



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 28, 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
	Steve Labarre	Member, Oakham (arrived 8:19)
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Lori Siefert	Member, Hardwick (arrived 7:08)
	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	G. Devine; S. Musnicki; T. Worthington
Evan Barringer	QRTA President
Cassie Whitelaw	Student Representative

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of April 26, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0-0. Mrs. Siefert arrived at 7:08 and Mr. Labarre arrived at 8:19 after the vote was taken.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- a) Superintendent of Schools
  - Dr. Marshall had nothing to report that wasn't covered later in the agenda.
- b) Assistant Superintendent
  - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services
  - No report was given
- d) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, QRTA President and MS teacher, reported that the MS had, once again, had a phenomenal trip to Washington, DC with 164 students. Two School Committee members attended as chaperones which was much appreciated.

e) Student Advisory Council

- Cassie Whitelaw, Grade 11 reported that she and Alison Oldakowski will representing Quabbin on the statewide Student Government council to DESE. Forty-four (44) students make up the advisory and students will attend Board of Education meetings.

Cassie also reported that general consensus is that classes have been challenging this year. Students are preparing for AP tests and IB tests which begin next week. She also reported that, for the 11<sup>th</sup> year, the Quabbin NJROTC unit received recognition as a Distinguished Unit for Academic Excellence.

Dr. Allan suggested bringing some students in next year to the Policy and Review/Reform Subcommittee to address concerns that students may have at the high school.

#### 4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- Mr. Wigler explained that vote would need to be taken this evening in order to send assessments to the district towns as mandated by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Numerous meetings have been held to discuss budget needs as well as budget cuts. At the meeting of April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Committee discussed voting on a budget which represented a reduction level of \$2.5 million. Discussion ensued in regard to sending assessments to the towns with \$2,526,026 budget reduction which represents a 5.9% increase overall with assessment increases to the towns as follows: Barre – 14.3%; Hardwick – 19.5%; Hubbardston – 12.9%; New Braintree – 15.4%; Oakham – 17.0%.

Committee members felt it would be helpful to have outlines of the past few years' budgets and show where the cuts have been made.

Dr. Marshall expressed concern that the towns will most likely not pass the \$2.5 million budget reduction, but placing that on town meeting floor would let the District start the year with specials at the elementary schools.

Discussion ensued in regard to MS athletics being cut. Clarification was made that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade can only participate at the HS level in places where there is an actual need (such as soccer last year). The Athletic Director is working to see if there are other areas where cuts could be made.

Consolidation/reconfiguration was discussed. School Committee and Task Force will meet jointly on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Mrs. Pease and seconded by Mr. Leclair to adopt an FY17 budget in the amount of \$34,062,615

Discussion ensued in regard to other ways to reduce the budget figure including not providing transportation for those that live less than 1.5 miles from the schools per state regulations. Discussion also ensued on the impact any onsite solar may have on electricity savings.

Some members felt the vote should start with a higher figure.

Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Dr. Allan to move the question. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mrs. Pease and seconded by Mr. Leclair to adopt an FY17 budget in the amount of \$34,062,615.

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:

Line 1450/2250 Technology in the amount of \$580,155. 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. Siefert – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 12.94).

Line 3510-3520 Athletics and Student Activities in the amount of \$504,346. 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. Siefert – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 12.90).

The subcategories of the budget were approved by the remaining School Committee members; therefore, the conflict of interest statute allows all members to take action on the budget total of \$34,062,615.

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. Siefert – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Brophy – yes.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote (weighted vote 13.89).

- 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
    - Decision was made to hold a joint QRSD School Committee meeting and QRSD Task Force meeting at the next scheduled Task Force meeting to take place on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
  - k) Technology
    - No report was given
- 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- None
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- None

## 7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Chairman Brophy publicly congratulated Christopher Carlson, teacher at Hardwick Elementary School on his award of 2016 Teacher of the Year awarded by the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Carlson was nominated by two HES students – Marc St. Germain and Connor Geary. Mr. Kelly made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Allan to send a congratulatory letter to Mr. Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- FY16 Budget Transfers – Mrs. Duval presented FY16 Budget transfer requests. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the following FY16 Budget transfer requests:

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 \$2,029 to cover the cost of P&F expenses related to the new computer lab; 1450 Technology in the amount of \$5,000 to cover the cost of School Choice (\$83,792) and Charter School Tuition (\$72,574); 1450/2450 Special Education Technology in the amount of \$11,139 to cover costs of Transportation & Tuition within Special Education.

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. Siefert – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 12.94).

Appropriation category 4400/4450 – transfer funds from 4400/4450 to appropriation category 1450/2250 in the amount of \$41,476 to use approved Erate reimbursement on District, building and Classroom Instructional Technology Hardware.

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. Siefert – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 12.94).

Appropriation category 3510-3520 Athletics & Student Activities.

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. Siefert – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Brophy – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 12.90).

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 remaining transfers as follows:

Appropriation category 2100-3200 (Contingency) in the amount of \$4,282 to appropriation category 1000-1435 to cover January increase in Superintendent's Salary per PERAC; Appropriation category 5000 (Benefits) in the amount of \$147,250 to appropriation category 2100-3200 Special Ed to cover the cost of Contracted Services; appropriation category 2100-3200 in the amount of \$1,378 and appropriation category 4400 in the amount of \$7,473 to appropriation category 4100-4300 to cover the costs of P&F expenses related to the new computer lab; appropriation category 5000 (Fixed Charges) in the amount

of \$1,785 to appropriation category 1000-1435 to cover the cost of indemnity insurance policy; appropriation category 4400/4450 in the amount of \$32,555 to 2100-3200 to use approved Erate reimbursement on District, building and Classroom Instructional Technology Hardware; Appropriation category 2100-3200 in the amount of \$23,023, appropriation category 1000-1435 in the amount of \$3,364, appropriation category 3600 in the amount of \$12,000 appropriation category 5000 (Benefits) in the amount of \$112,979 to appropriation category 9000 to cover the cost of School Choice (\$83,792) and Charter School Tuition (\$72,574); Appropriation category 2100-3200 Special Education in the amount of \$27,085 to appropriation category 3300 Special Education in the amount of \$23,609 and appropriation category 9000 Special Education in the amount of \$14,615 to cover costs of Transportation and Tuition within Special Education.

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. Siefert – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Brophy – yes.

The motion passed unanimously (weighted vote 13.89).

#### **9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Labarre to move into executive session at 8:33 p.m. for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property. The Committee will return to open session.  
Motion passed unanimously.
- The Committee returned to open session at 8:51 p.m.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Siefert to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
School Committee Secretary