

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Wednesday, February 24, 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
Mark Richter

Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle
James Ehrhard
Michele Fitzgerald
William Haggerty
Kathleen Neal
Francis Simanski
Beth Tichy

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Howard Fife

Brookfield

James Cooke
Donald Faugno
Peter O'Connell

Wales

Michael Valanzola

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Eric Iller (H), Brenda Tooley (W)

ALSO PRESENT

Daniel Durgin, Superintendent; Beth Schaper, Assistant Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Business Manager; Tim Prouty, Technical Division Principal; Jennifer Lundwall, Jr. High Principal; Michael Lucas, High School Principal, and audience.

MINUTES

Motion 10-07:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to accept the regular session meeting minutes of January 19, 2010.

Amendments:

VOTE: In Favor (15)
 Abstained: Haggerty, Valanzola

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reported there were no significant issues and she expected to get through the end of the fiscal year without concern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - No report.

b. Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller requested Mrs. Boyd to review the FY2011 proposal budget. Mrs. Boyd indicated the budget figure had been reduced by \$57,000 since the last Budget Committee meeting because the insurance rates came in less than anticipated. The proposed budget maintains services and programs, but with fewer students, fewer staff members are required. Changes in personnel - three individuals (staff) retiring, replaced with two new people at a lower rate than the retirees.

Mr. O’Connell asked about expected 5% reduction in Chapter 70 funding. Mrs. Boyd indicated that if that does occur, then Mr. Durgin and the administrative team will look at adjustments.

Motion 10-08:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Simanski, to set the FY2011 budget figure at \$19,062,274.00 to bring forth to Public Hearing.

Motion 10-09:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to amend the FY2011 Proposed budget to reflect that it maintains the following positions at the High School: one Assistant Principal and one Dean of Students.

Discussion – Mrs. Boyd added that by voting the bottom line of the proposed budget, it does imply acceptance of the line items as presented.

Mr. Durgin indicated that he has discussed changes to the Unit B contract with the Negotiation Sub Committee. The proposed change is to eliminate the Dean of Students position and add a 10-month Asst. Principal position. This change does not have a budget impact and he indicated he better addresses the need of the school.

Mr. Durgin indicated that the current structure doesn’t work and he is taking the correct steps by meeting with the Negotiation Sub Committee. Mr. Durgin added that the position will be advertised inside and out and the building principal will have a strong voice on choosing the candidate. Mr. Cooke thought the change should also be sent to the Study Committee.

VOTE (On amending the original motion)

: In Favor 1 Cooke
Opposed 15

VOTE (On original motion)

In Favor All in Favor

Mr. Ehrhard thanked Mrs. Boyd and the Budget Subcommittee for their work.

The Public Hearing on the FY2011 Budget will be scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm prior to the March 16th regular meeting.

- c. Technical – Mr. Anderstrom indicated the Technical Division admission policy was discussed at their meeting and details are included in the Technical Division report.
- d. Curriculum – No meeting, no report.
- e. By-Law & Policy – Requests for votes are under the New Business agenda item.
- f. Personnel – No meeting, no report.
- g. Negotiations – To be discussed under Executive Session.
- h. Ad Hoc Subcommittee (Strategic Planning) – The Sub Committee met this evening and they are developing 11-12 major bullet points to focus on.

PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments were made.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Durgin reminded members to contact his assistant if they are interested in attending the Day on the Hill. Mrs. Barnicle asked if a brief meeting could be scheduled with all the local representatives that day. Mr. Durgin will see if that is possible.

It was mentioned that Marissa Simpson received the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Faugno noted he saw that Tufts University is requesting (not required) that students send in a video with their enrollment applications. Because not every student has the capability of producing such a video, he asked whether the school would be able to provide support. Mr. Durgin indicated the media department could assist if it's part of the application required materials. If video trend becomes a standard for college applications, then the school could develop protocols and policies to engage school resources.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Durgin reported on the following:

- Congratulations to Ted Friend who has secured a Superintendent's position for the Sutton Public Schools. Mr. Durgin will be moving forward with a search committee to fill the position.
- Curriculum updates on writing
- Six grant applications to the Verizon foundation.
- History grant
- Professional Development Day
- Course selection process underway for incoming Freshman
- Program of studies posted on the web
- Handout provided to members: FY2009 audited Financial Statement

PUBLIC ACCESS II - No comments were made

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Neal asked Committee members to comment on the process of having the meeting packets emailed rather than mailed. Most members indicated they preferred the old method of having the materials sent to them in hard copy. Because the vote to move to the email method was for one month only, no further action was required to return to the previous method.

School Committee Roles & Responsibilities

Motion 10-10:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to accept the School Committee Roles and Responsibility document.

Discussion: There was extensive discussion that included the following questions and/or concerns:

- Doesn't include ethical responsibility to taxpayers and communities

- Doesn't include requirements to vote on
 - School Improvement plans
 - School Choice
- Doesn't include any responsibility to be a "watch dog".
- Doesn't include requirements re: Superintendent – hiring and evaluation.

VOTE: In Favor (13)

Opposed: Faugno, O'Connell, Cooke

NEW BUSINESS

Obsolete Equipment

Motion 10-11:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to declare obsolete the Technical Division equipment (two lathes, one grinder) as detailed in the 2/11/2010 memo to Mr. Durgin.

VOTE: All in Favor

Policies

Motion 10-12:

Mr. Faugno motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to accept for First Reading, Policy EEA – Policy Regarding Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds.

Discussion:

- Policy strongly recommended by lawyer
- Question on cost of signage - expected to be a few hundred dollars to come from the building maintenance line item.
- Intended to protect the air quality of all residents of the school environment.
- Which Police Department would enforce?

Motion 10-13:

Mr. O'Connell motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to move the question

VOTE: In Favor 12

Opposed 4 Cooke, Ehrhard, Richter, Valanzola

VOTE (on Motion 09-12):

In Favor 13

Opposed 3 Cooke, Ehrhard, Valanzola

Motion 10-14:

Mr. Faugno motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to accept for First Reading, Policy KE – Public Complaints as amended:

Amendments – Para beginning with "If a..." - change: add "t" to make word complaint.

Motion 10-15:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to amend the motion as follows:

- First Para, last sentence – add the word "or Superintendent".

VOTE: In Favor 1 Cooke

Opposed 15

VOTE (on original Motion 10-14):

In Favor 15
Opposed: 1 Cooke

Motion 10-16:

Mr. Faugno motioned, seconded by Mr. O'Connell, to accept for First Reading, Policy JFE3 – Tantasqua Technical Division Admissions Policy.

Discussion: During the recent program audit, it was noted the school did not have this policy in place and recommended action;

The proposed policy has been reviewed and approved by the Technical and By-Law & Policy Sub Committees.

VOTE: All in Favor

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 10-17:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to move into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to contract negotiations with union personnel. The Committee to reconvene only for the purpose of adjournment.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES: Anderstrom, Barnicle, Cooke, Earls, Ehrhard, Faugno, Fife, Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Neal, Noyes-Miller, O'Connell, Richter, Simanski, Tichy, and Valanzola

ADJOURN

Motion 10-19:

Mr. Simanski motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Haggerty, Secretary
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE