

TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Tantasqua Regional Junior High School - Library

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brimfield

Jennifer Custance
Eric Jaeger
Sheila Noyes-Miller

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham
Andrew Dunn
Danielle Lamoureux-Kane

Sturbridge

Mary Bellezza
Michele Fitzgerald
Whitney Goodwin
William Haggerty
Karen Kowal

Holland

Laura Alden

Wales

Christine Randall
Michael Valanzola

NOT PRESENT

Eli Gillen, Candice Greene (H); Ted Goodwin, Megan Panek, (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

Following the Public Hearing on the FY2026 Tantasqua Regional budget, Mr. Valanzola called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm asking those in attendance to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion FY25-40:

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Noyes-Miller, to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025 - Regular Session.

VOTE: Approved (voice vote) Abstained: Custance, W. Goodwin

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

- FY2026 Budget Votes: It was noted that the following motions are supported by the Budget Subcommittee and therefore do not require a second to the motions:

Motion FY25-41:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to approve the FY2026 Tantasqua Regional School District Total Operating Budget at \$29,346,685.

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

Motion FY25-42:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to approve the FY2026 Tantasqua Regional School District Total Net Operating Assessments of \$16,032,036 as presented:

Brimfield	Brookfield	Holland	Sturbridge	Wales
\$ 2,751,569	\$ 1,882,251	\$ 1,641,441	\$8,765,032	\$ 991,743

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

Motion FY25-43:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to approve the FY2026 Tantasqua Regional School District Transportation Assessment of \$ 244,880.

Brimfield	Brookfield	Holland	Sturbridge	Wales
\$ 49,540	\$ 48,461	\$ 33,746	\$ 84,064	\$ 29,069

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

Motion FY25-44:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved to approve the Capital Plan as presented with funding for the plan coming from School Choice funds.

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

- February/March Financial Report

Mrs. Leo reviewed the Financial Report of March 4, 2025. She noted expenditures are running slightly higher than prior years, with revenues aligned with last year.

4. STUDENT REPORTS

Before Ben presented his report, Mr. Valanzola congratulated Ben on his election win as Vice President for the Massachusetts Student Council.

Ben Bachand reported on the following:

- Student Council:
 - Annual MASC Conference – March 5th – 7th
 - Dude Be Nice Week activities
 - Spring Fling Dance (Theme: Emerald City) and Spirit Days in March
 - Regional Leadership Conference
 - Prom – May 9th

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

Junior High - Mr. Sturges discussed:

- Show Choir competition season
- Spring sports – tryouts
- Earthview presentation
- Students transition process to HS

● High School – Dr. Dufresne discussed:

- Highlighted program: Visual Arts
 - Regional K-12 Art Show: April 1st
- Performing Arts – Show Choir competition held at Tantasqua
- NHS – Pickleball Tournament
- Athletics – Spring sports

Technical – Mr. Wood discussed:

- Business students / Junior Achievement status
- Co-op engagements are on the rise
- Health career co-op age regulations
- SkillsUSA district competition – 70 students are involved
- Placement of 8th & 9th grade students

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Budget – See Financial Report – Budget votes

b) Technical - No meeting, no report.

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

- AP Enrollment and participation data
- College Board scores
- Graduation requirements/competency requirements

- Next meeting: April 7th

- d) By-Law & Policy – The following two motions are supported by the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee and therefore do not require a second to the motion.

Motion FY25-45:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to adopt Policy ACGA – Civil Rights Grievance Procedure (New) for First Reading.

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

Motion FY25-46:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to adopt the following policies as noted:

AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation – Amend First Reading with the correction of verb tenses in #3 (Work) and #6 (Initiate)

ACA – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex – Amend First Reading

ACAB – Sexual Harassment – Amend First Reading

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

- e) Negotiations - See Executive Session

- f) Building & Physical Plant - No report.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Boyd discussed the following:

- School Choice openings – Mrs. Boyd indicated that based on the number of students in the incoming grades, she recommended the Committee approve the following school choice openings:
 - Grade 8 – take up to 10 students
 - Grade 7 – take up to 40 students

Motion FY25-47:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Randall, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation by accepting up to ten (10) Grade 8 students and up to forty (40) Grade 7 students.

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

- Graduation schedule: May 31st with a rain-date of June 1st. Dr. Dufresne noted he is looking to serve the seniors breakfast on May 30th (rehearsal) rather than the pizza lunch done in the past.
- JHS & SHS band students will be performing for the elementary students.
- Show Choir performance on April 11th.
- Meeting Dates – Mrs. Boyd noted the April meeting falls before the vacation break, so it will be held on April 15th. She requested the May meeting be **moved to Wednesday, May 28th** – which will also be the Joint meeting with the Elementary committees.

8. COMMUNICATIONS - Two items were included in the packet:

- SWCEC – Qtr. 2 Report was distributed electronically
- MASC Budget Statements

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS – No comments.

11. PUBLIC ACCESS – No comments.

12. OPEN FORUM – Mr. Valanzola noted that it was Mary Bellezza's last meeting and he thanked her for her time and commitment serving as a member of the Tantasqua School Committee.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion FY25-48:

Mrs. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Dunn, to enter into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. as provided under MGL. Chap. 30A §21A(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body as so declared by the Chair. The Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

A roll call vote was taken

YES – Alden, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, Dunn, Fitzgerald, W. Goodwin, Haggerty, Jaeger, Kowal, Lamoureux-Kane, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valanzola

By a roll call vote taken in Executive Session, the Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:31 p.m.

Negotiation Subcommittee

Motion FY25-50:

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Randall, to approve and authorize the Chair to endorse the Memorandum of Agreement FY26-FY28 with the Tantasqua Education Association - Unit D.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

14. ADJOURN

Motion FY25-51:

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Alden, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor (voice vote)

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Noyes-Miller, Secretary

TRSD:pag