



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2016
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick
	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	
Town Officials	
Parents/Townspeople	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of August 23, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-2 with Dr. Allan and Mr. Nutter abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of August 29, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-2 with Mr. Leclair and Mr. Nutter abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Marshall reported that the HS Science Department is currently preparing a competitive grant which would introduce more robotics opportunities to Quabbin. An issue of concern has been some of the larger class sizes at the elementaries as well as music in the elementaries. Administration is currently looking at ways to mitigate the class sizes as well as ways to enhance the music program. Hopefully there will be a resolution for all issues by the November School Committee meeting.
- b) Assistant Superintendent - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 and AP warrants 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, 6B, 6T, 7A, 8A and 8S were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
 - Director's Report – Three years ago the state passed a statute where districts could bill back for retired teachers' insurance. Last year Quabbin sent out 27 letters. Of those 27, 17 paid \$6,000 and 10 refused to pay a total of \$20,000. One district currently owes \$16,000 for two years. The District will invoice districts again this year. Dr. Marshall will speak with area superintendents before sending a letter from legal counsel.
 - Food Service Update - This week was the application deadline for free and reduced lunch. If a student has not returned their free & reduced lunch application, they will now be charged full price for meals.
 - FY17 Budget Transfers (a 2/3 vote may be required) – passed over
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
- No report was given
- e) Student Advisory Council - Cassie Whitelaw reported that she continues to attend meetings for the Regional Student Advisory. At this time they are reviewing plans and have made groups to discuss Every Student Succeeds Act, Mental Health & Wellness. Cassie is the Communication Coordinator for ESSA. The regional meetings will be concentrating on college and career readiness, school culture and social issues.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
- No report was given.
- b) Audit
- Review of FY 16 Audit Report - Richard Sullivan, Partner for the Auditing Firm Powers & Sullivan reviewed the FY16 audit report, financial statement and federal report. Mr. Sullivan reported that Cheryl Duval and the financial team were, once again, 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 resulted in a "clean audit" or "no findings", which is the best you can expect. In summary, Mr. Sullivan indicated that there was nothing to report to consider a deficiency, no internal control issues, and the FY16 audit was very positive and consistent with previous years. Mr. Sullivan briefly reviewed the OPEB liability. Mr. Sullivan did report that Quabbin is one of the best school districts that they deal with. The School Committee publicly commended Director Duval and the financial team for the professionalism and exemplary job done through the audit process. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Allan to send a letter of commendation and thanks to Director Duval and her financial team for the exemplary job they have done. The motion passed unanimously. Motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Allan to accept the Auditor's report as written. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Mr. Spier abstaining.
- c) Budget
- FY18 Budget – At this time, the District is waiting for the Collins Center World Cafes where they will gather information about various ways of consolidation through the towns through consolidation of buildings, consolidation of departments, etc. The outcome of this gathering of information could impact the FY18 budget if there is any shifting of buildings, programs, etc. On November 17th, the District will host Legislators in order to discuss school funding. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of optimism for the coming year. Discussion then ensued that we should go to the towns with a "true" budget as opposed to a bloated needs budget.
- d) Central Office
- No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
- No report was given

- f) Elementary School
 - No report was given
- g) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given
- h) Policy & Review
 - Dr. Allan reported on discussion in regard to the building use policy and adjusting the fee schedule to be commensurate with the contracted salaries of the facilities department.
 - Policy ADF & School District Wellness Program – changes in policy are required by the federal regulations. Changes to the district policy would bring us up to date as well as with food awareness guidelines for schools.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to place Policy ADF & School District Wellness Program on the table for 30 days for input and discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
Update on Opioid Abuse Legislation – the District’s attorney, Matthew McEvoy, will be meeting with all administrators in regard to opioid legislation as well as other issues with special education.
 - Dr. Allan reported on the October 3rd meeting. Topics that were discussed included the Go Math! Program vs. Eureka Math as well as MCAS 2.0 and how it will be implemented in the District.
 - Discussion ensued in regard to GPA and ranking system. This will be placed on a future agenda for the Policy and Review/Reform Subcommittee.
- i) Special Education
 - No report was given
- j) Task Force
 - Collins Center Update – School Committee and Task Force met on September 8ths and discussed goals and the history of the District. Discussion ensued about reuse of buildings as well as shared use of buildings and the need to educate the public. The Collins Center Cafes will help community members to examine what needs are and where we are going in the future.
- k) Technology
 - Mr. Hansen reported that the subcommittee had discussion the implementation of MCAS 2.0 and the technology needs involved. Grades 4 & 8 are required to test this year, and it will be required for all other students by 2019.
 - Parent portal rollout in September at the MS & HS has been a success with “training” taking place over various evenings.
 - Office 365 is currently being offered to parents and students in an effort to get all on board for access at home and at school.
- l) Solar/Retrofit
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Deschamps reminded those in attendance about the presentation on October 19th about marijuana and the effect on the brains of adolescents.
- Strength and Conditioning Coach Meg Matthews was commended on the job she has done working with the athletes, coaches, and public on her strength and conditioning program.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- NJROTC Field Trip Request – Request for approval of trip to Normandy. Captain Daniel Brennock discussed a trip for NJROTC students in April, 2018 to Normandy. Funding would come from individual

fundraising with the opportunity for sponsorship for a portion of each trip done individually. A payment plan would start in November at approximately \$199 per month.

Motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the trip to Normandy with the usual provisos.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Charter School Resolution – Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Dr. Allan to vote on a resolution against lifting the cap on charter schools.

Motion passed by a vote of 9-0-1 with Mr. Spier abstaining (Mr. Kelly left the meeting at 8:40)

- October 1 enrollment figures – unofficial enrollment figures were presented to the Committee
- Presentation by Diane McMorrow’s nutrition class on community service field trip to the Community Garden in Grafton in September. Mrs. McMorrow, Joe Petrilla and Alicia Brown spoke to the Committee about their trip to the Community Garden in Grafton. They were able to view the crops, harvest crops and bring to the washing station for eventual distribution at local food banks. All students attending earned 3 hours of community service.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Leclair to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary