



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 10, 2012**  
**Educational Support Center**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Edward (Ned) Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Richard Paula	Member, Barre
	Marcelino (Tex) Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Lee Tavares	Member, Oakham
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston
	Timothy Williams	Member, Hubbardston
	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent
Senator Steve Brewer	
Representative Ann Gobi	
District Administrators/Staff	
Town Officials	
Parents/Townspople	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Tavares to approve the minutes of September 13, 2012. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-1. Mr. Wolanin abstained.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Supt. Marshall commended Director Duval and the financial team for their stellar work.

b) Assistant Superintendent

- No report was given

c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 7, 8 and AP warrants 8A, 8B & 9A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- Request for budget transfer for staffing to monitor cafeterias and recess duties. Motion was made to transfer \$31,200.00 from Appropriation Category 2100 – 3200 (Instructional Support) to Appropriation Category 3600 (School Security). The motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Mr. Wolanin.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Brophy –yes; Mr. Paula – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes;  
Mr. Williams – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mr. Tavares – yes.

d) Teacher Advisory Council

- Dorothy Verheyen-Cudjoe reported that staff has been working with professional development related to Evaluation Tools with a Plan of Action and bi-weekly meetings with evaluations continuing for phase II. In all, she feels that she, along with the rest of the staff, believe great things are happening at the high school with school spirit.

e) Student Advisory Council

- Steffany Halfrey, grade 10 Student Senator, reported that one of the major improvements at the school is the amount of smoking in the restrooms. Student government members feel this is directly attributed to the smoking alarms that were installed in the bathrooms. Steffany also reports that there is a huge increase in school spirit, especially with Humans vs. Zombies coming up in late October.

#### 4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- Richard Sullivan, Partner for the Auditing Firm Powers & Sullivan, reviewed the FY12 audit report, financial statement and federal report. Mr. Sullivan reported that Cheryl Duval and the financial team were audit ready. All reports were consistently on time and accurate. Mr. Sullivan indicated that he had no unusual items to report to the Committee. The results of audit testing were “no findings”, which is the best you can expect. In summary, Mr. Sullivan indicated that there was nothing to report to consider a deficiency and the FY12 audit was very positive and consistent with previous years. The only negative in the audit was the condition of the food services department which is currently in structural imbalance. The cost of running the department exceeds the revenue that is being taken in. Discussion ensued in regard to the unique situation in the cafeteria. Question was raised to Mr. Sullivan in regard to other schools who have had issues and turned to privatization. The School Committee publicly commended Director Duval and the financial team for the exemplary job done through the audit process. Motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Labarre to accept the Auditor’s report as written. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Budget

- No report was given

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- No report was given

f) Plant and facilities

- No Report was given

g) Policy & Review

- The following policies were reviewed at the Policy Subcommittee meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The policies will be put on the website for 30 days for public comment. They are as follows:
  - i. Section E: Support Services
  - ii. Section F: Facilities Development
  - iii. Section K: Community Relations
  - iv. Section L: Education Agency Relations

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) Technology

- No report was given

#### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- FY 13 Budget – Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education discussed the state formula for funding education as well as the process for finalizing regional school budgets. Mr. Wulfson presented a PowerPoint presentation which gave an overview of Massachusetts school finance, including Chapter 70 origins and the four basic steps that build that figure, as well as required local contributions. Much discussion ensued between School Committee members, town officials, and other visitors in regard to the steps taken if the towns cannot agree on a budget. In summary, if there is not an approved budget by December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Commissioner sets a budget for the balance of the school year, and the voters and School Committee do not have a decision in regard to assessments. The Department takes over the fiscal management of the school district. The decision on what the Commissioner will set as a budget is made by consulting with the Superintendent, School Committee, Department of Revenue and towns involved.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No one addressed the Committee.

## **7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

- Mr. Williams brought up the subject for future discussion of holding PSAT testing during the school day for the entire Sophomore class.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Potential Partnership with Athol YMCA – this partnership was started as an Honors Research project by Katherine Copeland and Tove Freeman, both from the Class of 2012. Discussion ensued in regard to potentially starting a Teen Center at the high school to be utilized by both the high school and middle school as well as an after school program at the Ruggles Lane School. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Paula to form a potential partnership between Quabbin and the Athol YMCA. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-1. Mr. Tavares abstained.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Labarre to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett  
Secretary