



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 9, 2014
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick (departed at 8:42 p.m.)
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Lori Siefert	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston (departed at 8:25 p.m.)

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 7:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Siefert to approve the minutes of September 11, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-2 with Mr. Miller and Mr. Labarre abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Ms. Siefert to approve the minutes of September 30, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-2 with Mr. Miller and Mr. Hansen abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall discussed the creation of a task force to investigate the pros and cons of a later start to the school day for the MS/HS and an earlier start for the elementary schools. This task force would include Elementary, MS & HS administration, as well as the athletic director, teachers, parents and students. Mr. Wolanin will serve as a representative of the School Committee, Mrs. McComb as elementary principal representative, Mrs. Musnicki for the middle school and a high school administrator.

- Discussion ensued in regard to the enrollment figures in the District. Additional information/discussion on this topic will be addressed later in the agenda. Mr. Sarabia requested a class size breakdown.
- Dr. Marshall requested authorization to move ahead with a demographic study. This study would be a precursor to consideration of student assignments in the future as well as regionalization of the schools within the district.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to authorize the District to move forward with a demographic study.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. Marshall also discussed that it was brought to the District's attention that we are remiss in the establishment clause. Over time, the District has begun to move away from holiday events with a Christian focus. Dr. Marshall met with the member of the music department this week and discussed the fact that concerts may not have a Christian focus. The principals are making an effort to address this in our schools with the parent teacher organizations, faculty & staff and the families.

b) Assistant Superintendent

- IB Enrollment and costs – Assistant Superintendent Muir presented information to the Committee in regard to size of IB classes and responded to questions of costs associated with the program. Discussion ensued in regard to the budget for the IB Program and the fact that Race to the Top grant funds paid for some of the expenses associated with the start up of the program. Mr. Labarre feels that the District needs to look at the program and the costs associated. He recalled that the Committee had voted for this initiative with the stipulation that the program would be looked at fiscally and feels that now, during the second year of implementation, the District should do that. It was explained that the IB Program is a high level learning, not necessarily a separate entity, and that we do not pull out separate costs for IB, AP or honors. Mrs. Muir spoke in regard to an Innovation/Implementation support grant that the District is applying for. The deadline for the grant is October 24th.
- MCAS vs. PARCC – Mrs. Muir reported that the state has not moved forward with which test will be required. It looks like it will be a longer timeline before the District has to go fully technological. For 2015, schools are allowed to choose which test they will administer, and Quabbin has chosen the MCAS test. In 2016, the District will be told by the state which test they will be administering.

c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 7, 8 and AP warrants A7, A8 were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- The Food Service department is on track with the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Duval commended Mr. Boisvert, Food & Nutrition Manager, on the increase in sales, profitability, and participation in the school lunch program. Discussion ensued that there needs to be an area on the website that highlights the fact that parents can still pay for school lunch with cash or check.

d) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, QRTA President, publicly thanked Dave Richards for his donation through QUEST to purchase numerous IPADs for use in the classroom.

e) Student Advisory Council

- Senior Steffany Halfrey reported that the HS held their annual college fair today with over 70 colleges, technical school & military representatives. Discussion ensued about the possibility of having all of the sophomores attend the fair as well as the juniors. Steffany reported that Mrs. Maureen Chase is the new Advisor for the National Honor Society and that elections for officers will be held on October 10th.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- Review of FY 14 Audit Report - Richard Sullivan, Partner for the Auditing Firm Powers & Sullivan reviewed the FY14 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 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, no internal control issues, and the FY14 audit was very positive and consistent with previous years. 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 Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Miller 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

- Currently in negotiations with the paraprofessional association.

f) Plant and facilities

- No report was given

g) Policy & Review

- The following policies were reviewed at the Policy Subcommittee meeting held on October 6th. The policies will be put on the website for 30 days for public comment.

Motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Mrs. Siefert to put policies listed below on the table to be re-voted at the November meeting:

Nondiscrimination Statement Policy Changes (addition of gender identity)

Chapter 222 (An Act Relative to Student Access to Educational Services and Exclusion from School)

The motion passed with one abstention (Debra Chamberlain)

- Biotechnology Initiative – Reported that Maureen Chase, Academic Coordinator for the Science Department at the high school presented to the subcommittee in regard to the biotechnology in our world today and her efforts to submit a grant for \$100,000 in an effort to upgrade our biotech equipment.

Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to endorse the efforts of the members of the science department for the biotechnology initiative.

The motion passed unanimously.

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) Technology

- Working on a beta group in Aspen for parent rollout. This may represent a change in working conditions for teachers with the question of realistic vs. non realistic expectations of grade posting, etc. This has become a collective bargaining issue in some districts. Discussion ensued in regard to hardware acquisitions as well as BYOD (Bring Your Own Device).

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jennifer McMenemy and Sherry Hubbard, parents of 4th grade students at Ruggles Lane addressed the Committee with their concerns about the size of the two 4th grade classes at Ruggles. They feel that it is difficult to engage students with the number of students in the classroom as well as having the ability to differentiate curriculum with the varied levels in the classroom. The parents feel that another teacher is warranted due to the class sizes. Discussion ensued in regard to budget cuts this year as well as the increase in expenses. The administration will look at the numbers and realign resources to make sound educational decisions for the students.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- It was announced that the recipients of the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship will be honored at a breakfast in November, a date to be announced.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for overnight field trip to New York City – Ms. Dorothy Verheyen-Cudjoe requested the approval of a trip to New York City for African American culture studies, Harlem’s Apollo Theatre, a Broadway play, the United Nations, Times Square, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and dinner in a Ghanaian restaurant. Students would depart on Thursday, March 19th as early as possible and return late Friday night, March 20th.
Motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Ms. Siefert to authorize Ms. Verheyen-Cudjoe to move forward with the concept of an overnight field trip to New York City and bring a finalized agenda to the November meeting for final approval.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett
Secretary