

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meetings of Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Library – Tantasqua Junior High School

Mr. Cooke convened the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Members rose to salute the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Deb Maher
Sheila Noyes-Miller

Sturbridge

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

Holland

Steve Anderstrom

Brookfield

James Cooke
William Gillmeister
Sharron Austin

Wales

Karen Blasco
Michael Valanzola

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Thaddeus France (Bm); Eric Iller, Howard Fife (H)

ALSO PRESENT

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 and audience.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Cooke turned the meeting over to Ms. Nosek, for the purpose of reorganizing. Ms. Nosek called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Chairman - Nominations:

Mr. Valanzola nominated James Cooke for the position of Chairman.
Seconded by Ms. Blasco.

Mrs. Maher nominated Mrs. Noyes-Miller for the position of Chairman.
Seconded by Mr. Haggerty.

Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Nosek closed nominations and asked if each candidate would like to address the committee. Mrs. Noyes-Miller thanked the committee for the nomination, but asked that her name be withdrawn as she is too busy with recovery details related to the tornado. With no other candidates, Ms. Nosek called for a vote:

All in Favor for Mr. Cooke to hold the position of Chairman.

Ms. Nosek returned governance of the meeting to Mr. Cooke. Mr. Cooke thanked the Committee for the support and appointment.

Vice-Chairman - Nominations - Mr. Cooke called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Mr. Valanzola nominated Sheila Noyes-Miller for the position of Vice-Chairman.
Seconded by Ms. Blasco.

Mr. Galonek nominated Michelle Fitzgerald for the position of Vice-Chairman.

Seconded by Mr. Ehrhard.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Cooke closed nominations and provided each candidate an opportunity to address the committee.

Mrs. Noyes Miller indicated that she had held the position for some time and would be happy to continue in the role as Vice-Chair to fill in for the Chair when needed.

Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated she would be honored to also serve in the role of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Cooke called for a vote.

In favor of Mrs. Noyes-Miller	6
In favor of Mrs. Fitzgerald	6
Abstained:	1 (Austin)

With a tied vote, Mr. Cooke broke the tie with his vote for Mrs. Noyes-Miller.

Secretary – Nominations- Mr. Cooke called for nominations for the position of Secretary

Mr. Valanzola nominated William Haggerty for the position of Secretary.

Seconded by Mr. Ehrhard.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Cooke closed nominations and asked for a vote.

All in Favor

1. MINUTES

Motion 11-62:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to accept the meeting minutes of May 17, 2011.

Discussion – Mr. Galonek noted Fran Simanski's name was listed under "Members not Present" and his name should be removed from the minutes, but add a footnote to the minutes that Mr. Simanski had passed away. Accepted as a friendly amendment.

VOTE:	In Favor	12
	Abstained	1 (Blasco)

Motion 11-63:

Mr. Galonek motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to accept the meeting minutes of June 2, 2011.

VOTE:	In Favor	9
	Abstained	4 (Noyes-Miller, Blasco, Barnicle, Tichy)

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending May 31st. She indicated that revenues are expected to be approximately \$50,000 short, but that she anticipates there will be \$100,000 at the end of the year to go into E&D.

Roofing Project Vote – SBAB

Motion 11-64:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the Tantasqua Junior High roof replacement appropriating the total project budget of \$1,109,324.00 with 54% reimbursed through MSBA and the remaining paid by Tantasqua's School Choice Funds.

VOTE:	All in Favor
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3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Students - no report
- b. Budget – No meeting.
- c. Technical – No meeting.
- d. Curriculum - No meeting.
- 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.

Mr. Cooke advised all that the Superintendent's office would be sending out letters asking each member to make their top three choices for sub-committee assignments. Mr. Cooke noted that he will make committee assignments giving each member's choices full consideration with the intent to make the appointments this summer so that each new committee would be prepared at the beginning of the school year.

4. PUBLIC ACCESS I – No comments.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

College Acceptances - Mr. Lucas commented on the list of colleges to which students had been accepted – the bolded schools are colleges the graduates have chosen to attend.

Obsolete Equipment – Technical

Motion 11-65:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to declare obsolete the following equipment: Deckle Fp4-A Universal Milling & Boring Machine, Ser #2800-5318.

VOTE: All in Favor

6. STAFF REPORTS

General Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Wood introduced the Chairman of the General Advisory Committee – Technical Division, Scott Mansfield. Mr. Mansfield reviewed the role and purpose of the committee and the matters discussed at their meetings that were held during the year.

Mr. Wood indicated that Mr. Mansfield is also Tantasqua's newest electrical teacher.

The Committee asked if the carpentry division had offered services to members of the member communities who had been impacted by the tornadoes. Mr. Wood indicated that for the most part, work related to tornado repairs or re-builds will be insurance-covered work and with the school year finishing, carpentry work was not offered. However, electrical students worked in the shop on boxed pole connections which were used to get electricity back in tornado-affected areas.

Mrs. Barnicle commented the how the students and Tantasqua school community came together working on collections for the tornado victims.

Mr. Ehrhard commented on the boys cross country team season winning record.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

In Mr. Durgin's absence, Ms. Nosek reported on the following:

- Class Day was cancelled due to the tornado, but recognitions were rolled into the Graduation ceremony. Mrs. Nosek commented that it was exceptionally nice to hear about the many awards granted to the Tantasqua graduates at the graduation ceremony.
- Actions to help the tornado victims.
- Summer professional development plans.
- The 4-day summer schedule will be continued this year.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS II - No Comments

9. OLD BUSINESS

Legal Opinion and Vote on Executive Session Minutes

Motion 11-66:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, approve and seal the Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 2011.

VOTE: In Favor 9
 Abstained: 4 (Galonek, Haggerty, Blasco, Austin)

Policy

Motion 11-67:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mrs. Maher, to approve for second reading and adoption Policy JFABC – Admission of Transfer Students from Commonwealth Charter Schools.

VOTE: All in Favor

10. NEW BUSINESS

Formation of Legislative Subcommittee

Motion 11-68:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to amend Policy BDE by inserting "Legislative Subcommittee" after Building & Grounds in the list of standing subcommittees.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Valanzola indicated this proposition to add a Legislative subcommittee did not pass through the By-Law & Policy subcommittee because he felt timing was an issue as the Chairman would be making subcommittee appointments during the summer and he'd like to see this subcommittee in place prior to those appointments being made. He added that the subcommittee would be charged with the responsibility to keep up on upcoming legislation or DOE regulations that could impact the students, school and/or its budgets; study potential impacts; provide information to the full committee, and to bring forth recommendations to the full committee to take a stance when appropriate.

Mrs. Barnicle indicated that the MASC already does exactly what this proposed committee would be charged with and that all committee members should currently receive information from the MASC. She expressed her concerns with becoming a committee of resolutions.

Mr. Haggerty agreed with Mrs. Barnicle’s comments, adding that he didn’t want to see the committee spend too much time on state and national issues, rather than on local education issues.

Mr. Ehrhard also expressed his concern, supporting this sub-committee formation if it is to be an advisory group, rather than a resolution producing committee.

Ms. Austin asked whether job descriptions existed for each subcommittee. Mr. Haggerty thought there were descriptions. Mrs. Barnicle questioned whether a study committee should be formed to make a recommendation whether a Legislative sub-committee should be formed and if so, to develop a mission and/or purpose statement.

Motion 11-69:

Mr. Haggerty motioned to amend the main motion to have the issue sent to ByLaw and Policy for review and to recommend an action.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Gillmeister indicated that there are no job descriptions or requirements for the number of members, etc. for any of the subcommittees.

VOTE:	In Favor	2	(Barnicle, Haggerty)
	Opposed:	10	
	Abstained	1	

Motion fails

Motion 11-70:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to close debate and move the question.

VOTE: All in Favor

VOTE (Motion 11-68)	In Favor	10	
	Opposed	2	(Barnicle, Haggerty)
	Abstained	1	

Trip Request – World Language

Ms. Jennifer Swanson and Ms. Jennifer Kowszik presented their request for approval of an educational trip to France and Spain during the spring vacation 2012. The trip may include travel on the Friday prior to vacation. The program fee is a minimum of \$2,765 pp, maximum of \$3,305 with excursions, fees, etc. Trip includes breakfast and dinner; students would be responsible for their own lunches. The minimum number of participants to run the tip is 12 students. For any student with financial concerns, multiple opportunities for fundraising are available.

Motion 11-71:

Mr. Valanzola motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to approve the World Language educational trip as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion 11-72:

Mr. Valanzola motioned seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to exempt Ms. Jennifer Swanson and Ms. Jennifer Kowszik from the conflict of interest laws for expenses provided related to the World Language educational trip (see Motion 11-71).

VOTE: All in Favor

Next Meeting Date

Motion 11-73:

Mr. Valanzola motioned seconded by Mrs. Maher, voted to set the August meeting date as follows: August 31, 2011 7:00 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Discussion HB502

Mr. Gillmeister provided copies of a resolution he prepared addressing HB502, an act relative to transgender equal rights. He indicated he hoped to have a vote on the resolution to send to MASC who has a July 1st comment deadline prior to taking its stance on the matter.

Motion 11-74:

Mr. Gillmeister motioned, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the following resolution with regards to HB 502: An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights:

Whereas, House Bill 502 An Act relative to transgender equal rights is a bill before the Massachusetts General Court,

Whereas, HB 502 will create a circumstance where individuals may claim to be the male, female, or both, with little more than the claim as substantiation,

Whereas, HB 502 requires public accommodation to allow such individuals access to bathrooms, locker rooms and other sensitive areas regardless of biological gender,

Whereas, HB 502 has no credible method for validating the veracity of a claimed gender,

Whereas, this circumstance creates a high risk to females and children of predatory sex behavior,

Whereas, children of high school age are vulnerable to such behavior,

Whereas, high school athletic programs would have to allow teenage males into the female locker room and vice versa, and

Whereas, such accommodations may be prohibitively costly, be it

Resolved that the Tantasqua Regional School Committee opposes House Bill 502 An Act relative to transgender equal rights and strongly recommends that the Joint Committee on the Judiciary report the bill to study or “ought not to pass,” and that the General Court oppose this legislation.

Resolved, that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees oppose House Bill 502, recommends that the Joint Committee on the Judiciary report the bill to study or “ought not to pass,” and that the General Court oppose this legislation.

DISCUSSION – There was extensive discussion with the majority of debate addressing the following bullet points:

- Questioning whether the bill is addressing social issue, rather than a school/educational issue.

- What message of tolerance would this vote send to students and staff?
- Financial implications related to bathrooms and locker rooms.
- Where was HB 502 in the legislative process?

Motion 11-75:

Mr. Haggerty motioned, seconded by Mrs. Tichy, to end debate and move the question.

VOTE: In Favor 8
 Opposed: 6

Motion failed, 2/3rd vote required – debate continues.

Mr. Gillmeister discussed the gymnasium locker rooms and the use by many other schools during games, etc.

Motion 11-76:

Mr. Ehrhard motioned, seconded by Mr. Galonek, to take no action on Motion 11-74 at this time and send this matter to the newly voted Legislative Subcommittee for review and recommendation.

DISCUSSION – Mr. Gillmeister indicated he wasn't opposed to sending this to the subcommittee for review and recommendation, but noted the committee would miss the window of time to send their official comment to the MASC.

Motion 11-77:

Mr. Ehrhard motioned, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to end debate and move the question.

VOTE: All in Favor

VOTE (on Motion 11-76): In Favor: 8
 Opposed: 5 (Noyes-Miller, Maher, Austin, Barnicle, Haggerty)

ADJOURN

Motion 11-78:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Gillmeister, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,
William Haggerty, Secretary
TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE