



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, February 25, 2016
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
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	
Town Officials	
Parents/Townspeople	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Chairman Brophy opened the meeting with a moment of silence for Steven Siefert, husband of Hardwick Committee member, Lori Siefert. A moment of silence was also held for Brittany Murch, QRHS senior who was killed in a motor vehicle accident on February 24th. Thoughts are also with her brother, Griffin, who was severely injured in the crash.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Richard Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of January 14, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Marshall had nothing to report that was not covered later in the meeting. Dr. Marshall did commend the high school staff on the tremendous support and help they have been to the students and to each during this tragic event.
- b) Assistant Superintendent – Mrs. Muir had nothing to report that was not covered later in the meeting.
- c) Director of Administrative Services –
 - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 15, 16, and 17 and AP warrants 15A, 16A and 17A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.

- Director Duval reported that the District had received their DESE end of year audit which was completed with no findings and the District in complete compliance.

d) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, QRTA President, reported that the QRTA membership is concerned about students for a variety of external issues as well as internal issues. Many members of the QRTA sought to create a survey that addressed these issues. A survey committee was put together which met multiple times for the creation of the survey. The members received the survey on February 11th with 152 out of 171 members (85%) participating. Dr. Marshall and Mrs. Muir received the results of the survey on February 22nd. Some of the major concerns included: how to better help struggling students; class sizes; teacher moral; teacher moves; International Baccalaureate. The Executive Committee of the QRTA has mutually agreed to give Dr. Marshall and Mrs. Muir time to ponder the results of the survey before presenting the full results publically.

Mr. Barringer wanted to make it clear that at no time has there ever been a vote of no confidence in Dr. Marshall. Inappropriate communication has been circulating which has not been backed by the QRTA nor do they agree with any of the communication.

Discussion ensued that it is obvious that the adults working in the district choose to be here due to the longevity amongst the faculty and staff.

More information in regard to the survey will be forthcoming.

e) Student Advisory Council

- No report was given

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Elementary School

- Mr. Miller reported that he has been speaking with Julie Vincentsen, Principal at RLS in regard to setting up a visit to see the intervention program during the school day. Mr. Miller will have an email sent out once he has the tentative dates confirmed.

d) Budget

- Dr. Marshall explained that the budget for FY17 was developed with the faculty and staff on a needs basis. Felt it was important to put together the kind of program we believe our children need. The preliminary budget represents a 10% increase and administration understands that this will be trimmed back. This is the number that will be brought to Public Hearing on March 10th. The district will work with the member towns to bring forth a budget that the towns are able to work with.

Mr. Sarabia expressed his concern that an explanation for the budget be very clear in order for citizens to understand the requirements expected of the district, i.e.: special education increase of 26%.

Mr. Labarre is concerned that the increase in this budget, if presented at Public Hearing, will not start conversation. He feels that, as a committee, it is their obligation to bring forth a realistic budget. He also suggested that committee members attend as many selectboard and finance committee meetings in their towns as possible.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chamberlain and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to approve the FY17 budget in the amount of \$36,588,641.00.

Due to conflicts of interests of some members of the School Committee, the Committee will vote on the following appropriation categories independently of the total budget appropriation:

Appropriation category 1450/2250 (Technology) in the amount of \$612,681

A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Deschamps – abstain; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes;

Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 11.96).

Appropriation category 3510-3520 (Athletics & Student Activities) in the amount of \$579,202

A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 11.92).

The subcategories of the budget transfers were approved by the remaining School Committee members; therefore, the conflict of interest statute allows all members to take action on the FY17 Preliminary budget in the amount of \$36,588,614.00.

A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – no; Mrs. Pease – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 11.97).

Mrs. Duval informed the committee that the district has worked on a five year capital plan. The goal is to have this as a living document and, each year during the budget process, the document will be updated and amended.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chamberlain and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to accept the five year Capital Plan as a living document.

A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 12.91).

- e) Central Office
 - No report was given
- f) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given
- g) Plant and facilities
 - Plant and facilities subcommittee met to discuss the Capital Plan and solar.
- h) Policy & Review
 - Dr. Allan reported that the subcommittee met prior to this full committee meeting. The subcommittee welcomed the Leadership Team who discussed Distributed Leadership in the QRSD. Distributed leadership involves collaborative interaction between and among all educators that fosters a sense of shared responsibility for improved student outcomes. Discussion ensued about the positive effects of Distributed Leadership.
 - Due to a lack of time to allow ample opportunity for the remainder of the agenda, the remaining items were tabled until the next meeting on March 7, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
- i) Special Education
 - Mrs. Thompson discussed the reconfiguration of the NECC Program, which is still being developed as well as the need of a program at the MS level.
- j) Technology
 - No report was given
- k) Task Force
 - The last Task Force meeting was held on February 3rd. The committee agreed to create a subcommittee of the Task Force to work on the Community Compact Initiative. Action items for the Task Force included: encouraging Oakham to sign the Community Compact initiative ASAP; invite Senator Gobi to attend the next meeting; encourage Senator Rosenberg to support the district legislatively; discuss regionalized transportation funding as well as the difference between public school funding and charter school funding.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS - The School Committee members commended the faculty and staff at the high school and Hubbardston Center School for the compassion, support and empathy they have shown to the students and staff.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed School Calendar for SY 2016-2017 - A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to accept the proposed school calendar for SY 2016-2017. The motion was approved by a vote of 11-2-0 with Dr. Allan and Mr. Labarre opposed.
- Request for out of state field trip approval – The Robotics Team has qualified for the national tournament and is requesting approval to attend the national competition in Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 7th – 9th - Maureen Chase, Academic Coordinator, Science – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the robotics trip with the usual provisos. Motion passed unanimously.
- Request for out of state field trip approval – The high school would like to organize a service learning trip to Camp Sunshine in Casco, ME for the fall of 2016 – Diane McMorrow, HS Science Teacher & Community Service Coordinator – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a service learning trip to Camp Sunshine. Motion passed unanimously.
- Request for Cultural Exchange Program Proposition – Elizabeth Beard Blake, HS World Language Teacher – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve a French Cultural Exchange Program with the usual provisos. Motion passed unanimously.
- Request for out of state field trip approval – The Music Department is requesting approval to attend a day long trip to NYC on April 23, 2016 - Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Music Department trip to NYC on April 23rd with the usual provisos. Motion passed unanimously.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Dr. Allan to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary