



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Tuesday, April 26, 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
	Edward "Ned" Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	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

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
Kristin Campione	Director of Student Services
Clare Barnes	Plant & Facilities Manager
District Administrators	J. Vincentsen; G. Devine; S. Musnicki; T. Worthington
Evan Barringer	QRTA President
Stacey Skerry	Finance, Accounting & Transportation Manager
Clare Hendra	Oakham Finance Committee
Tyler Howard	Barre Cable Access

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Chairman Brophy explained that the main discussion tonight would be budget.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of April 5, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0-2 with Mrs. Pease & Mrs. Siefert abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall reported that, at the direction of the School Committee at the April 5th meeting, they had been working with district administrators to make cuts necessary to bring the assessments within reach of what is reasonable for the district towns. Dr. Marshall believes that cutting programs and services is a bad idea, and we need to give all the opportunities we can to our children. It is necessary to cut \$3.5

million from the budget and they have been looking at the best plan that will give students the greatest opportunities. Part of this plan would include a \$1.0 million override. By Thursday night's meeting, the Committee will need to vote on a bottom line budget to bring forth assessments to the towns.

- b) Assistant Superintendent
 - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services
 - No report was given
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - No report was given.
- 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) Budget
 - Director Duval presented a Powerpoint which outlined budget cuts and funding options. Task assigned by the Committee to administration was to reduce the FY17 Preliminary budget of \$36,588,641 by \$3,500,000, including an override of \$1,000,000. It was stressed to the Committee that if an override vote or election ballot vote fails in more than 1 member town, it is expected that the items listed in the Override would be eliminated from FY17's spending plan and additional reductions would be necessary to cover unemployment costs. The budget was reviewed by program and by cost center.

Discussion ensued on each reduction as follows:

Requested positions:	\$1,055,763	Open Positions:	\$ 383,034
Current Staffing:	\$ 241,488	Special Education:	\$ 102,504
Discretionary Spending:	\$ 212,334	Athletics:	\$ 65,606
Student Activities:	\$ 9,250	Elementary Substitutes:	\$ 45,000
Plant & Facilities:	\$ 285,441	Technology:	\$ 125,606
Total Reductions: \$2,526,026			

Discussion then ensued on what could be included in an override if agreed upon by the towns: Elementary Intervention Program: \$155,141 – this would fund Intervention Specialists and Tutors. Discussion ensued about the importance of this program and the positive results this program has provided.

Elementary Specials: \$793,855 Discussion ensued that if specials were to be eliminated, there would have to be a change in starting time for students in all elementary schools which would result in additional "wait time" for busing as well as additional cost between \$122,400 - \$151,200. This cost would be offset by a bus reduction in Hubbardston of \$61,020.

MHS Student Activities: \$51,004

If an override in the towns fails, positions and items to be funded by the override must be cut. Unemployment would most likely be paid on most positions cut. Estimated unemployment would be \$386,465 and additional reduction proposal of 3 elementary buses at \$91,530 (save on bussing by having all students within 1.5 miles walk instead of being courtesy pick up) and all high school athletics at \$294,935 (total HS program with director and trainer = \$421,386).

Committee members discussed the pros and cons of an override and the likelihood of the towns passing or not passing an override. Discussion did ensue that if the override was more general instead of specific, more latitude could be given to the Committee with cuts.

Discussion then ensued amongst the Committee of the savings of consolidation vs. cuts. Task Force has been looking at ways to consolidate, but have not rushed the process. The Subcommittee was attempting to gather all the information they could for a full understanding of the consolidation process before presenting to the towns. At this time, the co-chair, Steve Labarre, feels that discussion on the process should be stepped up, as this may be a way to decrease the budget significantly. One consolidation option would decrease the budget by \$1.8 million if the district were to move all 5th & 6th grade students to the MS; close HCS and move to RLS; close Hardwick & New Braintree and move to OCS. It was suggested that all members of the Committee attend the next Task Force meeting which will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to further discuss consolidation.

Chairman Brophy summarized the meeting and assigned “homework” to the Committee members. It was recommended that the members review the proposed cuts as well as the proposed override; review the requirements of an override; be ready to make a decision on Thursday, April 28th as to whether the Committee wants to support an override or present a reduced budget figure without an override.

- d) Central Office
 - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given
- f) Elementary School
 - No report was given
- g) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given
- h) Policy & Review
 - No report was given.
- i) Special Education
 - No report was given
- j) Task Force
 - No report was given.
- k) Technology
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- FY16 Budget Transfer – passed over to be voted on Thursday, April 28, 2016.
- Appointment for District Representative to CAPS Education Collaborative Board. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to appoint Superintendent Maureen Marshall as the Quabbin Regional

School District Representative and Assistant Superintendent Sheila Muir, Alternate District Representative, on the CAPS Education Collaborative Board.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary