



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2017
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent
District Administrators/Staff	Kristin Campione; Gregory Devine; Cherie McComb; Sue Musnicki; Julie Vincentsen; Tricia Worthington; Clare Barnes
Absent:	Joanna Cackett
Parents/Townpeople	

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of December 8, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-2 with Mr. Hansen and Mr. Leclair abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Marshall thanked the Transportation Coordinator, Stacey Skerry, as well as the bus drivers who have gotten our children to school safely when we've had two hour delays. She also commended McCarthy Bus who work so closely with the District during bad weather as well as with other issues that arise.
- b) Assistant Superintendent - Referred to the Professional Development overview in the members' packets. The PD day held on Tuesday, January 17th was districtwide training presented by DOE Safe Schools program which deals with making sure we provide for the needs of our LGBTQ students. Dr. Muir also relayed that all professional development is goal based to increase rigor and provide appropriate instructional support. In addition, Dr. Muir reported that the state was planning a roll out of MCAS testing with sample tests in January, which has not happened. The date has now been pushed to February, but that will remain to be seen.

The Principals and Andrew Walsh have been working together to be sure our technology needs for state testing are met. The main concern at this time is staffing at all levels. Staffing will be needed for regular classrooms, small groups and individual testing over a period of 21 days. Currently waiting to hear back from the state in regard to students with IEPs, 504s who can take tests under separate circumstances which will allow Principals to have more flexibility to allow an accommodation even if the students doesn't have an IEP.

c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 13, 14 & 15 and AP Warrants 13A, 14A & 15A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.

Director's Report – Mrs. Duval reported that the District is receiving an e-rate reimbursement. A vote from the Committee will be necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mrs. Pease to transfer \$86,106.60 from appropriation category 4400 Networking & Telecommunications, due to e-rate reimbursement approval; \$119,093.40 from appropriation category 5200 Benefits due to reduction in Unemployment and Health Insurance expense to appropriation category 2100-3200 Instructional Support for the purchase of Classroom Instructional Technology. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 12-1-0 as follows: Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – opposed; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes.

d) Teacher Advisory Council

- No report was given

e) Student Advisory Council - Cassie Whitelaw updated the Committee on her recent meetings as a Regional Student Advisory delegate and her meetings at DESE which include discussion in regard to School Climate and Culture. They also discussed which schools offered a Civics course in their curriculum.

Cassie also reported that it was currently Project Purple Week. Students received wristbands which got them into sporting events all week for free. Mr. Sarabia felt that there was a great community response to Project Purple.

Mr. Sarabia also requested that Dr. Marshall emphasize the teaching of Civics within a course. Dr. Marshall confirmed that discussion has ensued with administration in regard to this.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- No report was given.

c) Budget

- FY18 Budget – Discussion ensued that the Committee previously requested that administration look at a needs budget and were tasked with deciding what our students need for the best possible education. Administration has done their best to bring forth a budget that is as equivalent to the educational opportunities that we have currently as possible, while continuing to look at class sizes. JV sports were put back into the budget after the discussion last year. The District will be involved in negotiations over the next few weeks with all bargaining units. Administration will be able to shift around some HS staff due to certification to fill retirements. At this time, although it could change, administration does not see a lot of transfers. Currently receiving only \$40,000 more from the state, but cost to the district for regional transportation has increased \$26,000.

Administration has met with Facilities and made some changes to the Capital Plan. Of greatest importance are the public address systems in New Braintree and Oakham. These must be addressed as quickly as possible. At this time, there is no communication with all the classrooms in the event of an emergency, and this represents a huge safety issue. Oakham is also in need of a new fire panel. The District is currently gathering the information necessary to submit an SOI to the MSBA to replace the roof on the New Braintree Grade School. This is a very lengthy process and may not be funded for two to three years if it is approved.

Discussion ensued in regard to the Powerpoint that was presented which showed a 1.3% budget increase operationally without any Capital Plan projects. The School Committee is now tasked with accepting the updated Capital Plan and budget accordingly or modify the Capital Plan document.

- Discussion then ensued in regard to the number of Professional Development days in the district and the cost for PD that was presented at the Collins Center presentation. It was discussed that different schools report their Professional Development differently. For Quabbin, teacher salaries on PD days are reflected in the PD line. The process by which our District reports and another district reports may not be equal and may not be comparable. Some Committee members feel that the amount of PD days is excessive. Discussion ensued that, especially at the elementary level, PD is essential due to the expectations and mandates that are put upon teachers. This includes working with their peers on lesson planning and implementation, as well as outside presenters. Committee members would like see the opportunity for high quality professional development with outside presenters as well as within their own peer group.
- It was asked that we show a representation of the impact on town assessments at the February 9th meeting.

d) Central Office

- Strategic Plan planning will begin soon, as we are waiting on the final Collins Center report

e) Collective Bargaining

- Beginning negotiations with teachers

f) Elementary School

- No report was given.

g) Plant and facilities

- The revised Capital Plan was recommended to full Committee

h) Policy & Review

- No report was given

i) Special Education

- Subcommittee met this evening. Enrollments are status quo from last meeting. Mid cycle review with DOE will begin on February 28th at Oakham and the HS. Continue to work on finding consultants to evaluate the Special Ed program by looking at data and if there are ways to restructure program delivery strategies in order to help students in house, and a preschool evaluation will be picked up in that evaluation.

j) Task Force

- Collins Center Update – The Collins Center came out, reported on financial, tax values, demographics. They spoke to the structure to make decisions and choices down the road. The Collins Center will be coming out again to meet with administration, the SC chair and the Task Force chair to discuss further information before the final report. Discussion ensued that because it takes a town meeting vote to close schools, the belief is that this vote would be difficult if not impossible. Hubbardston town officials and school officials met at the HCS to look at the possibility of using space as the HCS for town space. All space within the building is used by the school and, with a rental agreement, the CAPS Collaborative. There are no areas that would be conducive to an agreement with the town at this time, as well as the fact that CAPS would need an extraordinary amount of time to find another location. Dr. Marshall has sent a letter to the Hubbardston Selectboard to this effect, but has not heard back from them. Dr. Marshall also requested that a formal vote be taken at the February meeting to grant CAPS another year on their agreement.

k) Technology

- No report was given

l) Solar/Retrofit

- Currently in a conundrum with National Grid. Solar City has stated that National Grid is not crediting the District properly and currently owe the District \$38,000. This is being addressed through Solar City & National Grid and should be resolved soon.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Michelle & Jason Verham addressed the Committee in regard to reaching out to surrounding towns to join the District as well as the possibility of opening up some Chapter 74 programs to be eligible for some grants.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Wolanin spoke in regard to the success of the Alumni Concert which was held in the beginning of January. Winslow Sawyer, who started the Quabbin music program 50 years ago, was the guest conductor. Approximately 68 alumni participated from all over the United States. He also addressed the recent success of the Wrestling team at their meet and the success of one of the 8th grade athletes on the team. Mr. Wolanin also reported that he had spoken with some alumni over the winter break who all felt they had done well at QRHS and were very well prepared for their college experience. During that discussion, Mrs. Chamberlain reported that her son had received nominations to the Naval Academy, Merchant Marine, West Point, and Air Force Academy.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for out of state overnight yearbook workshop Monday, 6/26 to Tuesday, 6/27 at Bryant College. Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the field trip to Bryant College with the usual provisos. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- Request for German student athlete exchange in April, 2018. HS Principal, Greg Devine, discussed the possibility of a German basketball team exchange with QRHS. The German students would attend Quabbin for a week in December and our students would visit Germany for a week in April, 2018. Students would attend cultural and athletic events. This same program is run at the Lincoln Sudbury school, and the program would like to alternate every other year with Quabbin. Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the exchange to Germany with the usual provisos. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary