

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meetings of Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Library – Tantasqua Junior High School

Mr. Cooke convened the meeting at 7:25 p.m. (following the Joint School Committee meeting).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Deb Maher
Sheila Noyes-Miller

Brookfield

James Cooke
William Gillmeister
Sharron Austin

Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle
James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
Gary Galonek
William Haggerty
Beth Tichy

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Howard Fife
Erik Iller

Wales

Brenda Tooley
Michael Valanzola

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France (Bm); Francis Simanski (S)

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 and Michelle Bourget, Student Representatives, and audience.

1. MINUTES

Motion 11-44:

Mrs. Maher motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept the meeting minutes of April 27, 2011.

Discussion – Mr. Valanzola indicated the minutes should show that Attorney Toomey's response essentially said the Committee could go either way (either sit the Vice Chair in the Chair's absence or vote an interim Chair to fill the vacancy until June elections). Accepted as a friendly amendment.

VOTE: In Favor 10
 Abstained 4 (Haggerty, Iller, Galonek, Austin)

Motion 11-45:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Maher, to accept the Executive Session minutes of April 27, 2011.

Discussion: The Committee discussed whether Executive Session minutes should only include the vote, without recording discussions on the subject matter.

Motion 11-46:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Maher, to amend the motion to accept the Executive Session minutes by deleting all discussion and only include the vote in the minutes.

Discussion: Mr. Gillmeister felt the bullet points spelling out the appellant's request should remain part of the minutes. Mrs. Noyes-Miller and Mrs. Maher accepted the friendly amendment.

Discussion: The Committee discussed whether they should be discussing accepting the minutes in open session when it applies to a person's character.

Motion 11-47:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to postpone a vote on the Executive Session minutes of April 27, 2011 until the next meeting to allow time for administration to check with counsel regarding:

- Whether the acceptance of the minutes should be done in open session.
- Length of time sensitive minutes should be withheld from release.

VOTE: In Favor 10
 Abstained 4 (Haggerty, Iller, Galonek, Austin)

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending April 30th. She indicated she intends to top off the oil tanks at the end of the fiscal year.

Town meetings have begun with Brimfield's meeting held on May 16th, Wales is scheduled for May 18th. Holland is not sending the vote on the roof to town meeting.

Seven bids came in for the JH roof project and the lowest bid came in approximately \$400,000 lower than expected. She indicated the bids haven't been reviewed yet to assure they meet specifications.

The Budget subcommittee will meet before the June meeting to make any recommendations with regards to possible changes in state funding.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Megan discussed the following student activities:

- Fundraisers:
 - Relay for Life – 300 walkers
 - Walk for diabetes
 - Penny Wars
 - Crane Project fundraiser to support disaster relief efforts in Japan. Students created a video to send to Japan which was shown to the Committee. The video is on the school's website and is being shown on local cable television.

Michelle read her personal thank you letter to the committee, expressing her appreciation for having extraordinary learning experience. Michelle will be attending Westfield State University in the fall and the Committee thanked her for her thoughtful reports.

b. Budget – No meeting.

c. Technical – No meeting.

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

- 2nd semester offerings
- Guidance Counselor and her work to identify students at risk.

- JH transition to 2 ½ teams
- Enrollment data on AP courses. Mr. Lucas reviewed the push to challenge students to take AP classes. AP enrollment data: Last year, 145 students; this year 219 and next year projections 270 students.
- Preliminary discussions on the physical education curriculum – the committee wants to hear how this curriculum is conveyed and about the opportunities offered for all students.

e. By-Law & Policy – No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel – No meeting, no report.

g. Negotiations – No meeting, no report.

h. Building & Physical Plant – No Report.

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I – No comments.

Mr. Cooke asked if there were any objections to moving agenda items listed under New Business to this point of the meeting. Hearing no objections, Mr. Cooke asked Mr. Levine to provide an update from the MASC meeting.

Mr. Levine serves on three MASC subcommittees – Regional, Student Assessment and Legislative. He discussed issues that are of concern:

- Regional transportation reimbursement
- Teacher evaluation process and legal ramification with regards to collective bargaining. Student assessment will be tied to teacher evaluations and the performance of at-risk or challenged students are included. Mr. Levine commented that the new process does not take account of variables of student achievement levels.
- MCAS testing – looking at having different tests for academic, vocational and SPED students.
- Program for students with disabilities - focus is to have the teacher move students from schools, prepare them to work, then to independent living.
- High school diploma/graduation requirements.
- Salaries for private school staffing may be mandated as comparable salaries.
- Adding a school committee member to the Board of Education

Mr. Cooke thanked Mr. Levine for sharing these issues. Mr. Cooke indicated that Mr. Levine could provide information share about upcoming Board of Education and/or education related legislation which he would then disseminated to the members.

Summer Reading – Mr. Cooke asked if there were any objections to adjusting the agenda by moving Deb McKinstry. Hearing none, Mr. Cooke invited Mrs. McKinstry to comment on the choice of the summer reading book for the High School. The book choice is *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*. There is an option if someone finds the book objectionable. The Curriculum subcommittee has reviewed and the process for choosing the book was discussed.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

USDA Notification: Equity in School Lunch Pricing Fact Sheet. - Mr. Durgin indicated the USDA is asking schools to move to increase lunch prices so they don't subsidize non-free lunches.

JH Summer Reading List – Mr. Haggerty asked whether the book *Three Cups of Tea* should remain on the list considering the controversy regarding the author admission that he plagiarized and only a small portion of the proceeds was used to build schools. Mrs. Lundwall agreed with Mr. Haggerty's concern.

6. STAFF REPORTS - Mr. Valanzola thanked Mr. Lucas for including the athletic standings in his report.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Durgin reported on the following:

- Senior Prank
- Class Day is June 2nd. School Committee members usually help serve pizza and ice cream to the students.
- Graduation is June 5th - 2:00 pm.
- Professional Day (joined with Dudley/Charlton schools) for administrators on teacher evaluation. The trainer, Mr. Marshall, will come to Tantasqua in mid-August for training.
- National Honor Students inductee ceremony is May 19th
- The All Arts evening presentation is May 26th – 6:00 pm.

Mr. Gillmeister asked if the Committee should take a stance on the issues discussed by Mr. Levine. He suggested that By-Law & Policy review the issues, then have their recommendation presented to the Chair for him to decide whether a special meeting should be called. By-Law & Policy indicated they could schedule a meeting June 2, 2011 at 2:00 pm.

Motion 11-48:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mrs. Maher, to have the issue of teacher evaluations (as discussed by Mr. Levine) sent to the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee to be discussed at their meeting on June 2, 2011 (2:00 pm). The subcommittee shall evaluate the matter and prepare a report which shall include a written comment on the matter to the Board of Education.

Motion 11-49:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Anderstrom, to move the question.

VOTE: All in Favor

VOTE: All in Favor (motion 11-48)

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No Comments

9. OLD BUSINESS

Motion 11-50:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr., Valanzola, to approve Policy IMG – Animals in School for Second Reading and adoption.

VOTE: All in Favor

10. NEW BUSINESS

School Choice

Motion 11-51:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve school choice for up to 22 students per grade for grades 7-10.

VOTE: All in Favor

Books to be Withdrawn

Motion 11-52:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to declare obsolete the following:

1. List of JH Books submitted by J. Lundwall, dated 5/10/2011
2. List of HS Books included in the packet.

VOTE: In Favor (13)
Abstained: Ehrhard

Policy JFABC

Motion 11-53:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve Policy JFABC – Admission of Transfer Students from Commonwealth Charter Schools for first reading.

Motion 11-54:

Mr. Galonek motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to amend by changing the first paragraph to read:

The school district will enroll and place students who have left Commonwealth charter schools, by adhering to the same procedures in place for any other student enrolling in the school district.

VOTE: All in Favor
VOTE: All in Favor (Motion 11-53, as amended by Motion 11-54)

ADJOURN

Motion 11-55:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mrs. Maher, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Haggerty, Secretary
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE