Ciukaj and audience.

MINUTES

Motion 10-01:

Mr. Earls motioned, seconded by Mr. Iller, to accept the regular session meeting minutes of December 15, 2009 as amended,

Amendments:

Motion 09-123 was seconded by Mr. (not Mrs.) Simanski

Pg. 4, MASC/MASS Conference – eliminate Hot, Flat & Crowded under workshops attended by Mr. Faugno.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 10-02:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the Executive Session minutes of December 15, 2009.

VOTE: All in Favor

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Durgin reported there were no significant issues, but brought attention to the two figures on the cover of the financial report: E&D certified at \$550,000 and School Choice – 12/31/09 balance \$542,830; \$425,000 reserved for current operating budget. The Committee had no questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - Leanna reported on the following student activities:

- Student Council prepared freshman care packages
- *Tomahawk* newsletter
- 1/14/10 Relay Committee kick-off meeting
- 12/05/09 – Mt. Holyoke function where author, Greg Mortenson, was speaker

b. Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported the Committee has reviewed the Technical and Jr. High budgets. The Sr. High budget will be reviewed at their next meeting on Monday, Jan. 25, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report.

e. By-Law & Policy – No meeting, no report. Next meeting scheduled Jan. 20th - 3:30 pm.

f. Personnel – No meeting, no report.

g. Negotiations - No meeting, no report. Next meeting scheduled Jan 28th. Mrs. Neal reported that the Chairs of the School Committees met with Mr. Durgin to begin discussion on mutually agreed upon goals for the next evaluation cycle.

h. Advisory Committee (School Resource Officer) – No meeting, no report.

i. Building and Physical Plant – No meeting, no report.

j. Ad Hoc Subcommittee –Next meeting will be held in February.

PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

COMMUNICATIONS

Donation

Motion 10-03:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to accept with appreciation, the donation made by Laurance Morrison of office furniture with accessories, valued at approximately \$500.00.

VOTE: All in Favor

Letter from Town of Brookfield – Mr. O’Connell asked to discuss the letter from the Town of Brookfield looking to explore possible collaborations that would offer potential efficiencies and cost savings opportunities. The Town of Brookfield offered the following areas for consideration: Payroll and accounting services; procurement; IT technical assistance; energy (fuel pricing); technical division – construction at town hall; and improved coordination of public access programming.

Mr. Durgin discussed the programs and cost-saving measures that the school is already taking; i.e., French River Collaborative and using the state-bid list for purchasing. He added that it is a complicated district and he would not move forward without Committee guidance.

The consensus of the Committee was that:

- The district towns should work together prior to approaching the school district – it would be inappropriate to offer exploration of these issues to only one of the towns.
- See if towns can join the French River Collaborative
- The types of services requested would impact the school's limited resources.
- The Technical Division construction request should be directed to Mr. Prouty and such a project was within the school's ability (without plumbing).

Mrs. Neal indicated that the Committee agreed that the school should not consider this request and that district towns should meet to discuss their combined purchasing power and work together on cost-saving efforts prior to approaching the school district for assistance.

STAFF REPORTS

Committee members asked for discussion on the following items:

- Basketball tryouts - Mr. Cooke asked the JH principal to provide a report on how many students tried out for both boys and girls Basketball.
- JH- new Math textbooks – Mrs. Lundwall indicated staff will be provided professional development on the implementation of the next textbooks on January 26th.
- HS – AP Report – a request to provide a multi-year trend for the number of students
- Technical Division – changes in scheduling to facilitate a better Exploratory experience for 9th grade students was discussed.
- College – early decisions or early actions – Committee asked for number of students applying for early decisions/acceptances.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Durgin reported on the following:

- State reinstatement of Transportation funding – School replaced most positions that were cut.
- Teachers voted down the requested furlough day (see December minutes).
- Mr. Durgin attended meeting held by Mr. Lucas and Mr. McGuinness with 8th and 9th grade students re: course expectations/college process.
- Southern Worcester County Collaborative looking to amend their bylaw that refers to representation/voting members. The change would allow the person voted as representative to remain in place until such time as a new person is voted in, rather than requiring an annual vote.
- TEd Foundation Fundraiser – Tastefully TEd, Publick House – January 22nd.
- DESE hosting a collaborative Professional Development effort.
- Mr. Durgin, Mr. Lucas and Haley Fuller attended the central MA Scholars Program at Holy Cross
- Legislative Bulletin (included in packet) and Ed Reform Act was discussed
- Budget and state funding – Mr. Durgin indicated the school is building their budget with the expectation of a 5% reduction in Chapter 70 funding.

PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made

OLD BUSINESS - No comments were made

NEW BUSINESS

Electronic School Committee Packets

Motion 10-04:

Mr. Ehrhard motioned, seconded by Mr. Earls to try the electronic School Committee packets for one month.

Discussion – The school would save approximately \$500-\$600 in mailing costs alone; Hard copies of the materials would be available the evening of the meeting.

VOTE: In Favor (14)
Opposed – Cooke

Superintendent's Monthly Report

Motion 10-05:

Mr. O'Connell motioned, seconded by Mr. Earls, that the Superintendent's report be a written report included in the packet, with a cut off date at least one week prior to the meeting and any current information presented verbally at the meeting.

Discussion – Mr. Simanski questioned the value of this report, feeling that this motion would add more work with little value.

VOTE: In Favor (2) - O'Connell, Cooke
Opposed (11)
Abstained (1) - Faugno

February Meeting

The February meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 24th.

ADJOURN

Motion 10-06:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Simanski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Haggerty, Secretary
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE