



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice – Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre – arrived 7:05
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston – arrived 7:38
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick – departed 9:23
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre – arrived 7:13
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Lori Siefert	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston – arrived 7:28

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 7:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Siefert to approve the minutes of April 9, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Siefert to approve the minutes of April 27, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools
 - No information that is not covered later in the meeting.
- b) Assistant Superintendent
 - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 22, 23 and AP warrants 23A & 24A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - Mr. Barringer reported that the MTA convention was taking place and that there was very good discussion on standardized testing, including discussion on opting out of MCAS.

e) Student Advisory Council

- This was the last official visit by student representative, Cooper Wolanin. Cooper thanked the Committee for allowing him the opportunity to present on a monthly basis. Cooper reported that Special Olympics was held at Quabbin on May 14th and was a very successful Capstone project for a graduating senior with participation from 23 schools. Spring sports are starting to wind down. At this time, AP testing, MCAS testing & IB testing are all taking place at the high school and, in some cases, at the Central Office. Senior Dinner Dance will take place on Friday, May 15th. The Junior Prom will take place on May 23rd. Mr. Brophy publicly thanked Cooper for his dedication over the past two years to reporting to the Committee.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Barre Building

- Mr. Miller passed information from Brightergy to the town for RLS.

d) Budget

- FY16 Budget Discussion – Assessment letters have gone out with a 2.2% increase.

e) Central Office

- Solar presentation by Brightergy – two representatives from Brightergy presented to the full Committee in regard to solar energy. Brightergy owns and operates panels on site and sells the energy to the District. These panels can be roof mounted or mounted over the parking lots. Discussion ensued in regard to the amount of energy generated as well as what will happen to the structures at the end of the contract.

Motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Dr. Allan to move forward and go out for an RFQ for the Brightergy solar energy proposal.

Motion passed unanimously.

f) Collective Bargaining

- 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) Technology

- No report was given.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Demographic Study Update - NESDEC presented the results of the Demographic Study to the full Committee on Tuesday, May 12th. As the district predicted, the enrollment numbers in the towns are decreasing. The Committee decided to establish a task force for reviewing school use using the demographic information that was received from NESDEC. The task force will include a representative from each town from the Committee, as well as a town official from each district town. This subcommittee will be investigating how best to organize the school district to improve both financial efficiencies and educational programs.
- FY15 Budget Update – budget transfer request tabled to May 28th meeting

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Question was raised in regard to the vacant Hubbardston seat. The town is hoping it will be filled with the June election.
- Concern was raised that some trimester grades may not be going out correctly and, it is the understanding that this is due to a software issue.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- FY15 Budget Transfer Request – passed over to be voted at May 28, 2015 meeting
- Netherlands exchange trip update – four students (Anna Barry, Kayley Christian, Tim Joyce & Nicole Patterson) reported to the Committee on their trip to the Netherlands over April vacation. They had all hosted a student when the Dutch students were here in the fall and, in turn, the Dutch students hosted the Quabbin students. The Quabbin students presented in the local high school on the way of life in America and attended classes with their host students. The four students thanked the Committee for allowing Quabbin the opportunity to participate in the Netherlands Exchange Program.
- Cultural Exchange Trip Request – April 2016 to Netherlands – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to allow the Quabbin Regional High School to participate in the Netherlands Cultural Exchange program during the 2015-2016 school year with the usual provisos.
The motion passed unanimously.
- 8th grade Washington D. C. trip update – Mr. Wolanin and Mr. Deschamps had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC as chaperones for this field trip. Mr. Wolanin showed a few pictures of the trip to the Committee, and Mrs. Musnicki requested permission to travel to Washington, DC next year. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to allow the 8th grade at Quabbin Regional Middle School to participate in the trip to Washington, D.C. April 11, 2016 through April 14, 2016 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Out of State Field Trip Request – RLS trip to Connecticut Science Center, Hartford, CT, June 17, 2015
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a Ruggles Lane trip to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford, CT with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mrs. Siefert and seconded by Mr. Labarre to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett, Executive Secretary