

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Library – Tantasqua Junior High School

Mrs. Neal convened the Tantasqua meeting at 7:20 p.m. following the Public Hearing on the FY2011 Budget.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

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
Eric Iller

Brookfield

James Cooke
Donald Faugno
Peter O'Connell

Wales

Michael Valanzola

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Geoff Earls (Bm), Brenda Tooley (W)

ALSO PRESENT

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

MINUTES

Motion 10-20:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to accept the regular session meeting minutes of February 24, 2010.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 10-21:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to accept the Executive Session Minutes of February 24, 2010.

VOTE: All in Favor

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2010. She noted that there were no concerns over the expenses to close out the current fiscal year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - No report.

b. Budget

Motion 10-22:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Simanski, to set the FY2011 Total Operating Budget at \$19,142,274.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 10-23:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to set the FY2011 Debt Assessment at \$828,739.00 distributed by towns as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 140,140.00
Brookfield	\$ 143,206.00
Holland	\$ 99,697.00
Sturbridge	\$ 380,971.00
Wales	\$ 64,725.00

VOTE: In Favor (15)
Abstained: Valanzola

Motion 10-24:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Simanski, to set the FY2011 Transportation Assessment at \$458,263.00 distributed by towns as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 99,044.00
Brookfield	\$ 77,362.00
Holland	\$ 55,715.00
Sturbridge	\$ 180,821.00
Wales	\$ 45,321.00

Discussion: Mrs. Boyd indicated that if more reimbursements are received from the state, the Committee could vote to reduce the assessments to the towns.

VOTE: In Favor (15)
Opposed: Valanzola

Motion 10-25:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to set the FY2011 Net Operating Assessment at \$10,015,517.00 distributed by towns as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 1,657,520.00
Brookfield	\$ 1,315,542.00
Holland	\$ 1,130,759.00
Sturbridge	\$ 5,291,288.00
Wales	\$ 620,408.00

Discussion: Mrs. Boyd indicated that if additional Chapter 70 funding becomes available, the Committee could vote to reduce the assessments to the towns. She added that Tantasqua, with the figures presented, is already committed to absorbing \$200,000-\$216,000.00.

E&D – Mrs. Boyd noted E&D was certified at \$550,000, but a significant amount was already applied to the budget. Overall the E&D account has been declining because the Committee has been applying funding to the budget.

VOTE: In Favor (15)
Opposed: Valanzola

The Budget Subcommittee has planned a meeting on March 29th at 7:45 am to discuss any further information on reimbursement figures as they are released from the state.

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum – Mrs. Fitzgerald reported the subcommittee met and discussed:

- Professional Development – Special Education teachers at JH
- New course offerings at the HS
- GPA – review of values of AP and honors classes which would be included in the handbooks – process to be phased in with incoming freshman class When questioned, Mr. Durgin indicated he would be happy to pass this change through the Policy Subcommittee.

e. By-Law & Policy – The Subcommittee met and reviewed the following:

- Structure of the school committee
- Bullying – looked a draft policy
- Vote on Policies – see Old Business

f. Personnel – No meeting, no report.

g. Negotiations – Discussion under Executive Session.

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

i. Ad Hoc Subcommittee – No meeting, no report.

PUBLIC ACCESS I

Mr. Dan Valcour requested permission to handout a signed petition regarding the funding of the Instrumental Music program. Mr. Durgin indicated that although he had been in discussions with Mr. Valcour about the program, he had not seen a copy of the petition and would not make a recommendation to add an instrumental music position to the HS budget. He added the school has taken measures to improve the program. Mr. O'Connell asked that Mr. Durgin add the Music Program as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Durgin indicated information was included in the packet regarding the change in the law under MGL Chap 69 §11 – related to School Improvement Plans.

STAFF REPORTS

The Committee asked for a list of articulation agreements as shown on the Technical Division report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Durgin reported on the following:

- Insurance Costs
- Grants (Affinity – Verizon and Teaching American History)
- Tantasqua hosted a Ways & Means Committee meeting
- MASC Conference – March 30th
- Professional Development inclusion models
- ELL – Category 3 learning
- Emergency response training

Motion 10-26:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to approve School Choice for the 2010-2011 school year and continue with the cap of 22 students per grade. Vote to exclude the Technical Division.

VOTE: All in Favor

PUBLIC ACCESS II - No Comments

OLD BUSINESS

Policies

Motion 10-27:

Mr. Faugno motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve Policy EEAJ – Policy Regarding Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds for Second Reading and adoption,

VOTE: In Favor (13)
Opposed (3) – Cooke, Ehrhard, Valanzola

Motion 10-28:

Mr. Faugno motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve Policy KE – Public Complaints as amended for Second Reading and adoption.

Amendments: Spelling correction - paragraph beginning with “If a complaint...”, correct word complain to complaint.

VOTE: In Favor (14)
Opposed (2) – Cooke, Valanzola

Motion 10-29:

Mr. Faugno motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve Policy JFE-3 Tantasqua Technical Division Admissions Policy for Second Reading and adoption.

VOTE: All in Favor

NEW BUSINESS

Obsolete Items

Motion 10-30:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to declare a twenty-drawer card catalog at the Junior High obsolete.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 10-31:

Mr. O’Connell motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to declare outdated and damaged teacher resource materials at the Junior High obsolete. List is provided in a memo from Jennifer Lundwall to Mr. Durgin, dated 3/09/2010.

VOTE: All in Favor

Contribution

Motion 10-32:

Mr. O’Connell motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to accept, with appreciation, a contribution from Susan Gregory, Director at Hitchcock Academy, fifty copies of Women: A Celebration of Strength, by Louise A. Gikow for the JH Social Studies Dept.

VOTE: All in Favor

TASPA Contract

Motion 10-33:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the TASPA Contract for 2010-2013.

VOTE: All in Favor

Transportation Funding

Motion 10-34:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to ask legal counsel whether the district has any legal grounds to sue the State of Massachusetts for transportation funding.

Discussion – Mrs. Neal reviewed MGL C71 §16C which notes funding is “subject to appropriation”; thereby removing the stance to sue.

Mr. Cooke withdrew his motion and Mr. Valanzola withdrew his second to the motion.

Policy – Foreign Students

Mr. Durgin indicated he would be asking for a change in the policy to accept foreign students. He indicated there are some problems with the timeline and would be asking for a date change to June 1st for notification.

Other

Mrs. Neal acknowledged this is Mr. Ehrhard’s last meeting as he is running for the position of Selectmen in the town of Sturbridge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 10-35:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to enter into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to contract negotiations with union personnel. The Committee will reconvene in Open Session solely for the purpose of adjournment.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Anderstrom, Barnicle, Cooke, Ehrhard, Faugno, Fife, Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Iller, Neal, Noyes-Miller, O’Connell, Richter, Simanski, Tichy, Valanzola

ADJOURN

Motion 10-37:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Haggerty, Secretary
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE