



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES – December 18, 2008
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.**

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

1. Attendance:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Richard Allan | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Dupuis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Benedict | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Miller |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Therese Salvadore | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Edward F. Leonard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Wolfe |

2. Administration:

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

Voted: To accept and place on file the minutes of November 3, 2008 and November 13, 2008.	<u>Motion</u> NK	<u>2nd</u> CW	<u>For</u> 9	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u> 1
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SECTION III: WARRANTS/REPORTS

Payroll and accounts payable warrants # 11, 12 and 13 presented and signed.

SECTION IV: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

- Superintendent Gee gave a brief overview of the status of each school in the aftermath of the December 12th ice storm. She will participate with area Superintendents in requesting a waiver for the days that schools were without power and/or used as emergency shelters.

- 2. **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:**
Cheryl Duval discussed the 403(b) plans and the new Internal Revenue Service regulations regarding the same. It is necessary for the School Committee to adopt the District’s plan and to appoint the TPA (Third Party Administrator). There are no restrictions on the vendors that employees currently have; and there are 111 employees that have these plans. Additionally, there are salary reduction agreements on all. Forty-six (46) employees have not returned their forms as of today, January 2, 2009 is the absolute deadline to accept and approve the deductions. Motion was made regarding the same (See Motion #1 below for further details). The motion was amended by Mark Brophy to omit the name of the Third-Party Administrator and was seconded by Ned Kelly. MidAmerica was chosen after a Request for Proposals among 16 districts saw 6-7 proposals bid. The Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative chose MidAmerica based on their longstanding history of representing school districts across the country for the last 30 years.
- 3. **TEACHER ADVISORY:**

SECTION V: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS—Subcommittee reports were postponed until January’s meeting.

- 1. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 2. ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ADHOC SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 3. AUDIT/CENTRAL OFFICE SUBCOMMITTEE—
- 4. BARRE BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 6. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 7. POLICY, REVIEW AND REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 8. PLANTS & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 9. SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE –
- 10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE –

SECTION VI: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SECTION VII: SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

SECTION VIII: NEW BUSINESS

Some School Committee concerns relative to the ice storm were discussed as follows:

- Tim Williams asked if students could return to school once electricity was restored to a school. Superintendent Gee stated that we function as a district and not all schools could be opened.
- Dr. Tom Tashjian stated that in January, laws relating to the purchase and sales of electricity on the grid are changing; and will be sold at retail or discounted retail rates; additionally, because there may be commercial wind turbines planned for set up close to the school, this presents an opportunity for the school to purchase electricity at less than the present rate. The district should be eligible for grant money. Dr. Tashjian has names of people and grants that the school could access. Cheryl Duval stated that the electrical contract is currently under bid. We will watch this and see what changes will occur. Constellation Energy is the name of the group offering lower rates.
- Ned Kelly discussed the economic picture and asked whether discussions with high school students and staff are taking place. The Superintendent will look into this once school is back in session.

SECTION IX: ACTION ITEMS

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>
1. Motion made to accept and adopt the Quabbin Regional School District Deferred Compensation Plan as outlined in the Quabbin Regional School District 403(b) Plan Document and Adoption Agreement, beginning January 1, 2009, as mandated by Internal Revenue Service Code Section 403(b).	MB	MR	10	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

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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: 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: NK **SECOND:** PT **VOTE:** _____ **FOR:** 10 **OPPOSED:** 0

Respectfully submitted,
Sue M. Gee, Superintendent