



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES – February 12, 2009
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – CALLED TO ORDER: 7:35 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Ed Leonard, with the following School Committee members present:

1. Attendance:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Richard Allan | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Dupuis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Benedict | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Miller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Therese Salvadore | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Riendeau |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Brophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee Wolanin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ned Kelly | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Thomas Tashjian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timothy Williams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Thompson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edward F. Leonard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Wolfe |

2. Administration:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue M. Gee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susanne Musnicki |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clare Barnes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Newton |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Berlo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joan Paula |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Burnett | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Pellegrino |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Duval | <input type="checkbox"/> Debbie Pelley |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martha Femino | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Tencza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tracey Hippert | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Williams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony DiBenedetto | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patricia Worthington |

3. QRTA Representative –
Student Representative –

4. News Media:
Worcester T&G – Jim Russell
Barre Gazette –Ellie Downer

5. Visitors/Faculty:

SECTION II: MINUTES

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>
Voted: To accept and place on file the minutes of January 8, 2009.	NK	CW	9		
Voted: To accept and place on file the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Special School Committee meeting.	CM	TW	9		

SECTION III: WARRANTS/REPORTS

Payroll and accounts payable warrants # 17 were presented and signed.

SECTION IV: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS1. **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:**

- Superintendent Gee thanked QRHS Nurse Maureen Widing for all of her hard work and organization during the December 2008 ice storm.
- January 26, 2009 was an in-service day for teachers to work on the new reading program; students attended ½ day of school.
- Superintendent Gee stated that a representative of the Quabbin Ed Foundation will attend the March school committee meeting to explain the work of the foundation. Brenda Howland, a graphic designer has designed a logo for the group, based on the acronym QUEST, and Superintendent Gee invited all school committee members to take a look at the brochure that has been produced. This group has applied for 501(c) 3 status.
- All schools in the district as well as all Central Office staff participated in Presidential Inauguration activities in January.
- Superintendent Gee presented a Powerpoint presentation on 21st Century Skills at the February Policy Subcommittee meeting, and advised that this board will not meet again now until October 2009. All goals set at the first meeting have been met.
- Superintendent Gee commended students and teachers for their hard work at the recent Academic and Science fairs at Oakham Center School and New Braintree Grade School.
- Superintendent Gee noted that Spirit Week is being held at the High School this week.
- The NJROTC drill team held an invitational meet last weekend on 2/7/09. Over 200 cadets were present, competing in 11 events, and our drill team placed 1st! Congratulations to the NJROTC. Lee Wolanin also mentioned that he had heard great praise for the team and that the team exhibited great hospitality to the attending groups.

2. **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:** Payroll warrants #17 presented and accounts payable warrants #17 presented.

3. **TEACHER ADVISORY:** No representative was present.

SECTION V: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE** – Mark Brophy stated that there was nothing new to report.

2. **ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ADHOC SUBCOMMITTEE** – Cheryl Wolfe gave an update regarding this subcommittee.

- The Quabbin Ed Foundation is moving along nicely as the Superintendent reported.
- This subcommittee continues to focus on seeking grants, mostly larger grants, as the smaller ones generally take more time to prepare for, and as an alternative means of securing additional funding.
- The subcommittee looked at the Whiz Kids program but found that it was not feasible at this time due to extensive paperwork.
- The Environmental Ed track is moving along nicely and is very self-motivating.
- The subcommittee is still looking at ways of conservation means, including energy audits, solar panels and wind turbines.
- School choice bus fees were discussed and should be discussed further with the Budget Subcommittee.
- The afterschool programs are running well, are sustaining themselves, but are not generating extra money, so they will not be expanded to other schools in the district. It was mentioned that these programs are not intended to generate money, but rather to provide a great place for children needing extended hours.
- This subcommittee will not meet for the remainder of the year unless it is specifically necessary.

3. **AUDIT/CENTRAL OFFICE SUBCOMMITTEE**—Lee Wolanin reported that he would like to set up a meeting of the Audit Subcommittee for the purpose of reviewing Audit proposals that have been submitted for the upcoming year. This meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
 - Lee also reported that the Central Office Subcommittee had just finished meeting prior to this School Committee meeting and reported that a Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the QRTA had been discussed and voted upon by the board. Lee made a motion relative to this. (See Action Item #1 below for further details).
 - Lee stated that discussion had just occurred regarding the proposed FY09-10 school calendar and that the subcommittee had also voted upon this. (See Action Item #2 below for further details).
4. **BARRE BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE** – Lee Wolanin had nothing to report.
5. **BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE** – Mark Brophy reported that a Budget Subcommittee meeting was held on February 5, 2009, and noted that Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, had presented a Powerpoint presentation, at the request of the subcommittee. This presentation was then included as part of this report. The Superintendent and the Director of Administrative Services fielded questions on the FY10 proposed budget. One of the scenarios showed what a level funded budget would look like, while the other showed what a 5% reduction in the budget would look like. It was noted that Principals and Administrators are working very diligently in prioritizing reductions should the 5% reduction budget become necessary. A motion was made relative to the proposed budget (See Action Item #3 below for further details).
6. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SUBCOMMITTEE** – Mark Brophy stated that this subcommittee has met a couple of times and will meet again tomorrow afternoon for the purpose of discussing negotiations, which are scheduled to begin in March 2009. Letters have gone out to the QRTA and the Town Selectboards informing them of the same.
7. **POLICY, REVIEW AND REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE** – Cheryl Wolfe made two motions relative to the work of this subcommittee. [Please see motion actions #4 and 5 below].
8. **PLANTS & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE** – Ned Kelly stated that this subcommittee met on February 2, 2009 to discuss the awarding of the Design Services study. Ned made a motion relative to this (See Action Item #5 below for further details). Ned thanked Charlie Miller for heading up the subcommittee that recommended the selection of the designer for this phase of the project, and commented that he did a great job. This phase of the project is not to exceed \$5,000.
9. **SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE** – Susan Benedict was not present at this meeting.
10. **TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE** – Cheryl Wolfe stated that this subcommittee held a meeting last evening and the main topic of discussion was the immediate need of technology at both Ruggles Lane and the Middle School. The state indicates that for every 5 students, there should be at least 1 computer, but in the case of Ruggles Lane, there are 16, 13, 13, 14, and 33 students per computer. Both Ruggles Lane and the Middle School are underperforming schools and are in desperate need of technology. At last night's meeting, it was stated that with \$63,000, a new room of computers could be purchased for the Middle School, as well as computers at Ruggles Lane, along with the necessary servers, as well as a new server for Hardwick, which is also needed. These funds could be taken from the instructional support budget line item. If the district waits to use the stabilization fund, that may take too long, and the technology is vitally important now.
 - Bob Berlo, Director of Educational Services, was present and stated that for approximately \$870 per computer, new computers could be purchased that would contain adequate memory to run educational programs for the students at both schools.
 - Cheryl Duval stated that the money is unencumbered because one teacher is on a year-long leave, and that position has been replaced by a substitute at a lower rate of pay. Additionally, there were other positions that were not filled as they became vacant, so the money is still unencumbered and may be utilized at the discretion of the Principals.

A vote of the School Committee to use these funds would not be necessary, as this money is already available and will not need to be transferred from any other line item.

 - Chairman Leonard stated that this is a good beginning effort. There was general agreement that the first step should be taken.
 - Superintendent Gee noted that the state would see it as a good faith effort on the district's part to show progress in the 5-year Technology Plan.

SECTION VI: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The School Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 in the High School Media Center, for the purpose of voting to approve the level-services budget, via the weighted vote system, prior to the 7:15 p.m. start of the Public Hearing in the High School auditorium regarding the same.

SECTION VII: SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Lee Wolanin stated that a High School student requested a meeting with him recently, as spokesperson for a group of High School students who were concerned about the High School orchestra and the direction of where that was headed in the future. It was stated that the students had heard that it would be offered only every other day next year, and that students would need to sign up for the class for each semester. This was troublesome because: 1) Even numbers of students might not be signed up each semester; 2) Central District tryouts are held at a specific time and students must be enrolled at the time to be eligible to audition for the same; 3) Schedules of concerts would depend upon the numbers of students enrolled; and 4) festivals occur at certain times. Principal Marilyn Tencza stated that it would remain unchanged for 9th and 10th graders, however, for 11th and 12th graders, there were no other classes available to hold on the “opposite” days of that class. Principal Tencza understands that certain items relate directly (i.e. district tryouts), and for this reason, students are allowed to sign up for the same. In fact, it was never stated that the students would not be allowed to sign up for the session, but rather that there was no course to fall opposite that offering.
- Lee asked if Marilyn would speak with the students involved and she will. She plans to hold class meetings and will invite Greg Devine, Guidance Counselor, to be present for the same.
- Mark Brophy also asked if students could address these concerns with their own student council and although they could have, they had not. This might be the first approach to take in the future if something arises at the student level.
- Cheryl Wolfe also mentioned that perhaps the district could look at having a 6-period day, as opposed to a block, and Chairman Leonard suggested that this be discussed at a future policy meeting. It was stated that with the “boredom factor”, it is sometimes difficult to sustain student interest over long periods of time. Marilyn Tencza said she would like to see this study completed after two (2) years, to give ample time to further research. Ed suggested that this was a good idea.
- Tim Williams asked if Hubbardston’s last day could be scheduled as a one-half (1/2) day. Superintendent Gee will look into this. As noted by Cheryl Duval, Bill Burnett would need to look at the bussing for that day to see if the bus company could accommodate our needs. This will be added to the March agenda, pursuant to Chairman Leonard’s request.

SECTION VIII: NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made regarding the Varsity Softball team trip. (See Action Item #7 below for further details).

SECTION IX: ACTION ITEMS

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>
1. Motion made to recommend that the School Committee accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the QRTA, with the two additional stipulations that the teachers were put on notice as of January 20, 2009, therefore requests made after that time would not be granted, and also that the maximum number of days a teacher may request be changed from sick time to personal time be no greater than three (3) days.	LW	CW	8	0	1
2. Motion made to recommend that the School Committee accept the proposed FY09-10 school year calendar, with a start date of August 31, 2009.	LW	CW	8	1	0
3. Motion to recommend that the School Committee accept the FY2010 level-services budget as presented.	CW	LW	9	0	0
Roll Call Vote: 2/3 vote required: weighted vote – DOES NOT PASS—only 9.03; 9.33 needed to pass					
VOTE: RA <input type="checkbox"/> ; MB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; CM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; MR <input type="checkbox"/> ; LW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; NK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; CW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
RD <input type="checkbox"/> ; TW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; SB <input type="checkbox"/> ; PT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; TS <input type="checkbox"/> ; TT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; EL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
4. Motion was made to remove Policy JFBC, Intra-District School Choice policy from the table. Unanimous.	CW	LW	9	0	0
5. Motion was made to accept Policy JFBC, Intra-District School Choice policy. Unanimous.	CW	LW	9	0	0

- 6. Motion was made to hire the architect firm LPBA for the purpose of the Design Study phase of the QRHS glass dining room atrium roof and exterior architectural panels. Unanimous. NK PT 9 0 0
- 7. Motion was made to allow the Varsity Softball team to attend the annual preseason trip to New Bedford High School, on March 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2009. Unanimous. PT LW 9 0 0

SECTION X: EXECUTIVE SESSION *No Executive Session Necessary* **TIME:** NONE

PURPOSE:

- To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual.
 - To consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or student.
 - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining process.
 - To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices.
 - To investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to discuss the filing of criminal complaints.
 - To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
 - To comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.
- Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 39, 23 (1)-(7).

MOTION: _____ ; **SECOND:** _____ ;

VOTE: RA ; MB ; DO ; MR ; LW ; NK ; CW
 RD ; TW ; SB ; PT ; TS ; TT ; EL

Return to Open Session – Time: _____ p.m.

MOTION: _____ **SECOND:** _____ **VOTE:** _____ **FOR:** _____ **OPPOSED:** _____

Meeting adjourned: 9:06 p.m.

MOTION: NK **SECOND:** CW **VOTE:** **FOR:** 9 **OPPOSED:** 0

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa A. Widing, Executive Assistant