

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Monday, February 10, 2025
Tantasqua Regional Junior High School - Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Eric Jaeger
Sheila Noyes-Miller

Sturbridge

Mary Bellezza
William Haggerty
Megan Panek

Holland

Laura Alden
Candice Greene

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham
Andrew Dunn
Danielle Lamoureux-Kane

Wales

Christine Randall
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Jennifer Custance (Bm); Eli Gillen (H); Michele Fitzgerald, Ted Goodwin, Whitney Goodwin, Karen Kowal (S)

ALSO PRESENT

Deborah Boyd, Superintendent; Jodi Bourassa, Assistant Superintendent; Kristen Leo, Business and Finance Director; Dr. Peter Dufresne, HS Principal; Greg Sturges, JH Principal; Mark Wood, Technical Division Principal/Director; Ben Bachand, Student Representative and audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm asking those in attendance to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion FY25-34:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Cunningham, to approve the minutes of January 21, 2025 - Regular Session

VOTE: Approved (voice vote) Abstained: Bellezza

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leo indicated the most recent Financial Report of January 10, 2025 was discussed at the prior meeting. She noted that expenditures are aligned with prior years.

4. STUDENT REPORTS

Ben Bachand reported on the following:

- Student Council:
 - Participated - Unified Bocce Tournament held at Murdock High School
 - Annual MASC Conference – March 5th – 7th
 - Dude Be Nice Week, the Spring Fling Dance (Theme: Emerald City) and Spirit Days in March
 - Valentines were created for all students and faculty.

5. STAFF REPORTS – In addition to their written reports, the principals highlighted the following.

Junior High - Mr. Sturges discussed:

- Project 351 Launch Day had students participating in service - Cradles to Crayons project. The students will likely hold a clothing drive for their service project.
- Unified Basketball
- Winter sports updates and Spring sport try-outs are being scheduled
- Valentines Day Semi Formal held on 2/7/25 was a big success.
- Show Choir season
- Band & Chorus – 2025 MME Central Districts – Five students accepted (4 Band, 1 Chorus)

High School – Dr. Dufresne discussed:

- Ben Bachand is running to serve on the State-wide Student Council.
- Highlighted program: Life Skills/PE
 - First Year Foundations class
 - 3 new PE classes offered: Intro to Fitness, Intro to Weight Training and Warrior CrossFit.
 - Professional Development workshops for life skills department.
- Performing Arts
 - Students accepted into the annual MA Music Educators Assoc Central District Band.
 - Due to difficult winter weather conditions, Tantasqua students graciously bowed out of a recent competition allowing all involved to leave early so everyone could get home safely. Dr. Dufresne noted that the students had practiced and were prepared, but made the decision to pull out of the competition so all could get home safely.
- Baseball Overnight Trip – Dr. Dufresne indicated the request is to allow the students to participate in the Cape League (Barnstable) for two games on March 28th. Lodging for all athletes and four chaperones and a cook-out is being donated, with busing being the only cost to the district. He indicated that there will be a meeting with parents to review the details of the trip.

Motion FY25-35:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Randall, to approve the overnight baseball trip as described.
VOTE: Approved by Unanimous Consent

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Budget – Mrs. Noyes-Miller reported that the Subcommittee met and have unanimously voted to support the proposed FY2025-2026 budget, therefore no second is needed to the motion. She reminded members that once a dollar figure is voted following the Public Hearing, it cannot be increased. Mrs. Boyd noted that additional reductions may become necessary, and the school will work with the local Finance Committees to see if the increases are affordable while also considering any impact of their elementary school budgets. It was noted that by the Public Hearing, additional information regarding the state's funding may be available for consideration. The 4-page Capital Plan was also included, it was noted that some of the items may be able to be completed using current rural aid funding. In the past, Capital items have been funded using rural aid and school choice funds.

Motion FY25-36:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to bring forth the FY2026 Tantasqua Regional School budget of \$29,346,685 to Public Hearing scheduled for **Wednesday, March 12, 2025** at 6:00 p.m.

VOTE: Approved by Unanimous Consent

- b) Technical - No meeting, no report.

- c) Curriculum - Mrs. Cunningham reported the Subcommittee reviewed:

- Attendance by the numbers – attendance has improved.
- Roles of the High School Assistant Principals
- Civil Rights
- PE requirements
- Graduation—early release of graduates no sooner than 12 days before the end of the school year.
- Student Handbook Changes were reviewed and supported by the Curriculum Subcommittee:
 - Reference to the Code of Conduct – wording changes – not a policy change.
 - Attendance vs. Final Exams – add language to codify existing practices.
 - Guidelines for School Dances and social events. Discussion: wording should be: “Any student suspended two weeks **prior leading up** to the event.....”

Motion FY25-37:

Mrs. Cunningham moved to approve the Student Handbook changes for 2025-2-26 as presented.
VOTE: Approved by Unanimous Consent

- d) By-Law & Policy – The Subcommittee will meet on February 12, 2025.

e) Negotiations - Mrs. Randall reported that negotiation planning has begun.

f) Building & Physical Plant - No report.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Boyd discussed the following:

- DESE's Integrated Monitoring Review (IMR) Report for the Tantasqua Regional and School Union 61 Districts was included in the packet. The purpose of the IMR is to monitor compliance with regulatory requirements focusing on special education and civil rights. Of the four comments made, 2 were noted at the elementary level, and two for the high school level, which were: attendance requirements for graduates (need to attend up to 12 days before school gets out); and PE requirements.

Motion FY25-38:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Cunningham, to extend the Committee's appreciation to Administration and Special Education staff who aided with the IMR.

VOTE: Approved by Unanimous Consent

- Reviewing Competency Determinations and Graduations Requirements. For the class of 2025, only three students have not passed MCAS.
- Meeting Dates – Mrs. Boyd reminded the Committee that the Public Hearing and follow-up Tantasqua meeting is **Wednesday – March 12th**.

8. COMMUNICATIONS – No items.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS – No comments.

11. PUBLIC ACCESS – No comments.

12. OPEN FORUM – No comments.

13. ADJOURN

Motion FY25-39:

Mrs. Alden moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Noyes-Miller, Secretary

TRSD:pag