

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meetings of Wednesday, April 27, 2011
Library – Tantasqua Junior High School

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
Sheila Noyes-Miller

Sturbridge

Pat Barnicle
James Ehrhard
Michelle Fitzgerald
Beth Tichy

Holland

Steve Anderstrom
Howard Fife

Brookfield

James Cooke
William Gillmeister
Barbara Wilson

Wales

Brenda Tooley
Michael Valanzola

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Deb Maher (Bm); Eric Iller (H); Gary Galonek, William Haggerty, Francis Simanski (S)

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, Michelle Bourget, Student Representatives and audience.

PRESENTATION OF MAVA OUTSTANDING VOCATIONAL STUDENT AWARD

Mr. Durgin reviewed both school and community achievements of Tyler Latour, recipient of the MAVA Outstanding Vocational Student Award. Mr. Gillmeister offered his personal congratulations as Tyler's scout leader, indicating Tyler also had achieved the Eagle Scout badge. The committee applauded Tyler's achievements.

INTRODUCTION – JAMES EHRHARD

Mr. Ehrhard was introduced as the newest member elected from Sturbridge.

AMENDED AGENDA/REORGANIZATION

Mr. Durgin presented an amended agenda removing Committee reorganization. Mr. Durgin explained that the TRSD bylaws, adopted in 1952, call for reorganization to occur at the meeting scheduled on the third Tuesday in June. Because Mrs. Neal concluded her elected term and therefore is no longer a member, there is no current Chairman. Mr. Gillmeister indicated that although it seems reasonable for the Vice Chair to fill the position until elections, there is no policy governing procedure in this vacancy of Chairman situation. Mr. Durgin indicated he removed reorganizing based on Attorney Toomey's response regarding the Vice Chair filling the Chair seat until the June meeting. Mr. Durgin asked that the bylaw language be sent to the Bylaw & Policy Subcommittee for review and recommendation.

Motion 11-19:

Mr. Ehrhard motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to maintain the original agenda and hold reorganization.

In Favor 7
Opposed 3

With the motion passing, the meeting was turned over to Mr. Durgin. Mr. Durgin called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Mrs. Barnicle nominated Sheila Noyes-Miller.
Mrs. Tooley nominated James Cooke.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Durgin closed nominations allowing each candidate to address the committee on why each would be an effective Chairman. Mr. Durgin called for the vote.

In Favor of Mrs. Noyes-Miller 5
In Favor of Mr. Cooke 7

Mr. Cooke assumed the Chairman position and asked for nominations for the Secretary Pro-Temp. It was noted this procedure of electing a temporary Secretary should occur whenever the Secretary is absent.

Motion 11-20:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to appoint Mrs. Barnicle as Secretary Pro-Temp.

VOTE: All in Favor

1. MINUTES

Motion 11-21:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to accept the meeting minutes of March 16, 2011.

VOTE: In Favor 7
 Abstained 4 (Fife, Barnicle, Tichy, Ehrhard)

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending March 31st. Mrs. Boyd indicated the FY2011 budget is on track. Mrs. Boyd indicated she intends to top off the oil tanks at the end of the fiscal year.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Students

Michelle discussed the following student activities:

- Relay for Life – 300 walkers
- Yearbook updates
- Diabetes Walk – April 30th
- Sports Updates
- Senior Variety Show – April 13th & 14th
- Senior documentary

- Prom – May 20th , DCU Center
- Japan Earthquake Relief fundraiser (paper crane project) - \$200

b. Budget – No meeting. Town meetings are scheduled.

c. Technical

Mrs. Tooley indicated the subcommittee met and discussed:

- Changes to the Grade 9 Exploratory program which will allow students to begin their specialty programs earlier and provide more elective opportunities.
- School Improvement Plan for the Technical Division – copy will be in next month's packet.
- Improvements to the Technical Division website.

d. Curriculum - No meeting, no report – next meeting scheduled May 16th

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 meeting, no report.

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I – No comments.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

School Choice – Mr. Durgin commented that there were 48 applications for 7th grade, but given the policy to reserve slots for students already attending one of the member elementary schools and the sibling consideration, there were only 11 open seats.

Green Repair – Mr. Durgin indicated the Boards of Selectmen of the region appear very supportive of the program.

Donations

Motion 11-22:

Mr. Valanzola motioned , seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to accept with appreciation the donation of a pole transformer to the TRSD Electrical Program, valued at \$1,500.00 from Mr. Cable.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 11-23:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to accept with appreciation the donation of a bicycle and helmet for the all-night Read-a-Thon incentive from the Sturbridge Police Department, in partnership with Walmart.

VOTE: All in Favor

6. STAFF REPORTS - No comments

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Durgin reported on the following

- Sturbridge Police Department looking at opportunities for grant funding for communication devices.
- The calendar of Senior activities is on the website.
- Fire in 2nd floor girls bathroom caused the students to be evacuated and is currently under investigation by the Fire Marshall and State Police.
- Freshman academy - Ms. Flanagan and Mr. Lucas working on a tracking program for less engaged students. Mr. Lucas is working on a report to the committee.

Junior High Roof Project – MSBA Green Repair Project

Mr. Durgin requested a vote from the committee to designate and authorize the Superintendent to endorse the Project Funding Agreement.

Motion 11-24:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to authorize Superintendent Daniel Durgin to sign all MSBA documents related to the Junior High School Roof Project
VOTE: All in Favor

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No Comments

9. OLD BUSINESS

Motion 11-25:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve Policy IJNDD Social Networking for Second Reading and adoption.
VOTE: All in Favor

Common Core – Mr. Cooke presented a request to the committee to authorize the Superintendent, on behalf of the Committee, to write to legislative representatives expressing a stance on the Common Core educational standards (copy included in packet).

Motion 11 -26:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Ehrhard, to authorize the Superintendent, on behalf of the Tantasqua Regional School Committee to send to Senators Kerry and 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.”

Motion 11-27:

Mrs. Barnicle motioned, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald, to amend the quotation portion of Motion 11-26 as follows:

“Although we support Congressional efforts to remove penalties from *The No Child Left Behind Law*, we, the Tantasqua Regional School Committee, remain opposed to any effort to tie the receipt of federal aid for local schools to the adoption of the Common Core educational standards.”

VOTE In Favor (10)
 Opposed (2) Ehrhard, Gillmeister

VOTE on Motion 11-26, as amended by Motion 11-27: All in Favor

10. NEW BUSINESS

Motion 11-28:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve for first reading, Policy IMG – Animals in School.

VOTE: All in Favor

Summer Reading – the presentation to be added to the May agenda.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion 11-29:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to enter into Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. as provided under MGL Chap. 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The Committee intends to reconvene in open session for the sole purpose of adjournment.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – France, Noyes-Miller, Cooke, Wilson, Gillmeister, Fife, Barnicle, Fitzgerald, Tichy, Ehrhard, Anderstrom, Valanzola, Tooley

ADJOURN

Motion 11-32:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Barnicle, Secretary Pro-Temp
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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