

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Union #61 & Tantasqua Regional School Committees  
High School Cafeteria  
Meeting of Wednesday, August 4, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Brimfield**

Eric Jaeger \*  
Kim Hirsch \*  
Michele-Lee Shea \*\*

**Sturbridge**

Mary Bellezza  
Samantha Kaitbenski \*  
Karen Kowal \*  
Kristen Tuohey \*

**Tantasqua**

Patricia Barnicle  
Mary Bellezza  
Megan Cunningham  
Andrew Dunn  
Ted Goodwin  
William Haggerty  
Danielle Lamoureux-Kane  
Kristen Leo  
Sheila Noyes-Miller  
Megan Panek  
Michael Valanzola

**Brookfield**

Andrew Dunn \*  
Jeffrey Morin \*

**Wales**

Carolyn Boehne \*\*  
Ed Boyce \*

**Holland**

Sarah Naples \*

\*Voting Members  
\*\*Alt Voting

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Brimfield: Angela Bradway, Jennifer Custance  
Brookfield: Nicole Chaffee \*  
Holland: Laura Alden, Candace Green, Erik Iller\*. Amanda Joppas  
Sturbridge: Katherine Alexander  
Wales: John Croke \*, Ashley Gallant \*, Christine Randall  
Tantasqua: Laura Alden, Jennifer Custance, Michelle Fitzgerald, Elias Gillen, Erik Iller, Christine Randall

**ALSO PRESENT**

Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance; Jodi Bourassa, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Valanzola convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-01  
Union 61 Motion: #FY22-01

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to enter into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, §21A (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Roll call vote taken.

YES – Tantasqua: Barnicle, Bellezza, Cunningham, Dunn, Goodwin, Haggerty, Lamoureux-Kane, Leo, Noyes-Miller, Panek, Valanzola

YES – Union: Jaeger, Hirsch, Shea, Dunn, Morin, Naples, Tuohey, Kaitbenski, Kowal, Boyce, Boehne

The meeting was reconvened in Open Session at 6:30 p.m.

**2. REORGANIZATION – UNION 61**

Mr. Valanzola called for nominations for the position of Union 61 Chairman.

**Motion:**

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-04

Mrs. Bellezza nominated Andrew Dunn for the position of Union 61 Chairman.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Valanzola closed nominations and called for a vote.

Voice Vote: All in Favor

**Motion:**

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-05

Mr. Boyce nominated Mary Bellezza for the position of Union 61 Secretary.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Valanzola closed nominations and called for a vote.

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: In Favor (8) Abstained: Alden, Gillen, Lamoureux-Kane

Voice Vote: Union: In Favor (11)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES****Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-04

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-06

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2020 as amended. Amendment: Remove Mary Lovett's name from Tantasqua's attendance list.

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: In Favor (9) Abstained: Lamoureux-Kane

Voice Vote: Union: In Favor (10) Abstained: Kaitbenski

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-05

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-07

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2021 as presented.

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: In Favor (8) Abstained: Leo, Panek

Voice Vote: Union: In Favor (7) Abstained: Boyce, Hirsch, Kaitbenski, Naples

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-06

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-08

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2021 as amended. Amendment: correct spelling to: Kaitbenski

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: In Favor (9) Abstained: Barnicle, Leo

Voice Vote: Union: In Favor (9) Abstained: Boyce, Naples

**3. SUPERINTENDENT GOALS/EVALUATION – Erin Nosek**

Mr. Valanzola indicated the Superintendent's Goals Committee would meet soon with Dr. Nosek and Mrs. Boyd to review the goals set for the upcoming year.

School Year 2020-21 Evaluation – Mr. Valanzola indicated that the member participation rate greatly improved with 90% of Union membership and 100% of Tantasqua membership providing feedback on the Superintendent's achievements. He thanked everyone for their participation in the evaluation. The result was 83% of Union members and 91% of Tantasqua members (for a combined 88%) gave Dr. Nosek an exemplary rating.

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-07

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-09

Mrs. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, to approve an Exemplary performance rating for Dr. Erin Nosek.

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: In Favor (10) Abstained: Lamoureux-Kane

Voice Vote: Union: In Favor (10) Abstained: Kaitbenski

Dr. Nosek addressed the Committee, thanking the members for their support, but indicated that her performance reflects a team effort. She thanked everyone in the schools' communities for their extraordinary work, especially during such a difficult year.

**4. FY22 SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT UPDATE**

Mr. Valanzola indicated the tentative date is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Boyd indicated that she has not yet secured an outside venue, and may decide to use the school as the location. Identified topics of interest include: Strategic

Planning, District Improvement Plan and New Member Orientation. If anyone has additional topics of interest, please notify Mrs. Boyd.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT – Deborah Boyd**

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-08

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-10

Mr. Boyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to approve the Superintendent’s Contract prepared for Deborah Boyd as presented.

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: All in Favor

Voice Vote: Union: All in Favor

**6. DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS & FINANCE – FINAL INTERVIEW/APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Valanzola introduced Stephen Nembirkow to the Committee. He indicated the Search Committee included himself, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Alden, Mrs. Noyes-Miller, John LaFleche, Treasurer, and with Mrs. Boyd serving as the Administration representative. The Search Committee recommended Mr. Nembirkow to the Superintendent and Dr. Nosek following her review has moved forward Mr. Nembirkow’s application for full review by the Committee. Mr. Nembirkow was invited to make opening remarks and then the floor was opened for questions. On-boarding and knowledge transfer to officially begin October 1, 2021.

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-09

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-11

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Boyce, to appoint Stephen Nembirkow to the position of Director of Business and Finance at a base salary of \$135,000 and authorize the Superintendent to finalize contract negotiations.

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: All in Favor

Voice Vote: Union: All in Favor

**7. ADJOURN**

**Motion:**

Tantasqua Motion #FY22-10

Union 61 Motion: #FY22-12

Mrs. Noyes-Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Voice Vote: Tantasqua: All in Favor

Voice Vote: Union: All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Noyes-Miller,  
Secretary – Tantasqua Regional School Committee  
Mary Bellezza,  
Secretary – Union 61