



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 10, 2016
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	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
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve the minutes of February 25, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1 with Mr. Wigler abstaining.

3. Public Budget Hearing FY17 - Dr. Marshall opened the Public Budget Hearing by thanking Mr. Wigler and the members of the budget subcommittee for the time spent putting together the preliminary budget for FY17. Dr. Marshall also thanked Director of Administrative Services, Cheryl Duval and the administrators for their work in assisting with the budget process. Dr. Marshall has been in conversation with legislators and has spoken in regard to the foundation budget and the foundation formula. Funding will be very minimal, if any for the public schools. Declining enrollment is detrimental to 144 school districts across the state. Mrs. Duval provided a review on the budget process to-date. The preliminary FY17 budget was built on a "needs" budget. She reported that there has been a 26% increase in the special education budget. Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, reviewed the FY17 budget presentation. The public hearing concluded at 8:00 p.m.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, NJROTC cadets Karl Skerry and Sean O’Sullivan read the poem “Old Glory” accompanied by music to the Committee and the audience. Dr. Allan had invited them to present this to the Committee after seeing them perform at the NJROTC ball.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall reported that she and Mrs. Muir were working with the executive board of the QRTA on the survey results. They are trying to gather as much information as possible in an effort to find ways to increase opportunities for students. One area they will be looking at will be the IB Program and how best to move forward with that particular program. The biggest concern in the survey is how best to provide for our students. Looking for ways to balance special education costs with regular education costs. Administration will look at class sizes and how best to distribute resources. Dr. Marshall stated that some employees feel she takes risks, however, when she returned to the district she was asked by the School Committee to bring more rigor to the classes and more involvement in AP classes. Dr. Marshall feels that the dedication to this school district and to our children is immense beginning with School Committee.

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 Warrant 18 and AP warrants 18A & 18B were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.

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. Mr. Devine did report that he had received information on a Regional Student Advisory Committee where a student is able to sit on the State Board of Education. Quabbin student names have been submitted with the election taking place on April 4, 2016. Mr. Devine will keep the Committee informed as to how this unfolds.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- Additional meetings will be set up in an effort to look at the budget numbers for FY17. The Barre Committee members have been invited to attend the Barre Budget and Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 30, 2016.

- d) Central Office
 - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given
- f) 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.
- g) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given. Mrs. Chamberlain reported that she had seen solar canopies at Burncoat High School similar to the ones that had been presented to School Committee. Mr. Brophy will contact the Worcester Public Schools facilities department to inquire on what these canopies have done economically for the school district.
- h) Policy & Review
 - Dr. Allan reported that Mark Miville, Athletic Director, had been asked at a fall subcommittee meeting to look at the athletic program in general and report back to the subcommittee in the spring. Mr. Miville spoke to the subcommittee in regard to the advances made to the program in the area of technology with a new athletic website, online registration, and social media presence with Twitter. Mr. Miville gave a recap of the winter and fall participation as compared to 2014-2015 as well as the results of the athletic survey which was distributed to all HS/MS students and parents, and what those results mean moving forward.
 - Maureen, Chase, Academic Coordinator for MS/HS Science Department presented on the biotechnology opportunities available for QRSD students. Mrs. Chase was instrumental in obtaining a \$100,000 biotechnology grant last year which was used to upgrade the labs and purchase new classroom equipment. With this grant opportunity, the high school has been able to offer the new elective, Introduction to Biotechnology. Moving forward, the science department would like to coordinate with MWCC for biotechnology; in the robotics/engineering department, purchase a 3-D printer and programmable robotic arm.
 - Dr. Marshall reported to the subcommittee on the work of the Task Force and their discussion in the areas of consolidation, reconfiguration, and regionalization. This discussion included the work with the task force subcommittee on the Community Compact Grant with the district towns as well as information from the meeting with Senator Anne Gobi. Dr. Allan is pleased that the Task Force is looking “outside the box” at ways to regionalize.
 - A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Pease to pursue a motion of support for the work Dr. Marshall and the Task Force are involved in. Motion passed unanimously.
- i) Special Education
 - No report was given
- j) Task Force
 - Mr. Labarre reported that the Task Force had met with Senator Gobi and discussed the difficulties that we are facing with the lack of state funding. The Community Compact Grant was discussed and the scope of services that is being worked on. Presentation was given to the Task Force on enrollments, district building, and how best we can redistrict our schools with the space the district has available. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.
- k) Technology
 - No report was given

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

8. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS - Mr. Hansen commended the high school on the exemplary job they did with the funeral of Brittany Murch. Mr. Devine led the funeral service with Ms. Wynne and Ms. Blake as speakers.

Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Brown, along with some music students, did a phenomenal job with the music and musical selections.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- None

10. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Labarre to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary