JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Union #61 & Tantasqua Regional School Committees

Junior High School Library

Meeting of Tuesday, November 19, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield
Jennifer Custance **
Lore Knouse ***
Joseph Venezia *

Brookfield
Megan Cunningham *

Holland

Sturbridge
Mary Burns
Jacqueline Chechile *
Lindsay Goodwin
Whitney Goodwin

Wales
Carolyn Boehne *
Ed Boyce *
Christine Randall *

* Union #61 Voting Members
** 1st Alt
*** 2nd Alt

Tantasqua
Mary Bellezza
Megan Cunningham
Jennifer Custance ****
Andrew Dunn
Michelle Fitzgerald
Elias Gillen
Ted Goodwin
Whitney Goodwin
William Haggerty
Karen Kowal
Danielle Lamoureux-Kane
Sheila Noyes-Miller
Christine Randall
Michael Valanzola

**** Counts for 2 votes

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Brimfield: Eric Jaeger*, Brian McNally*,
Brookfield: Nicole Chaffee *, Jeffrey Morin *
Holland: Laura Alden *, Candice Greene ***, Erik Iller *, Amanda Joppas **, Sarah Naples *
Sturbridge: Samantha Kaitbenski *
Wales: John Croke ***, Ashley Gallant **
Tantasqua: Laura Alden, Candice Greene, Megan Panek

ALSO PRESENT

Deborah Boyd, Superintendent; Jodie Bourassa, Assistant Superintendent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Valanzola convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with those in attendance rising for the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. MINUTES

Motion:

Union 61: #FY25-01
Tantasqua: #FY25-17

Mrs. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes of May 29, 2024.

VOTE: (T) Voice vote: In Favor – 12; Abstained: Gillen, Dunn
(U) Voice Vote: In Favor – 8; Abstained: Burns, L. Goodwin

2. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2021-2026

Mrs. Boyd indicated the document link was sent to all members via e-mail. She noted the document was updated with the items that have been accomplished and showed progression towards the items left to be done.

3. 2025-2026 CALENDAR

Motion:

Union 61: #FY25-02
Tantasqua: #FY25-18

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the draft calendar for school year 2025-26.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola asked if there were any objections to the motion, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

4. OCTOBER 1ST ENROLLMENT FIGURES

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the October 1st Enrollment figures, noting that it is used to determine the member towns' Tantasqua assessments based on enrollment. She indicated that overall the elementary schools have declining enrollment. She added that the enrollment data will most likely result in no increases in Chapter 70 funding.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

The newly formed Subcommittee met twice during the summer. Mrs. Boyd reviewed the recommendations offered by the Communications Ad Hoc Committee.

6. FY26 CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET

Mrs. Boyd reviewed the FY2026 Central Office Budget, noting areas of change including the increases for the Student Support/Compliance/Communications Coordinator (SSCCC) and the Administrative Support Salaries. The funds saved in the Communications line will support the SSCCC increase in time.

Motion:

Union 61: #FY25-03:
Tantasqua: #FY25-19:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Randall, to accept the FY2026 Central Office Budget as presented in the amount of $1,833,472.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola asked if there were any objections to the motion, hearing none he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

7. ADJOURN

Motion:

Union 61: #FY25-04:
Tantasqua: #FY25-20:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to adjourn the Joint meeting at 6:26 pm.

VOTE: Mr. Valanzola asked if there were any objections to the motion, hearing none, he declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

NOTE: Mr. Valanzola announced the Tantasqua meeting will be called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Noyes-Miller,
Secretary – Tantasqua Regional School Committee

Christine Randall,
Secretary – Union 61