



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 9, 2015
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice – Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre – departed at 7:22
	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
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent
District Administrators/Staff	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ned Kelly and seconded by Lori Siefert to approve the minutes of March 12, 2015 with two corrections (Mr. Wolanin was not present & spelling of Ms. Siefert's name). The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-3 with Mrs. Pease, Mr. Wolanin and Mr. Deschamps abstaining.

Chairman Brophy welcomed David Deschamps to the Committee as the newly elected representative from Barre. Chairman Brophy also thanked Richard Paula for his service to the Committee and the District.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools
 - To be covered later in the agenda
- b) Assistant Superintendent
 - To be covered later in the agenda
- c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 20, 21 and AP warrants 20A, 21B, & 22A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- Mrs. Duval gave a status update of Food & Nutritional Services Department. Seven hundred eighty-three (783) students have prepaid over \$15,000.00. Three hundred twenty-six (326) students have a negative balance totaling \$2,800.00. Fourteen (14) are over the \$15.00 limit and seven (7) students are currently in collection with a total over \$700.00. She also showed a comparison of participation from February and March 2014 to February and March 2015. As a Committee, it is time to take another look at the charge policy that was instituted when the POS system was put in place. Mrs. Duval also reported that the budget has been frozen to any purchases. Discussion ensued in regard to net metering credits. The project was delayed due to the harsh winter, but the District is hoping to begin to benefit from the credits in May.

- d) Teacher Advisory Council - Evan Barringer reported that the 8th grade is heading to Washington, DC on Monday, April 13th. Committee members Dave Deschamps and Lee Wolanin will accompany the group as chaperones.
- e) Student Advisory Council - Cooper Wolanin reported that winter athletics have come to an end and spring athletics are having difficulty due to the weather conditions and field conditions. He reported that senior Jake Lanpher had received the MA Basketball Coaches Association All Academic Award senior Collin Bennett received the MA Basketball Coaches Association Central All State Team Award. In addition, senior Brendan Roach and freshman Conor Thompson both were named MidWach all stars for the Telegram and Gazette. The Senior class put on the Mr. Quabbin show last week with Griffin Bennett being crowned Mr. Quabbin. Academic Awards for the second trimester were held last Tuesday with a full auditorium. French exchange students have been visiting Quabbin and have been hosted by Quabbin students. Trips to France and the Netherlands are planned for April vacation. Zoe Bates and Maura Shea are currently in Omaha for the National robotics competition.
- The Committee thanked Cooper for his attendance at meetings and discussion ensued in regard to student adjustment to the trimester schedule, addition of electives and the addition of the IB Program.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
- No report was given.
- b) Audit
- No report was given
- c) Barre Building
- No report was given
- d) Budget
- Mr. Wigler reported that the subcommittee had met on April 7th and discussed the budget deficits that the District will see in certain areas such as the 9C cuts and loss of the kindergarten grant. The preliminary house budget will be released on April 15th. If it stays as it is currently, the assessment percentage to the towns would be totally unacceptable. The District will need to make significant cuts to get the assessments anywhere close to acceptable. The District needs to look at ways to increase revenue and ways to use our resources differently as well as a list of where cuts can be made. This will be reviewed at a special committee meeting on Monday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m.
- e) Central Office
- The subcommittee had discussions with three (3) solar entities; Resolution Solar, Clean Energy, and Brightergy. The first two are sending information and are similar to Solar City. Brightergy would have a physical presence with panels over the parking lot. This company also has an educational component with it. Consensus is to invite Brightergy to the May meeting for a full presentation.
- f) Collective Bargaining
- No report was given. Ongoing negotiations with the cafeteria staff and the paraprofessionals.
- g) Plant and facilities

- The subcommittee met this evening and discussed various topics including winter storm damage, effect of the FY16 budget, solar net metering. They will meet next month to discuss facility usage, including use of the weight room.

h) Policy & Review

- Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mrs. Siefert to remove GCCD Domestic Violence Leave Policy from the table. Discussion ensued that this was a statutory requirement. Motion passed unanimously.

i) Special Education

- No report was given.

j) Technology

- Subcommittee met on April 1st. Topics discussed were Aspen Parent Portal rollout ; need for a Data Integration Specialist ; growth of the BYOD program at the HS and the needs of the PARCC test.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- FY15 Budget Update – Full day kindergarten grant cut was \$21,000 for FY15.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Wolanin commented that he had attended awards night and was impressed to see the participation as well as the variety of courses the awards were presented in.
- Mr. Labarre spoke in regard to the bleak budget year and requested that the District and Committee move quickly to see what can be done to alleviate the budget issues for the towns.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed School Calendar for SY 2015-2016: Many versions were presented to the QRTA. The proposed version begins the school year on August 24th with faculty and staff in attendance. Professional development will take place on August 24th and 25th and the first day for students will be August 26th. There will be a two week December break. This break assists with oil usage and fully supported by the teachers. Discussion ensued in regard to the number of early release days (10), which is the same as in the past two years. A quarterly report to the Committee on professional development activities was discussed.

Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mrs. Siefert to accept the School Calendar for FY 2015-2016 as presented. Motion passed by a vote of 8-4-0. Mr. Labarre, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Pease and Mr. Sarabia voted no.

- School Choice 2015 – 2016: Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Wigler, to recommend that, in accordance with state law requiring all schools to be open for school choice, the Quabbin Regional School District accept choice students for the 2015-2016 academic year in grade levels where space is available. The administration will be cautious not to accept a number of choice students that would adversely affect District finances. The motion passed unanimously.
- Appointment of District Representatives to CAPS and FLLAC Collaborative Boards: Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to appoint Superintendent Maureen Marshall as the Quabbin Regional School District Representative and Assistant Superintendent Sheila Muir, Alternate District Representative to the CAPS and FLLAC Collaborative Boards. The motion passed unanimously.
- Report on February trip to Italy – Twenty-three (23) students and three chaperones (Greg Devine, Cathy Graham & Patty Stolz) traveled to Italy with EF Tours over February vacation. Five (5) students (Mary

Remillard, Mackenzie Ryan, Johanna Allen, Jordan Newcomb & Lindsey Leblanc) attended tonight's meeting to report on the wonderful time they all had and to thank the Committee for allowing them the opportunity to travel overseas.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett, Executive Secretary