



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Meeting

MINUTES – August 14, 2008
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

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

- A. 1. Attendance: [checked] Dr. Richard Allan, [checked] Susan Benedict, [checked] Therese Salvadore, [checked] Mark Brophy, [checked] Ned Kelly, [checked] Timothy Williams, [checked] Edward F. Leonard, [ ] Robert Dupuis, [ ] Charles Miller, [checked] Michael Riendeau, [checked] Lee Wolanin, [checked] Dr. Thomas Tashjian arrived at 7:40pm, [ ] Peggy Thompson, [checked] Cheryl Wolfe
2. Administration: [checked] Sue M. Gee, [checked] Clare Barnes, [checked] Robert Berlo, [checked] William Burnett, [checked] Cheryl Duval, [checked] Martha Femino, [ ] Tracey Hippert, [checked] Susanne Musnicki, [checked] Jason Newton, [checked] Joan Paula, [ ] Mark Pellegrino, [ ] Debbie Pelley, [checked] Marilyn Tencza, [checked] Jan Williams, [ ] Patricia Worthington
3. QRTA Representative – [ ], Student Representative – [ ]
4. News Media: Worcester T&G – Jim Russell [checked], Barre Gazette –Ellie Downer [checked]
5. Visitors/Faculty: Paul Hale: Hubbardston – Selectboard, Kristy Casey: Hubbardston – Selectboard, Maggie Ziff: New Braintree – Selectboard, Sheila Mackinnon: Hardwick – concerned citizen

SECTION II: MINUTES

Voted: To accept and place on file the minutes of July 10, 2008

Table with 5 columns: Motion, 2nd, For, Opp., Abs. and corresponding values: MB, NK, 11, 2, 2

**SECTION III: WARRANTS/REPORTS**

Payroll warrants 3 & 4 presented; accounts payable warrant #2 presented with warrant #1 signed.

**SECTION IV: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

1. **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:** Superintendent Gee introduced Michael Riendeau as the newest member to the Barre School Committee, and Melissa Widing as the new executive assistant to the superintendent. The Superintendent reiterated that the Superintendent's Report was sent to all members via email earlier in the week. In the report:
  - The New Braintree Grade School sprinkler system was operational and school will open on-time. Clare Barnes reported that as of today, they met the 21-lbs of pressure necessary to pass inspection.
  - Superintendent Gee reminded all school committee members of the opportunity to attend the MASC/MASS Joint Conference on November 19-22, 2008.
  - The Quabbin Education Foundation elected officers and adopted by-laws. Kerry Conaghan is the president.
  - We are about to complete summer professional development opportunities offered here at QRSD. Twelve teachers are taking the Understanding by Design course for college credit from Fitchburg State College, taught by Bob Berlo.
  - The QRSD administration is participating in an Educational Leadership Retreat on August 18 – 19 at the Education Center PDC. The group will study the latest research on literacy skills students will need to be successful in the 21st century.
  - Great things are happening for the Quabbin-area students this summer. The buildings are being used for sports camps, the credit recovery program, while many others are spending their day at the Hubbardston Center School in a variety of enrichment programs. Other students are taking advantage of the YOU, Inc. counseling services and participating in other remedial courses. This was all noted in an article published in the Barre Gazette.
  - New Braintree is challenged with only four incoming kindergarteners. More details in New Business.
  - All school committee members are invited to the convocation on opening day for the 2008-2009 academic year.
2. **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:** Cheryl Duval announced the warrants ready for signatures. Cheryl referred the school committee members to a memo from Support Services Manager Bill Burnett requesting an increase in school lunch from \$1.75 to \$2.00 for students and to \$3.25 for adults. See motion noted below.
3. **TEACHER ADVISORY:** NA
4. **STUDENT ADVISORY:** NA

**SECTION V: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **POLICY REVIEW REFORM –** Dr. Allan made a motion to move the Student Transportation in Private Vehicles Policy off the table for discussion and approval.  
Dr. Allan noted that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held October 6, 2008. In the meantime, Dr. Allan suggested that the committee members envision the future of public schools and consider ways to meet the needs of the students: what is driving the schools, the students; what is the best, most economically efficient way to educate students. Chairperson Leonard asked Dr. Allan to investigate this concept and how to coordinate with the Ad-Hoc committee's mission.
2. **CENTRAL OFFICE –** no report
3. **PLANTS & FACILITIES –** no report; Ned Kelly scheduling tours of the buildings with Clare.
4. **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW –** no report
5. **BUDGET REVIEW –** In the absence of a subcommittee chairperson, Chairman Leonard updated the committee on the status of the budget. Since the last school committee meeting, as Barre and Oakham approved the original assessment, they do not have to take further action, and the new, adjusted assessment stands. The override in Hubbardston to fund the school assessment failed and Chairman Leonard has a sense there would not be a town meeting to approve the new assessment because of the override failure. New Braintree and Hardwick are holding Special Town Meetings August 18 and August 20, respectively to vote the new assessments. Cheryl Wolfe clarified the school's financial status for the benefit of the committee, recapping the changes as result of budget cuts over the past six years.
6. **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:** nothing to report

**SECTION VI: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. School Committee subcommittees: Chairman Leonard noted that some committee members have signed up for one or more subcommittees and some subcommittees are still in need of a chairperson. Chairman Leonard asks school committee members to email him of their interest in serving as a subcommittee chair and asks the committee if it were feasible for subcommittee chairs to meet August 18th. It was determined that date is not possible; the next best date is September 16th, 7:30pm at the Ed Support Center. At this meeting, Chairman Leonard would like each subcommittee chair be prepared to discuss ideas, especially those in relation to the Ad-Hoc committee Dr. Tashjian proposed.
2. Dr. Tashjian would like the Ad-Hoc committee formed to study alternative funding resources for the district. See motion #4. Although not seconded, there was much discussion regarding the concept. Sue Benedict complimented Dr. Tashjian’s persistence in seeing this through and would like to have the Ad-Hoc committee address the issues to make the alternative funding sources occur. In relation to alternative funding resources, Therese Salvadore asked that old, unresolved suggestions be addressed by the September 16th meeting. School committee members are to email QRSD administration with their requests of the unresolved issues (school choice surveys regarding transportation fees).

**SECTION VII: SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

1. Mark Brophy addressed an alternative way to offer expected education with creative financial means, mentioning he discussed the limits the Time on Learning requirement, creatively educating students, and saving money during the winter months. Cheryl Duval responded that Quabbin researched that a few years ago. She has the results of the study. Chairperson Leonard suggested the concept be addressed at the September 16th meeting.

**SECTION VIII: NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ed Leonard introduced and welcomed the new Barre School Committee member, Michael Riendeau. Michael was appointed to the seat vacated by George Richardson. Ed asked Mike to consider joining a subcommittee and to let him know via email.
2. New Braintree kindergarten: Throughout the summer, the Superintendent has met with Patricia Worthington, principal of New Braintree Grade School, Cheryl Duval, the Director of Administrative Services, Peggy Thompson, the New Braintree School Committee representative and Therese Salvadore, an Oakham School Committee representative, to discuss the move of the 2008/09 New Braintree kindergarten students to Oakham or Hardwick. This move will provide a more appropriate educational and socialization experience for the kindergarteners. The parents have been contacted and asked to consider this option; parents can make an intra-district request of the Superintendent, who may grant the requests. Meanwhile, should we decide to move the children (reassignment), as per regional agreement, 2/3 of the school committee, a majority of members from the town of residence and a majority of members from the receiving town must vote in favor. Cheryl Wolfe motioned to authorize the Superintendent to place the four students in a receiving town school at the choice of the parents. See motion below for results. Ned Kelly asked that the decision be contingent upon the signature of the New Braintree representative.
3. Because of the New Braintree kindergarten issue, it is noted that there is no policy for intra-district choice. The current procedure is at the discretion of the superintendent based on the individual needs of the requestor. It is suggested that the Policy Subcommittee determine the policy/procedure at the October 6th subcommittee meeting.

**SECTION IX: ACTION ITEMS**

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>
1. Motion to accept Melissa Widing as secretary to the school committee.	RA	NK	11	0	0
2. Motion to increase the student school lunch prices beginning with the 2008-2009 school year from \$1.75 to \$2.00. Adult meal prices will be raised so as to meet the student ‘free’ meal reimbursement rate, plus commodity food usage and state meals tax, rounded to the nearest 5-cent increment: \$3.25. Ala Carte prices will be adjusted in compliance with pricing regulation of the National School Lunch Program.	CW	RA	11	0	0
3. Motion to authorize the Superintendent to place the four (4) children now registered in kindergarten at New Braintree Grade School into the Oakham Center School or Hardwick Elementary School, whichever their parents choose, contingent upon the signature of the New Braintree School Committee representative.	CW	RA	10	0	1

Roll Call Vote: 2/3 vote required: weighted vote - passes

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

- 4. Motion made to direct the administration to prepare for the September meeting of the policy review subcommittee proposals for each of the following (including potential costs and revenues):
  - Programs for which fees may be charged and potential revenues, including school choice buses and extracurricular activities
  - New programs for which fees may be charged that may offset disincentives for #1 including after-school enrichment programs and late buses.
  - Establishing an independent within-district rehabilitation service or affiliating with such a service to provide rehabilitation and psychological assessment for students and to bill for the same.
  - A timeline to establish a vocational track as well as its target students or a timeline to affiliate with some other collaborative to do so.
- 5. Motion made to move the policy EEAG off the table for discussion and approval. RA NK 11 0 0
- 6. Motion made to approve the revised Policy EEAG: changing the personal liability coverage from \$100,000 - \$500,000 to \$100,000 - \$300,000 RA NK 11 0 0

**SECTION X: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**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 individual.
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the governmental body, and to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.
- 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:** 8:24 p.m.

**MOTION:** RA \_\_\_\_\_ **SECOND:** MB \_\_\_\_\_ **VOTE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OPPOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Nosel, Acting Secretary