



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2016**  
**Educational Support Center**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	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	
Town Officials	
Parents/Townspeople	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Wigler to approve the minutes of November 17, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1 with Mr. Sarabia abstaining.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- a) Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Marshall referred to the timeline templates in each member’s packet and discussed the fact that the next six months would be very busy with subcommittee meetings and School Committee meetings. A new Strategic Plan needs to be written, negotiations for 5 contracts will open, and succession planning for a new Superintendent needs to begin in 2017.  
It may be prudent to put together meetings to overlap each other on School Committee nights in an effort to alleviate meetings on several nights of the week.
- b) Assistant Superintendent - No report was given. Question was raised by Mr. Brophy as to evaluations for teachers and the changes made by DESE. Discussion ensued.
- c) Director of Administrative Services
  - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 11 & 12 and AP Warrants 11A & 12A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.

Director's Report – Mrs. Duval reported that the statute wherein districts could bill back for retired teachers' insurance has been repealed.

- 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 ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and school climate and culture.

Jessica Day and Joseph Day, both members of Student Government, spoke to events that have taken place or are going to take place at the HS. Recently a Shelter in Place was held while the local and state police departments brought in drug sniffing dogs. All teachers and students followed protocol and no drugs were found. NHS is currently raising money for Winter Wish List, a program which provides toys for needy children in the area. Both students felt that there is more school unity this year, largely due to two Capstone projects – homecoming tailgate and the Hype Squad. The Hype Squad promotes unity at all athletic events. This is a large group with all grade levels participating. Joe spoke to the NJROTC who recently won three drill meets. NJROTC is also sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on December 14<sup>th</sup> which involves a large portion of the community. Both students expressed that the student body respects the teachers because the teachers respect and care about the individual students. Of the student body, 94% of all students have less than 6 demerits.

#### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) Administrative Review
  - No report was given.
- b) Audit
  - No report was given.
- c) Budget
  - FY18 Budget – Member towns are projecting revenue shortfalls even with a level funded school budget. Hubbardston Board of Selectmen are planning to meet with Dr. Marshall to discuss utilization of the Hubbardston Center School.
- d) Central Office
  - Discussion ensued that the Committee needs to begin to discuss the Strategic Plan.
- e) Collective Bargaining
  - Five bargaining group contracts will be opening up this year. At this time, no meetings have been scheduled.
- f) Elementary School
  - No report was given.
- g) Plant and facilities
  - No report was given.
- h) Policy & Review
  - Four QRHS seniors presented their Capstone projects to the subcommittee. Each of the presenters discussed how their Capstone project met Quabbin's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner Expectations. These Capstone projects also had a major community service aspect of the standards. Also discussed were the new Massachusetts Science & Technology/Engineering Standards. These new standards engage students as scientists with hands on learning. Discussion also took place in regard to the new Professional Development Standards. The belief of Quabbin is that the quality of the teacher is the most important school-based factor impacting student achievement. All PD, in line with Every Student Succeeds Act, must relate to effective practices as validated by research. Teachers collaborate together and learn from each other in professional development. The work that we do in our professional development in the QRSD is in alignment with the standards set forth by DESE.
- i) Special Education
  - Subcommittee met last week and discussed enrollments in each program, which are pretty similar to last year's numbers. The mid-cycle review audit will begin in December. Funds have been put aside to

evaluate the Special Ed program. 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.

j) Task Force

- Collins Center Update – The Collins Center will be presenting their fact finding information from the world cafes on January 11<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be posted as a combined Task Force and School Committee meeting. Discussion ensued about the closing of schools in the district. There is concern that if the Committee acted unilaterally to vote to consolidate/close, this would cause problems within the district and animosity with the district towns. Discussion ensued that it is important to wait to see what the Collins Center comes back to the Committee with for ideas the district.

k) Technology

- No report was given

l) Solar/Retrofit

- A meeting was held with the Solar City rep and, since Williamsburg Solar project credits from National Grid have been understated – 3,000 vs. 30,000, there is major disconnect from credits vs. bills. Solar City will interject with National Grid to receive proper restitution.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

**7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

- Dr. Allan expressed his dismay at comments made at the World Café and reiterated the creative ideas that have been implemented since the early 1980s at Quabbin. Mr. Wolanin attended the nutrition class luncheon that was held and felt that it was very well attended and very well presented. The Senior Citizen group was extremely happy to be invited to participate in an event at the high school.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- None

**9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
School Committee Secretary