



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 12, 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
	Edward "Ned" Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ALSO PRESENT

Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Maureen Marshall
Assistant Superintendent	Sheila Muir
Dir. of Administrative Services	Cheryl Duval
Director of Student Services	Kristin Campione
District Administrators	J. Vincentsen; T. Worthington; C. McComb; G. Devine; S. Musnicki; J. Cackett (arrived 7:45)
QRTA President	Evan Barringer
Visitors	Nick DiPadua, NJROTC representative; Cooper Wolanin, Class of 2015;

ABSENT

Charles Miller	Member, Barre
Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
Lori Siefert	Member, Hardwick

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. Wolanin to approve the minutes of April 28, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-2 with Mr. Hansen and Mr. Labarre abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall opened by stating that she had a lengthy report this evening, mainly in regard to the teacher survey on IB. All Committee members received an overview of the IB survey. Dr. Marshall will give a cursory review of what the administration is working on with the QRTA. A summary of the results is as follows:

- Class Size Concerns – there are concerns with class size across the district, not just at the MS/HS level. Preliminary budget added teachers which could help with class size, but, with budget presented to the towns, we are unable to hire new teachers.
- Teacher Morale concerns - Some concerns that our teachers express are concerns that are happening across the nation as recently reported in Education Week (attached). Administration will try to work with the QRTA to address these issues.
- Concerns about Meeting Needs of Struggling Students – teachers see the struggles student have with social emotional needs. Support is given with intervention programs.
- Concerns about Professional Development – Staff believes in teacher development, but feels it should be called Professional Learning. Mandates force the teachers into professional development.
- Concerns about Transfers – Some faculty felt they were not being treated fairly. Unfortunately, there is dissatisfaction when transfers occur, but that cannot be fixed. Question was raised that last year only 5 – 6 people were transferred, but 92% on the survey were dissatisfied? It is difficult for the faculty to understand transfers and how they are worked out. All transfers are dependent upon licensure, specialties, location, etc. Mr. Barringer expressed that some teachers were offended that they received the information on transfers through a letter or “rumor”. The QRTA spoke with Dr. Marshall, and a protocol is now in place on how transfers will take place. Mr. Barringer explained that it is his job to explain attrition and how transfers are, many times, unavoidable. At this time, the QRTA contracts do not have any transfer language.
- Discussion ensued that the District will work through the collective bargaining agreement. Acknowledge that it may be helpful to have outside group put together a survey in the fall to see how progression is being made. To just look and talk at surveys is not important; it is the action that takes place which is.
- Discussion moved on to the High School IB Survey responses. The majority of teacher responses indicated the belief that:
 - Trimester schedule was developed only for IB
 - Large class sizes in high school are a result of IB
 - IB students have been privileged beyond other students – admitted this was a reality with mistakes being made which have been rectified
 - Students should have a choice to take IB English in grades 11 & 12 – agreed that we can make this happen
 - GPA weight of IB courses should be adjusted – agreed and this adjustment has taken place
 - IB has not caused rigor in grade 9 & 10 classes to increase – have no information in regard to this opinion. This is strictly an opinion of the teachers. Administration concern is that students are not ready for AP or IB.
 - IB & AP classes limit access to other electives – absolutely true, and cannot be fixed. These classes fill a slot in a schedule for a full year.
 - IB & AP aligned with the Quabbin Mission and Vision as well as NEASC, the new SAT, 21st Century Skills, College & Career Readiness Skills
 - It is important to offer challenging courses
 - Post-grad students who responded to the most recent survey called for more rigorous courses – this, in turn, requires administration and faculty to work harder
 - Special education students can succeed in IB and AP courses
 - Students who have taken IB courses have benefited from them
 - Departments and programs should be allowed to recruit students – this should be reasonable and in the best interest of students
 - The district should subsidize IB & AP exam fees
 - IB classes are not too challenging for Quabbin students
 - IB does not put too much emphasis on international awareness
- Administration would ask the School Committee to look at the IB Survey information data in an effort to have a discussion at the June School Committee meeting as to how the district should move forward with IB. Discussion ensued that it took a great effort, since 2009, to get certified as an IB school.

- b) Assistant Superintendent
 - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrant 23 and AP warrant 23A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - Requested that the Committee review the survey results before the June 9th meeting. Answers to the survey will be more specific at that time. Reported that the QRTA is moving toward resolutions with the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent to address IB. Mr. Barringer states that 89% of HS teachers do not believe in IB for Quabbin students.
- 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
 - Dr. Marshall and Mrs. Duval met with the Oakham Selectboard and Finance Committee and had conversations in regard to overrides, but the boards are not willing to move forward with an override at this time. The Hubbardston budget would be contingent on an override. Meetings with Barre have discussed that they are not necessarily unwilling to move forward with an override, but have other things on the table. If all towns disagree, the Committee will have to meet again to reconsider the budget.
- d) Central Office
 - Mr. Wolanin received an email from Nexamp. They currently have projects in New Braintree and Rutland. We were originally in a contract with them which was cancelled due to extenuating circumstances. They were inquiring if we would be willing to re-enter into a contract with them, but general consensus was that would not be a good option because of past history with them.
 - Dr. Marshall had a discussion with Tricia Rush of PowerOptions which is a non-profit working with non-profits on solar options. PowerOptions has been invited to address the Committee at our June meeting with one focus on solar carports.
- 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
 - Next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2016. DOR has agreed to help fund the Collins Center study. Discussion ensued about the importance of centralizing the district into “pods” and looking into borderless enrollment
- k) Technology
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dr. Allan requested that a representative from the NJROTC Program come to this evening's School Committee meeting to present a poem which was read at the NJROTC Awards on May 6th. Cadet LCDR Nicholas DiPadua read the poem "The Naval Officer" by John Paul Jones. A copy of the NJROTC awards program was emailed to all School Committee members.
- Cooper Wolanin, Class of 2015, wanted to address the Committee in regard to his college preparation at QRHS. Cooper just finished his first year at WPI and, overall, felt he was prepared in most areas for his freshman year. He felt that his AP classes at QRHS presented an adequate challenge for classes he has taken at WPI. Cooper credits his teachers at QRHS for his level of success and acceptance at WPI. Cooper expressed his personal opinion in regard to the IB program. Discussion ensued that AP & IB classes can complement each other depending upon how you implement them. Students need to be prepared to be college and career ready. The QRSD School Committee has worked to make sure there are programs available for all students, whether they are pursuing a college degree beyond high school or joining the work force.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Wolanin and Mr. Deschamps chaperoned the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. and presented a slide show with some pictures of the highlights of the trip.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- None

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary