



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Meeting**

MINUTES – July 23, 2009

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – CALLED TO ORDER: 7:38 p.m.

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

1. Attendance:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Richard Allan | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Dupuis |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Wigler | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Miller |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Barringer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Bolger |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Peggy Thompson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edward F. Leonard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Wolfe |

2. Administration:

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

3. QRTA Representative – Dennis Dextrateur
 Student Representative –

4. News Media:
 Worcester T&G – Craig Semon
 Barre Gazette –Ellie Downer

5. Visitors/Faculty: Samuel Lipson, Barre resident

SECTION II: MINUTES

Voted: To accept and place on file the minutes of June 11, 2009.	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>
	LW	MB	10	0	1

SECTION III: WARRANTS/REPORTS

Payroll and accounts payable warrants for both FY09 and FY10 were announced.
 For FY09, payroll warrant #s 26, 27 and 28 were signed by the warrant subcommittee previous to this meeting.
 For FY10, payroll warrant #s 1, 2 and 3 were presented and signed.
 For FY09, accounts payable warrant #s 28 and 29 were signed by the warrant subcommittee previous to this meeting.
 and accounts payable warrant # 30 was presented and signed.
 For FY10, accounts payable warrant # 1 was presented and signed.

SECTION IV: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:**
Acting Superintendent Duval had nothing to report that didn't appear elsewhere on the agenda.
- DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:** Please see Section III: Warrants/Reports above for payroll and warrants presented.

3. TEACHER ADVISORY: Dennis Dextrateur was present and stated that for the first time, the Quabbin Regional School District has been presented with the prestigious Sportsmanship Award by the MIAA. Chairman Leonard congratulated the Athletic Department on this fine accomplishment and asked that Melissa send a letter of congratulations on behalf of the School Committee.

SECTION V: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE – Mark Brophy stated that there was nothing new to report at this time.
2. ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ADHOC SUBCOMMITTEE – Cheryl Wolfe stated that there was nothing new to report at this time.
3. AUDIT/CENTRAL OFFICE SUBCOMMITTEE—Lee Wolanin stated that there was nothing new to report at this time.
4. BARRE BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE – Lee Wolanin stated that there was nothing new to report at this time.
5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Mark Brophy stated that a Budget subcommittee meeting had just been held prior to this meeting to discuss the process and procedures that needed to be followed to amend and revise the current budget number. Mr. Brophy first made a motion to allow the Acting Superintendent to transfer funds for the purpose of closing the FY09 budget [see Action Item No. 1 below]. Next, Chairman Leonard explained that the weighted vote would be conducted a bit differently with regard to voting on some appropriation categories, since a couple of School Committee members have family employed in the district. According to the State Ethics Commission, those members should leave the room during voting during those particular categories only, and would be invited to return to vote on the total budget amount [see Action Item No. 2 below for further detail]. Further discussion took place regarding a reduction to the budget [see Action Item No. 3 below for further detail]. Additional voting was conducted regarding the Special Education funding portion of the category [see Action Item No. 4 below for further detail]. Further clarification was then made by motion regarding the bottom line new budget number [see Action Item No. 5 below for further detail].

Additional discussion was held regarding school choice funding. Chairman Leonard asked Acting Superintendent Duval to address the earlier comment made concerning the Regional Agreement. Acting Superintendent Duval noted that the Regional Agreement was created in 1985, before school choice existed. When the Regional Agreement was amended, it allowed for the charging of student tuition as a revenue source. School Choice, on the other hand, is a revolving account that can be expended without further appropriation by the school committee.

Barre resident Samuel Lipson asked for clarification of net school spending. Acting Superintendent Duval stated that the formula is very antiquated and the foundation budget has not changed, which makes it insufficient in the current financial climate. Chairman Leonard added that Quabbin's rank among other school districts shows that the district is in the bottom 15% in per pupil spending. Quabbin is also in the bottom 6% of what the towns support in education with their tax dollars.

6. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SUBCOMMITTEE – Mark Brophy will update the committee at a later time. The collective bargaining process is presently ongoing.
7. POLICY, REVIEW AND REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE – Cheryl Wolfe spoke on behalf of Dr. Allan [who was absent] and stated that this subcommittee will meet on the 1st Monday in October.
8. PLANTS & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE – Ned Kelly updated the committee on the QRMHS driveway repair. The district has received one quote from Lenard Engineering, Inc. to conduct the bid analysis and provide on-site construction oversight, administration and close-out of the construction project for a total cost of \$17,720.00. It is anticipated that this project will be completed over this summer.
9. SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE – There was nothing new to report for this subcommittee.
10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE – There was nothing new to report for this subcommittee.

SECTION VI: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Chairman Leonard spoke about the progress being made with the North Middlesex Regional School District regarding the sharing of resources. Mark Brophy and Chairman Leonard have met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the School Committee at NMRSD and have agreed on a general approach. A draft general statement has been created and is being reviewed by NMRSD’s attorneys before proceeding to QRSD’s attorneys for their review. The groups have been working with the state to conclude how best to approach this arrangement. Chairman Leonard will keep the committee apprised of any additional updates as they become available.
2. In other business, Chairman Leonard informed the School Committee that this would be Melissa Widing’s last meeting, as she has accepted a new position in the Oxford Public Schools. Chairman Leonard thanked Melissa for her service to the district on behalf of the School Committee.

SECTION VII: SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

Charlie Miller asked if an Alternative Funding Adhoc Subcommittee meeting could be held in August to discuss additional ways of generating revenue. Cheryl Wolfe said that a meeting could be held in early September. Bob Berlo, Director of Educational Services commented that they have just this week been working on a program aimed at establishing career pathways and will work to realign this program at the High School level. Expansion will continue in the areas of engineering and biotechnology, and he would be glad to meet with the subcommittee to discuss this further.

SECTION VIII: NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Leonard welcomed new Hubbardston Principal Maureen Donelan to the district.

SECTION IX: ACTION ITEMS

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>									
1. Motion made to allow the Acting Superintendent to make transfers as necessary to close the fiscal year 2009 budget including the appropriate transfers from the General Fund to the Emergency Recovery Grant, also referred to as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Grant equal to \$1,822,045.	MB	LW	10	0	1									
2. Motion made to recognize and accept \$15,574,711 in line item 2100-3200, regular education instructional support line item. Motion carries.	MB	LW	9	0	2									
VOTE:	MB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PB <input type="checkbox"/>	LW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PT <input type="checkbox"/>	CW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EL <input type="checkbox"/>	JB <input type="checkbox"/>	TT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RA <input type="checkbox"/>	RD <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Motion made to reduce the budget by \$100,000 to a new budget figure of \$32,880,807. Motion carries.	MB	LW	10	1	0									
VOTE:	MB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PB <input type="checkbox"/>	LW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PT <input type="checkbox"/>	CW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EL <input type="checkbox"/>	JB <input type="checkbox"/>	TT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RA <input type="checkbox"/>	RD <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Motion made to approve the Special Education funding portion of line item 2100-3200, the instructional support line item. Motion carries.	MB	LW	10	0	1									
VOTE:	MB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PB <input type="checkbox"/>	LW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PT <input type="checkbox"/>	CW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EL <input type="checkbox"/>	JB <input type="checkbox"/>	TT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RA <input type="checkbox"/>	RD <input type="checkbox"/>

5. A clarification motion was made to reduce the budget by \$100,000 to a new budget figure of \$32,880,807. Motion carries. MB LW 10 1 0

VOTE: MB [Y] NK [Y] PB [Y] LW [Y] TW [Y] MW [Y] PT []
CW [Y] CM [Y] EL [Y] JB [Y] TT [N] RA [] RD []

SECTION X: EXECUTIVE SESSION Not necessary

TIME:

PURPOSE:

- []
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[]
[]
[]
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- 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.
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 []; CM []; PB []; LW []; NK []; CW []
RD []; TW []; [open] []; PT []; TS []; TT []; EL []

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

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

Meeting adjourned: 8:29 p.m.

MOTION: MB SECOND: LW VOTE: 11 FOR: 11 OPPOSED: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa A. Widing, Executive Assistant