



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2015
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-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
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Lori Siefert	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	
Town Officials	
Parents/Townpeople	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ned Kelly and seconded by David Deschamps to approve the minutes of September 10, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0-1. Mrs. Thompson abstained.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools – No report was given.
- b) Assistant Superintendent - Sheila Muir provided an overview of professional development activities that have been held this school year. Mr. Labarre requested the PD activities be posted on the website.
- c) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 6 & 7 and AP warrants 6A and 7A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - Evan Barringer, QRTA President, expressed his appreciation for the presentation to teachers on holiday celebrations in schools by District Counsel.

- e) Student Advisory Council - Celina Aubuchon and Nick ? reported to the Committee. They noted concerns by students relative to “flex block” and the shortened passing time between class periods. Principal Devine will review the concerns expressed by the student representatives.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- Review of FY 15 Audit Report - Richard Sullivan, Partner for the Auditing Firm Powers & Sullivan reviewed the FY15 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 FY15 audit was very positive and consistent with previous years. Mr. Sullivan briefly reviewed the OPEB liability. The School Committee publicly commended Director Duval and the financial team for the professionalism and exemplary job done through the audit process.

Motion was made by Ned Kelly and seconded by Dr. Allan 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) Elementary Schools (Barre Subcommittee)

- Mrs. Siefert and Mr. Leclair indicated their interest in serving on this subcommittee

f) Collective Bargaining

- No report was given

g) Plant and facilities

- Mr. Kelly commended the Plant & Facilities staff for the great job in preparing the schools for the start of the school year. Clare Barnes reviewed concerns relative to the poor condition of the intercom/PA systems in the elementary schools.

h) Policy & Review

- Dr. Allan reported on the October 5th meeting. Topics that were discussed included: establishing criteria for a comprehensive review and evaluation of current and future athletic opportunities for Quabbin students and class sizes. The School Lunch Charge Policy was also reviewed at the October 5th Policy Subcommittee meeting. A draft of the changes to the current policy are under review by the Policy Subcommittee. The revised policy will not be put on the table at this time.

i) Special Education

- No report was given

j) Technology

- Mrs. Siefert reported that the technology subcommittee met last evening. The parent portal is in place. Bring Your Own Device is being successfully implemented. The district has increased band width and improvements to the infrastructure have allowed for this implementation. At its recent meeting, the subcommittee toured the QRHS media center.

k) Task Force

- Mr. Labarre reported that the next meeting will be held tomorrow evening. A tour of the elementary schools will begin in Hardwick. The Subcommittee has also indicated a desire to visit the Middle/High School in the near future.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- The December Dilemma – Attorney Michael Joyce of Nuttall, McAvoy & Joyce presented to the Committee. Mr. Joyce reviewed the laws relative to religion in public schools and the “December Dilemma” in regard to the celebration of holidays and holiday displays in the schools. He stated that the key is neutrality. Public schools cannot favor one religion over another or non-religion vs religion. It must serve an educational purpose for all students to make it constitutionally permissible. Mr. Joyce answered questions from the Committee relative to PTO-sponsored holiday bazaars/stores.
- Student Achievement Data and how it informs our decisions regarding the District’s staffing pattern and class size – This item will be discussed at the November 2nd Policy Subcommittee meeting at Ruggles Lane.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Landry
Acting Secretary