TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Library – Tantasqua Senior High School

Mrs. Neal convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance rose to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield
Thaddeus France
Deb Maher
Sheila Noyes-Miller

Brookfield
James Cooke
William Gillmeister
Barbara Wilson

Sturbridge
Pat Barnicle
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Kathleen Neal
Francis Simanski

Holland
Steve Anderstrom
Howard Fife
Eric Iller

Wales

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT
Beth Tichy (S); Brenda Tooley, Michael Valanzola (W)

ALSO PRESENT
Daniel Durgin, Superintendent; Erin Nosek, Associate Superintendent; Beth Schaper, Assistant Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Business Manager; Mark Wood, Technical Division Director/Principal; Jennifer Lundwall, Jr. High Principal; Michael Lucas, High School Principal; Megan McIntyre, Michelle Bourget and Desiree Hagen, Student Representatives, and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 11-01:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to accept the meeting minutes of January 18, 2011 - Regular Session as amended.

Amendment:

- Page 3 – change submittal of minutes by: William Haggerty, Secretary
- Correct date on page header

VOTE: In Favor (12)
Abstained: (3) Anderstrom, Fife, Iller

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending January 31st. Ms. Boyd indicated there were no major budget issues, heating oil price is up, and Tantasqua, unlike many elementary schools, did not need to have the roofs shoveled due to snow loading. Snow plowing was contracted to Stan Kaitbenski and the company has provided excellent service during these back-to-back storms.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - Students reported on the following activities:

- Culinary Arts Competition
- Carpentry project – magazine rack
- CAD project – Rubics cubes

- Fall and Winter Sports Updates; Coach B received MIAA Sportsmanship Award
- Relay for Life
- Mentor Program
- March 10th – Rock Band Video Tournament
- Tantasqua-produced video showing the school won the national *You Schools* competition and was shown to the committee.

b. Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller indicated the subcommittee has been meeting weekly and is bringing forth a budget for consideration that reflects a 1.7% increase and maintaining programs and services. Mrs. Boyd indicated that the member towns, if each town's revenue remains the same, should be to afford that increase. She also indicated that the subcommittee met earlier this evening because she had found an error showing there was extra money in the bottom line. The subcommittee voted to add an electrical teacher. Currently the machine shop teacher was covering one tech block – this change will release the time back to the machine shop program. Mrs. Boyd reminded the Committee that the vote is on the total operating budget and the committee could vote on line item transfers. Mrs. Boyd reviewed adjustments:

- Page 2, the overall Supt. Office budget will be reduced by $5,331.00
- Page 4, Homebound Tutors should be $3,000
- Page 15, Teach Sal Shop & Rel Tech Div change to $1,193,355.00

Motion 11-02:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to bring forth to Public Hearing a Total Operating budget of $19,352,003.00

Area of the budget discussed:

- Mr. Haggerty asked for a list of books (SH English, Pg 6)
- Library books cut – Mrs. Boyd indicated the Committee would be asked to vote capital items from school choice funds
- Networking costs include new costs related to upgrades.
- Page 13 – Acq of equipment – another item usually funded from school choice.
- Pg 8 – Virtual High School – Mr. Lucas spoke to evaluation of the program.
- Electrical program has had some waiting, funding included additional teacher.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mrs. Neal reminded members that next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 16th. The Public Hearing is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

c. Technical – No meeting, not report

d. Curriculum - Mrs. Fitzgerald reported that the subcommittee met with Mrs. McKinstry to discuss the summer reading program and ways to blend the book topics and curriculum. The committee also discussed ways to support and promote the program, including having all school committee members read the books. When asked about the subcommittee choosing the books, Mrs. Fitzgerald responded it was the subcommittee's decision that choice of literature should be left to the curriculum makers, not the school committee members; but rather the committee should understand and appreciate the program because it is often an item of discussion by constituents.

e. By-Law & Policy – See Old and New Business agenda items.

f. Personnel – No meeting, no report.

g. Negotiations – No meeting, no report.

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

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I - No comments

5. COMMUNICATIONS
Letter from K. Neal to area School Committees – No comments

6. STAFF REPORTS
Mr. Galonek asked about the out-of-state trips approved by the Committee. Mr. Lucas indicated the trips were ready to go and he would provide reports afterwards.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Mr. Durgin reported on the following

- Hard lock down – Brookfield, Sturbridge and State Police were involved.
- DESE Visit – (review of JH SPED program & low-income populations) a six-member review team spent four days conducting meetings and reviewing materials.
- SBAB – JH Roof project
- Policy needed by March 16th with regards to new ADA regulations regarding service animals.
- Snow Days – at this time the last day of school is scheduled for June 22rd and no plans to change vacation schedules (February and April).
- Graduation is scheduled June 5th

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No Comments

9. OLD BUSINESS
Policy IJNDB – Mrs. Nosek indicated there was some discrepancy in the language of the Policy and reviewed the revisions and asked for a vote on the Policy as revised.

Motion 11-03:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Simanski, to approve Policy IJNDB – Acceptable Electronic Network Use Policy as revised and presented.

Motion 11-04:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to strike any reference to the elementary schools and/or Union #61 in Policy IJNDB.

Discussion – Mr. Cooke expressed his concern that Tantasqua committee had no right to vote on a policy for the elementary schools. Mr. Durgin indicated that every school is being presented the same policy and because there is one Tantasqua/Union #61 network it is more consistent to have one district policy.

The Assistant Principals oversee the permission slips referred to in the Policy.

VOTE (Mtn 11-04)	In Favor	(2)	Cooke, Gillmeister	
	Opposed	(13)		Motion fails
VOTE (Mtn 11-03)	In Favor	(14)		
	Opposed	(1)	Cooke	

10. NEW BUSINESS

Policy on Social Networking - IJNDD

Motion 11-05:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to accept for first reading, Policy on Social Networking - IJNDD.

Discussion – Item #3 regarding the inappropriateness vs. the first amendment rights of an individual to post items exhibiting or advocating use of drugs and alcohol.

Motion 11-06:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to move the question.

VOTE: All in Favor

VOTE (Mtn 11-05):	In Favor	(14)	
	Abstained	(1)	Cooke

Mrs. Neal reminded members interested in participating in The Day on the Hill to contact the Superintendent's office.

ADJOURN

Motion 11-07:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Haggerty, Secretary
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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