

# Tantasqua agrees on school resource officer

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STURBRIDGE – The Tantasqua Regional School Committee approved a memorandum of understanding between the school district and the Sturbridge Police Department for a new school resource officer.

In addition, School Superintendent Erin M. Nosek said during Tuesday’s school committee meeting that Sturbridge Police Officer Garrett G. Danna is the district’s choice for the position.

**Officer Danna was interviewed** Dec. 20 by the superintendent, Tantasqua Regional High School Principal Michael P. Lucas, Tantasqua Regional Junior High School Principal Gregory P. Sturgis and Sturbridge Police Chief Thomas J. Ford III.

“We liked him a lot,” Superintendent Nosek said. “We felt that he had a really strong understanding of the role, genuine enthusiasm for the position.”

Officer Danna, a 2010 graduate of Tantasqua Regional High School, has six years of policing experience and has served on the Sturbridge Police Department for a little more than a year. He has completed the 40 hours of training that is a prerequisite for the job, Ms. Nosek said. He has an associate degree in science from Quinsigamond Community College.

“I anticipate reaching out to the chief and letting him know that (Officer Danna) would be certainly our choice given the interview,” Superintendent Nosek said. “But the chief wasn’t going to do anything clearly until the School Committee had approved the MOU.”

The police position at the junior/senior high school is new to the school district, and Chief Ford recommended Officer Danna for the job. On Oct. 29, Sturbridge special town meeting voters **approved \$66,524 to fund the position** for the remainder of the school year.

School Committee member Daniel Valcour of Brimfield was the only one to vote against the memorandum of understanding. Previously, Mr. Valcour has expressed concern that bringing a school resource officer into a school could escalate a routine disciplinary matter into a police matter.

No date is set for when Officer Danna starts as Tantasqua's new school resource officer.