

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meetings of Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Library – Tantasqua Junior High School

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2011-12 BUDGET

Mrs. Noyes-Miller, Chair – Budget Subcommittee - Brimfield, opened the Public Hearing on the Tantasqua Regional School FY2012 Budget. She indicated the committee included a member from each of the towns and introduced James Cooke – Brookfield; Francis Simanski – Sturbridge and Michael Valanzola – Wales (Howard Fife – Holland, not in attendance).

Mrs. Noyes-Miller asked Mr. Durgin and Mrs. Boyd to review the Power Point presentation that highlighted expense and revenue comparisons from the previous FY2011 budget to the FY2012 budget proposal. The proposed budget is \$19,352,003.00 representing an overall increase of 1.7%. Mrs. Boyd indicated she has been meeting with the towns so they were aware of any assessment changes.

Mrs. Noyes-Miller proceeded to review each series of the budget and took audience questions on line items at each series' interval.

Mr. Simanski commented the proposed FY12 budget maintains educational programs and added an instructor for the electrical program in response to need.

Hearing no further questions, Mrs. Noyes-Miller closed the Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m. Mrs. Neal indicated the Committee would take a break and would re-open in public session at 7:00 p.m. for the regular school committee meeting, where the full Committee would formally vote on the budget proposal.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Sturbridge

Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Kathleen Neal

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Eric Iller

Brookfield

James Cooke
Barbara Wilson

Francis Simanski

Beth Tichy

Wales

Michael Valanzola

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

William Gillmeister (Bk), Howard Fife (H), Pat Barnicle (S), Brenda Tooley (W)

ALSO PRESENT

Daniel Durgin, Superintendent; Erin Nosek, Associate Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Business Manager; Mark Wood, Technical Division Director/Principal; Jennifer Lundwall, Jr. High Principal; Michael Lucas, High School Principal and audience.

PRESENTATION TO KATHLEEN NEAL

Mr. Durgin indicated this would be Mrs. Neal's last meeting. Mrs. Neal has been on the Tantasqua Committee for 6 years and on the Burgess Elementary Committee for 15 years – a total of 21 years dedicated to education in the region. Mr. Durgin presented Mrs. Neal a plaque of appreciation.

Mrs. Neal indicated it has been a privilege to serve the students and taxpayers as well as a pleasure to work with the administration and staff over her 21 years.

1. MINUTES

Motion 11-08:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Maher, to accept the meeting minutes of February 15, 2011.

VOTE: All in Favor

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending February 28th. Mrs. Boyd indicated the FY2011 budget is on track and even given the difficult winter, the utility line item seems fine.

Junior High Roof

Mr. Durgin indicated the estimates for the Junior High roof have come in much higher than anticipated. In a memo to the Building/Physical Plant and Budget subcommittees, Mr. Durgin detailed the total roof repair costs of \$1,109,324, which was included in the submitted budget to MSBA. Member towns were notified prior to this school committee meeting because of each town's Annual Meeting warrant deadline dates. Each warrant request was predicated upon the outcome of the TRSC vote. Mr. Durgin indicated the information provided in the memo, regarding the 5-year loan breakout is not part of the vote. Loan terms are made at the time of need and if approved, the school would first use the cash on hand (school choice funds) before borrowing.

Motion 11-09:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to rescind Motion 10-130 made at the December 21, 2010 meeting and to support further the following funding plan for the repairs to the Junior High roof.

Total Project	1,109,324
MSBA Reimbursement	600,810
District School Choice	208,514
Member Town Debt/Borrowing	300,000

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Simanski asked what would happen if the MSBA didn't accept the project. Mr. Durgin indicated he would come back to the Committee; but that he felt very confident the project will be accepted based on conversations with the MSBA.

Motion 11-10:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller to approve the following:

That the Tantasqua Regional School District (the "District") hereby appropriates the sum of One Million One Hundred Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Four Dollars (\$1,109,324) to pay costs of roof repairs at the Tantasqua Regional Junior High School located at 320 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, Massachusetts (the "Project") which project would materially extend the useful life of the Tantasqua Regional Junior High School and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and to meet this appropriation there is hereby authorized, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) and Chapter 70B of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, and any other enabling authority, the incurring of debt on the full faith and credit of the District in the amount of One Million One Hundred Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Four Dollars (\$1,109,324) that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's ("MSBA") grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs of the Project that the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District, provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-four point sixteen percent (54.16%) of eligible approved project costs as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the total amount of the borrowing authorized by this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA, and reduced further to the extent of any other funds that may be appropriated by the District to pay costs of the Project.

Further voted: That within seven (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Boards of Selectmen of the debt herein authorized, as required by Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and by the District Agreement.

VOTE: All in Favor

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students - No report

b. Budget – FY2012 Budget Votes

Motion 11-11:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to set the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2012 Total Operating Budget at \$19,432,003.00.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 11-12:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to set the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2012 Net Operating Assessment at \$10,442,084.00 distributed as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 1,811,513
Brookfield	\$ 1,324,882
Holland	\$ 1,154,558
Sturbridge	\$ 5,497,882
Wales	\$ 653,248

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 11-13:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to set the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2012 Transportation Assessments at \$417,519, distributed as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 88,161
Brookfield	\$ 68,861
Holland	\$ 49,593
Sturbridge	\$ 170,563
Wales	\$ 40,341

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 11-14:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Maher, to set the Tantasqua Regional School District FY2012 Debt Assessments at \$691,092, distributed as follows:

Brimfield	\$ 129,027
Brookfield	\$ 110,091
Holland	\$ 76,089
Sturbridge	\$ 322,118
Wales	\$ 53,767

VOTE: All in Favor

Mrs. Neal thanked the members of the Budget Subcommittee for all their work on the FY2012 budget.

With regards to state funding, if the amount is decreased from the anticipated figure in the budget, administration and the Budget Subcommittee will meet to determine a course of action.

c. Technical – No meeting, no report.

d. Curriculum - No meeting, no report.

e. By-Law & Policy – No meeting, no report. Next meeting: March 28th – 6:00 p.m.

f. Personnel – No meeting, no report.

g. Negotiations – No meeting, no report.

h. Building & Physical Plant – No Report.

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4. PUBLIC ACCESS I – No comments.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

MARS Proposed Legislation – Mr. Durgin indicated he included in the Committee's packets information regarding a proposed change to Chapter 70 – regional stabilization fund.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Lucas commented that 10 medals were awarded to Tantasqua students during the Skills USA competition and that 15 students are moving forward to State finals.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

School Choice Vote

Motion 11-15:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that TRSD continue to accept School Choice Students, as detailed in the Superintendent's March 9, 2011 memo.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Durgin reported on the following

- Letter from Senator Brewer congratulating the student's on their *State of Mind* video award
- Superintendent's Evaluation – forms will be sent out to all Committee members with discussion scheduled in May
- Day on the Hill – culinary students will be presenting and will take a tour of the Capitol building.
- Commissioner of Education has indicated he could be available: April 5th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with a planned 15-30 minute discussion on Common Core and 45-50 minutes Q&A. The Committee expressed their disappointment that the Commissioner would not be available for an evening meeting given most committee members work during the daytime. The Committee asked Mr. Durgin to request an evening meeting with the Commissioner.
- The Athletic Director is looking at a computer-based program to establish a baseline assessment for athletes that could be used for comparisons when an athlete is injured.
- EMT Summer Program – Mr. Durgin is looking at details to offer a basic EMT course as part of the Summer Education Program offered to the community. The program, competitively priced, would engage 15-24 participants for a total of 120 learning hours. Profits would be used to offset other expenses. Committee members also discussed offering basic First Aid courses too.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No Comments

9. OLD BUSINESS - No Comments

10. NEW BUSINESS

Common Core Standards

Motion 11-16:

Mr. Cooke motioned, seconded by Mr. Simanski, to send to Sen. Kerry, Brown and Congressman Neal the following:

Although we support Congressional efforts to remove penalties from *The No Child Left Behind* law, we, the Tantasqua Regional School Committee, remain opposed to further federal intrusion in local schools. As our representatives in Congress, we ask that you oppose any effort to tie the receipt of federal aid for local schools to the adoption of the Common Core educational standards.

Discussion – Mr. Simanski suggested taking a month to further review and consider the matter. Mr. Cooke indicated legislative discussion still appears to be very fluid, but he is concerned about tying any reimbursement dollars to Common Core educational standards.

Motion 11-17:

Mr. Simanski motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to table discussion and any resulting vote on Motion 11-16 to the next regularly scheduled school committee meeting.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola personally thanked Mrs. Neal for serving as Chair of the Committee. He indicated he admired and respected her for the way she managed meetings, especially when there were strong opinions on varied subject matters.

ADJOURN

Motion 11-18:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Haggerty, Secretary
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TRSC:pag