

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Union #61 & Tantasqua Regional School Committees  
Meeting of Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, GL c 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this joint meeting was conducted via remote participation. Zoom Meeting: 87585019131  
Additionally, role call votes were taken to document actions and only the Union's voting members (as shown by the asterisks below) are listed in the role calls. All Tantasqua committee members' votes are included in roll call.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brimfield

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

Sturbridge

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

Tantasqua

Laura Alden  
Patricia Barnicle  
Mary Bellezza  
Megan Cunningham  
Jennifer Custance  
Michelle Fitzgerald  
Elias Gillen  
Ted Goodwin  
William Haggerty  
Kristen Leo  
Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Christine Randall  
Michael Valanzola  
Susan Waters

Brookfield

Megan Cunningham \*  
Andrew Dunn \*  
Jeffrey Morin \*

Wales

Caroyn Boehne \*  
Ed Boyce \*  
John Croke  
Christine Randall \*

Holland

Laura Alden \*  
Elias Gillen \*  
Sarah Naples \*  
Cheryl Raymond

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Brimfield: Angela Bradway  
Holland: Erik Iller

Wales: Ashley Gallant  
Tantasqua: Erik Iller, Pamela Fitzgerald

**ALSO PRESENT**

Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business/Finance; Jodi Bourassa, Assistant Superintendent, Greg Rossow, Technology Director

Mr. Valanzola convened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. taking attendance (noted above).

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY21-49  
Union 61 Motion #FY21-05

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to enter into Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. in accordance with MGL C. 30A, §21A(2) to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, with the intent to reconvene in open session.

Roll call vote taken. (Only committee members were invited to Executive Session.)

YES – Union: Custance, Jaeger, Hirsch, Cunningham, Dunn, Morin, Alden, Gillen, Naples, Kowal, Panek, Tuohey, Boehne, Boyce, Randall

YES – Tantasqua: Alden, Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, Gillen, Goodwin, Haggerty, Leo, Lovett, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valanzola, Waters

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY21-50

Union 61 Motion #FY21-06

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Dr. Waters, to exit Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. and reconvene in open session.

Roll call vote taken.

YES – Union: Custance, Jaeger, Hirsch, Cunningham, Dunn, Morin, Alden, Gillen, Naples, Kowal, Panek, Tuohey, Boehne, Boyce, Randall

YES – Tantasqua: Alden, Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, Gillen, Goodwin, Haggerty, Leo, Lovett, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valanzola, Waters

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES****Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY21-51

Union #61 Motion #FY21-07

Mrs. Randall moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the minutes as presented as follows (note the exceptions):

- Regular Session – November 18, 2019
- Executive Session – November 18, 2019
- Regular Session – May 26, 2020 (Virtual)
- Regular Session - August 6, 2020
- Regular Session – September 11, 2020 (Virtual)

Roll call vote taken.

YES – Union: Custance, Jaeger, Hirsch, Cunningham, Dunn, Morin, Alden, Gillen, Naples, Kowal, Panek, Tuohey, Boehne, Boyce \*\*, Randall

YES – Tantasqua: Alden, Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, Gillen, Goodwin \*\*, Haggerty \*\*, Leo, Lovett, Noyes-Miller \*\*, Randall, Valanzola, Waters \*\*

\*\* Exceptions - Abstentions: Boyce (11/18/2019 & 9/11/20); Noyes-Miller (11/18/19); Haggerty (8/6/20); Goodwin (5/26/20); Waters (11/18/19 & 9/11/20)

**3. CHANGE – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY****4. DRAFT – 2021-2022 CALENDAR**

Dr. Nosek indicated the calendar was developed as a “post-Covid” situation, but advised adjustments may be necessary.

**5. REMOTE LEARNING/SNOW DAYS**

Snow Days – Dr. Nosek indicated that snow days could be pivoted to remote learning days providing there are no power outages and each storm would be considered on a “storm to storm” basis.

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY21-52

Union #61 Motion #FY21-08

Mr. Goodwin moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the following three (3) actions:

- Change the full Professional Development Day from June 17, 2021 to March 12, 2021.
- Approve the Draft 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented.
- To support the ability to pivot a snow day to a remote learning day at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Roll call vote taken.

YES – Union: Custance, Jaeger, Hirsch, Cunningham, Dunn, Morin, Alden, Gillen, Naples, Kowal, Panek, Tuohey, Boehne, Boyce, Randall

YES – Tantasqua: Alden, Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, Gillen, Goodwin, Haggerty, Leo, Lovett, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valanzola, Waters

6. Superintendent Goals 2020-2021

A copy of the goals was included in the meeting packet; as expected much of this year's focus was on creating safe and healthy learning environments during the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. The District's Improvement Plan should be completed by this spring.

7. Superintendent Contract / Central Office Staffing

Mr. Valanzola indicated he is seeking direction to renegotiate the Superintendent's contract to reflect her retirement date of January 1, 2022 and to internally post the position and form a screening committee for interviews and related matters.

8. Central Office Budget 2021 – 2022

Mr. Valanzola indicated the professional salaries were collapsed into one line to provide negotiation flexibility for a new Superintendent and includes continuing funding for the current Superintendent to help with transitions as needed.

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY21-53

Union #61 Motion #FY21-09

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, to approve the following four (4) actions:

- Approve the Superintendent's Goals 2020-2021 as presented.
- To direct the Chairman to renegotiate the Superintendent's contract to reflect her retirement date of January 1, 2022.
- To on January 1, 2021 internally post the position of Superintendent and instruct the Chairman to form a Superintendent Screening Committee.
- Approve the FY2022 Central Office Budget as presented.

Roll call vote taken.

YES – Union: Custance, Jaeger, Hirsch, Cunningham, Dunn, Morin, Alden, Gillen, Naples, Kowal, Panek, Tuohey, Boehne, Boyce, Randall

YES – Tantasqua: Alden, Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Custance, M. Fitzgerald, Gillen, Goodwin, Haggerty, Leo, Lovett, Noyes-Miller, Randall, Valanzola, Waters

On behalf of all members, Mr. Valanzola thanked Dr. Nosek for her dedication as Superintendent and indicated it was a pleasure to work with her during her tenure and her remaining year with the District. Dr. Nosek echoed his sentiments, indicating that Tantasqua and the Union have an incredible base of leadership, staff and community members who support the district's students and schools.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY21-54

Union #61 Motion #FY21-10

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Secretary – Tantasqua Regional School Committee

Mary Bellezza,  
Secretary – Union #61