

# **TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Meeting of Tuesday, April 15, 2025  
Tantasqua Regional Junior High School - Library

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

### **Brimfield**

Jennifer Custance  
Eric Jaeger  
Sheila Noyes-Miller

### **Sturbridge**

Whitney Goodwin  
William Haggerty  
Karen Kowal  
Megan Panek

### **Holland**

Laura Alden  
Candice Greene

### **Brookfield**

Megan Cunningham  
Andrew Dunn  
Danielle Lamoureux-Kane

### **Wales**

Christine Randall  
Michael Valanzola

## **NOT PRESENT**

Eli Gillen (H); Michele Fitzgerald, Ted Goodwin (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.

## **MAVA Outstanding Student Presentation**

Mrs. Boyd spoke about the accomplishments of Zachary Cooper, this year's recipient of the MAVA Outstanding Award. Zachary is a student in the Information Technology Program.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **Motion FY25-52:**

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2025 - Regular Session.

VOTE: Approved (voice vote) Abstained: Greene, Panek

### **Motion FY25-53:**

Mrs. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2025 – Public Hearing.

VOTE: Approved (voice vote)

### **Motion FY25-54:**

Mrs. Randall moved, seconded by Mrs. Cunningham, to approve and HOLD the minutes of March 12, 2025 – Executive Session.

VOTE: Approved (voice vote)

## **3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leo reviewed the Financial Report of April 7, 2025.

## **4. STUDENT REPORTS**

Ben Bachand reported on the following:

- Student Council:
  - Spring Fling Dance - Ben noted that attendance was significantly lower than prior years and the Council will be looking at ways to improve the experience next year.
  - Annual MASC Conference – held March 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-five Tantasqua students attended.

- o Prom - held May 9<sup>th</sup> at the DCU Center.
- o Student Council Executive Board elections are upcoming.
- o National Honor Society elections/inductions are upcoming.
- o Student Council planning:
  - Senior send-off activities
  - Re-vamping the snack shack.
  - Bingo night
  - Pep Rally – Last day of school
  - Making a new video of student activities.

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

Junior High - Mr. Sturges discussed:

- School Play “*The Trial of the Wicked Witch*”.
- Culture Day with a special visit from an Alpaca
- Unified Sports
- Show Choir performance

Technical – Mr. Wood discussed:

- SkillsUSA district competition – 60 Tantasqua students were involved, with 9 taking home medals and 8 moving on to States.
- Shop Selections – The class of 2028 is the largest in the programs’ history. 89% of students were placed in their first or second choice. There are more students requesting Tech programs than there are available slots, there is currently an in-district wait list of twelve students.
- Business Tech – Tantasqua will send five teams to the Junior Achievement Competition – 4/15/25
- Carpentry project – currently reviewing three options for next year’s building project.

High School – Dr. Dufresne discussed:

- Highlighted program: Science
  - o Professional Development – training to better utilize the GIZMOS interactive simulation subscription.
  - o AP Biology – bacterial transformation by inserting the bioluminescent gene in a cell
- Performing Arts – Two Tantasqua students were accepted into the MMEA Central Districts Jr. Band.
- NHS – Pickleball Tournament fundraiser
- Athletics – The Boys Baseball team traveled to Barnstable and Dennis-Yarmouth.
- End of Year planning, including graduation

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Budget – No meeting, no report.

b) Technical - No meeting, no report.

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

- JH Program Revisions:
  - o Intro to World Language – Grade 8
  - o Music/Band Exploration
  - o General Music – Grades 7 & 8
  - o Health & Wellness

d) By-Law & Policy – The following motions was brought to the floor by Mr. Valanzola and are supported by the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee not requiring a second to the motion.

e)

**Motion FY25-55:**

On behalf of the By-Law & Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Valanzola moved to adopt the following four policies as noted:

ACGA – Civil Rights Grievance Procedure – NEW Second Reading and Adoption

AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation – Amend Second Reading and Adoption

ACA – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex – Amend Second Reading and Adoption

ACAB – Sexual Harassment – Amend Second Reading and Adoption

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

f) Negotiations - Mrs. Randall indicated she expects to bring forth an agreement with Unit C to the next meeting.

g) Building & Physical Plant - No report.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Boyd discussed the following:

- HS Administrative Structure – The HS Guidance Director is not returning next year. Dr. Dufresne is reviewing administrative restructure/functions.
- Elections: Megan Mooney of Sturbridge will be joining the Tantasqua Committee. The elementary committees may restructure and could be sending different representatives to sit on the Tantasqua Committee.
- Annual Town Meetings – Mrs. Boyd encouraged all members to support the Tantasqua budget at their Annual Town Meetings of which four of the five towns will hold in the month of June. She indicated that Sturbridge will be supporting the Tantasqua budget.
- Change of Date - Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – joint meeting
- The Senior Breakfast will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Graduation – Members wishing to present their child's diploma were asked to notify the Superintendent.
- The TED fundraiser is May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Public House.

8. COMMUNICATIONS - One item was included in the packet:

- SOA Summary

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS – No comments.

11. PUBLIC ACCESS – No comments.

12. OPEN FORUM – Mr. Valanzola noted that it was Megan Cunningham's final meeting and he presented her a Certificate of Appreciation.

13. ADJOURN

**Motion FY25-56:**

Mrs. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Noyes-Miller, Secretary