

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Union #61 & Tantasqua Regional School Committees  
Meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Mr. Valanzola opened the virtual meeting at 6:15 p.m. with the announcement that pursuant with the Governor's Order of March 12, 2020 sustaining certain provisions of the open meeting law, MGL 30A, S18, and the Governor's further order of March 15, 2020 regarding social distancing/strict restrictions on the number of people who can gather in one place due to the Covid19 virus, this meeting was held as a virtual online meeting. Further, in the format of virtual meetings, attendance and actions will be taken as roll call votes.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Brimfield**

Jennifer Custance \*  
Kimberly Hirsch \*  
Michele-Lee Shea

**Sturbridge**

Katherine Alexander \*  
Mary Bellezza \*  
Karen Kowal  
Megan Panek  
Kristen Tuohey \*

**Tantasqua**

Patricia Barnicle  
Mary Bellezza  
Megan Cunningham  
Jennifer Custance  
Michele Fitzgerald  
Pamela Fitzgerald  
William Haggerty  
Erik Iller  
Kristen Leo  
Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Christine Randall  
Michael Valanzola  
Dan Valcour  
Susan Waters

**Brookfield**

Megan Cunningham \*  
Kyle Hill \*

**Wales**

Carolyn Boehne  
Ed Boyce  
Cindy Lena \*  
Christine Randall \*

**Holland**

Elias Gillen\*  
Erik Iller\*

\*Denotes Union 61 voting members

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Brimfield: Angela Bradway, Delia Bower  
Brookfield: Andrew Dunn  
Holland: Laura Alden, Sarah Naples, Cheryl Raymond  
Sturbridge:  
Wales: Amy Bishop  
Tantasqua: Laura Alden, Edward Goodwin

**ALSO PRESENT**

Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business/ Finance; Jodi Bourassa, Assistant Superintendent and audience.

**1. CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET REDUCTION**

The recommendation is to reduce the Central Office Budget to \$1,539,097 by reducing the line item of Coordinator of Student Support Services to \$25,000 (from \$93,050). The position will be eliminated, but the remaining budget amount of \$25,000 will be used for stipend services.

**2. FY21 CALENDAR ADJUSTMENT**

Dr. Nosek indicated the Governor is considering rescheduling the Boston Marathon to Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and may declare it a one-time holiday. To accommodate for this possible scenario, Dr. Nosek recommended adjusting the 2020-2021 School Calendar by having students return to school on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. If the Governor does not declare September 14<sup>th</sup> as a holiday, the calendar would remain as originally voted.

**Motion**

Tantasqua Motion #20-97  
 Union #61 Motion #20-10

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to:

1. Decrease the Central Office Budget for FY21 to \$1,539,097; and
2. That in the event Governor Baker declares September 14<sup>th</sup> to be a one-time holiday (rescheduled day of the Boston Marathon) to adjust the 2020-2021 School Calendar by adding Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> as a school day for students and teachers.

**Motion**

Tantasqua Motion #20-98  
 Union #61 Motion #20-11

Mrs. Panek moved, to amend the current motion #2, to eliminate the April school vacation (rather than start school on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>).

There was no second, Mr. Valanzola returned consideration to the original motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

**UNION VOTE:**

YES – Custance, Hirsch, Shea, Cunningham, Hill, Gillen, Iller, Alexander, Bellezza, Kowal, Tuohey, Boyce, Lena, Randall  
 NO – Boehne, Panek

**TANTASQUA VOTE:**

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, P. Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Iller, Leo, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valcour, Waters

3. SUPERINTENDENT’S EVALUATION

Mr. Valanzola thanked members for participating in the Superintendent’s Evaluation survey. He indicated there was an overall participation rate of 88%, with Tantasqua’s members at 100%. He shared many of the positive comments made by members with regards to Dr. Nosek’s performance and indicated that overall, members classified the Superintendent’s performance as exemplary.

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #20-99  
 Union #61 Motion #20-12

Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle to codify the Superintendent’s performance as exemplary.

A roll call vote was taken.

**UNION VOTE:**

YES – Custance, Hirsch, Shea, Cunningham, Hill, Gillen, Iller, Alexander, Bellezza, Kowal, Tuohey, Boehne, Boyce, Lena, Randall  
 ABSTAINED – Panek

**TANTASQUA VOTE:**

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, P. Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Iller, Leo, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valcour, Waters

Mrs. Alexander thanked Dr. Nosek for her calm approach and forward-looking leadership engaging students, teachers and the committee during this unprecedented time.

Dr. Nosek thanked the Committee for their support, indicating that she wished to thank every member of the school community to help make it through this difficult time.

4. SUPERINTENDENTS GOALS

Mr. Valanzola indicated that last year a Subcommittee was established to work with the Superintendent to establish goals. He noted that he will send out a communication listing the current subcommittee members and asked anyone interested to contact him. He indicated this subcommittee will plan to have a meeting during the summer months.

5. TANTASQUA / UNION 61 FALL RETREAT

Mr. Valanzola indicated last year's retreat was well received by all and he would like to schedule another retreat this fall if circumstances and logistics allow. He will be circulating a possible retreat date soon and hope that all Union and Tantasqua members will attend. He would like it on a Saturday in September.

Mr. Haggerty asked whether there might be another meeting in August before school starts. Mr. Valanzola felt there would not be a joint meeting, but the individual school committees may hold meetings. Dr. Nosek indicated she is working under current state guidelines with regards to the Covid19 virus, but if circumstances arise that would require additional meetings, she will coordinate those with the Chairs of each school committee.

6. ADJOURN

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #20-100

Union #61 Motion #20-13

Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek, to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm for Union #61 members and pause the Tantasqua meeting to be reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

**UNION VOTE:**

YES – Custance, Hirsch, Shea, Cunningham, Hill, Gillen, Iller, Alexander, Bellezza, Kowal, Panek, Tuohey, Boehne, Boyce, Lena, Randall

**TANTASQUA VOTE:**

YES – Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, P. Fitzgerald, Haggerty, Iller, Leo, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valcour, Waters

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Secretary – Tantasqua Regional School Committee

Megan Panek,  
Secretary – Union #61