



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 23, 2016
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston (arrived 7:05)
	Edward (Ned) Kelly	Member, Hardwick (left at 10:03)
	Steve Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre (arrived 7:05)
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham (arrived 7:14)
	Marcelino (Tex) 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
District Administrators	J. Cackett; G. Devine; C. McComb; S. Musnicki; T. Worthington;
QRTA President	Evan Barringer
QRSD Staff	S. Standing; L. Sheldon; A. Sheldon; R. Zalneraitis; C. Villanova; M. Chase; T. Brown; M. Groner
Press	Ellie Downer; Bradford Miner
Parents	

ABSENT

Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
Hardwick Vacancy	

1. The Chair called the reorganizational portion of the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
Nominations for Chair:

Mr. Brophy nominated Lee Wolanin as Chair. Mr. Kelly seconded the nomination.
No other nominations were made.
Lee Wolanin was elected Chair by a vote of 8-0-2 with Mr. Wolanin and Mr. Sarabia abstaining.

Mr. Wolanin chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Nominations for Vice Chair:

Mr. Kelly nominated Mark Brophy as Vice Chair. Mr. Labarre seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Brophy was elected Vice Chair by a vote of 9-0-1 with Mr. Brophy abstaining.

Appointment of Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, and Records Access Officer

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to appoint Dr. Maureen Marshall as parliamentarian.

No other nominations were made.

Dr. Maureen Marshall was elected Parliamentarian by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to appoint Ronald Christensen as Treasurer.

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Christensen was elected Treasurer by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to appoint Kathleen Bourcier as Assistant Treasurer.

No other nominations were made.

Ms. Bourcier was elected Assistant Treasurer by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to appoint Jessica Bennett as Secretary to the School Committee.

No other nominations were made.

Ms. Bennett was elected Secretary to the School Committee by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to appoint Jessica Bennett as Records Access Officer.

No other nominations were made.

Ms. Bennett was elected Records Access Officer by unanimous vote.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Wigler to approve the minutes of May 12, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0-1 with Mr. Miller abstaining.

Chairman Wolanin also distributed the Subcommittee list in order for members to choose the subcommittees they wish to serve on.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Marshall commended the administration and students on the HS and MS graduations as well as the incredible decorum of the student bodies. From the Class of 2016, 86% of the graduates will be attending 2 and 4 year schools. Other items will be covered later in the agenda.

b) Assistant Superintendent

- Assistant Superintendent Report – Mrs. Muir reported that faculty will be participating in various professional development throughout the summer which will be held in the district.

c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants - Payroll Warrants 24, 25, 26 & 26-1 and Accounts Payable Warrants 24, 25, 25A, 25B & 26 were signed by the warrant subcommittee.
- Authorization to Borrow in Anticipation of Funds FY17

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to authorize the Quabbin Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, §

16(g) as amended by Chapter 13, §4 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given, for a period of less than one year, in accordance with G.L. Ch. 44, §17. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

- FY16 Budget Transfer Request

A motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to authorize the Director of Administrative Services to make transfers necessary to close the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote

d) Teacher Advisory Council –

- Mr. Barringer thanked Mr. Brophy for his support during his tenure as Chair of the Committee as well as during the Interest Based Bargaining negotiations. Mr. Barringer spoke to the current budget issues and reported that the Association understands the loss of jobs in the district. He commended the Central Office Administration for the outstanding job they have done in handling the reduction in force.

However, the QRTA feels that layoffs should be shared among all groups as we move forward.

Mr. Barringer then spoke to the IB program and the feelings of the faculty at the high school. Mr. Barringer reported that 89% of the faculty at the high school does not feel IB is the correct path for Quabbin. They do support the current diploma candidates finishing the program, but are concerned about allowing a new group to enter. Mr. Barringer then invited any faculty in the audience to speak to IB.

Ms. Carol Anne Villanova, HS English teacher, reported that she went into IB with an open mind, and, at the time, felt it would be helpful to students. However, she now feels that the AP English program is more rigorous than the IB English program, especially with writing. She feels that some aspects of the program are fine, but not for the English department. She reported that student feel limited by taking IB and feel that colleges do not take IB credits like they do AP credits. Her overall feeling is that the IB program is not serving all of our kids, especially those who are not going to a four year college. Ms. Villanova did state that this is strictly her own opinion, not that of everyone in the department.

Gina Paderson, parent of an IB student, then spoke in regard to the program. Her son is an IB student, and parent spoke mainly to his experience. He was unable to take a couple courses that he wanted because the classes did not run due to size. His IB math class started out with 11 students and dropped to 2. Class was then absorbed by another class. Her son feels that not all students are “cut out” for IB program, as some cannot handle the rigor or the work involved.

Dr. Marshall stated that the Administration will continue to listen to concerns and address concerns.

This is a matter that will go before the Policy & Review/Reform Subcommittee when they reconvene.

The educational programs in the district need to meet student needs, but also need to be programs that have rigor and challenge students. Administration cannot just make a decision to drop a program. The district needs to ultimately decide what student Program of Studies will be and work through concerns.

As administrators, we need high expectations for our students. Quabbin has been able to offer programs that other school districts have not because of our high expectations. Mr. Hansen suggested that we look at the track of the program in September and look closely at class sizes. Mr. Miller feels that now that we have a couple of years of experience, we analyze the cost, determine if it favors college bound students, and ultimately, if it was worthwhile.

Mrs. Muir gave a brief synopsis of the history of IB at Quabbin and the length of time it took to become authorized as an IB School. The whole process began in 2009, and Quabbin was not granted authorization until 2013.

e) Student Advisory Council

- Cassie Whitelaw reported that she had met with the State Council in Malden and will attend 3 training days over the summer participating in team building exercises as well as proposing ideas on what they plan to accomplish as a group.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
 - No report was given.
- b) Audit
 - No report was given.
- c) Budget
 - FY16 Budget Transfer – passed over
 - FY 17 Budget Update – Assessments were sent to all the district towns. These assessments supported the increases in special education and were significantly higher due to those increases. Administration knew what without overrides, we wouldn't be able to get the budget through the towns. Hubbardston put at 6.5% increase to the town with the balance on an override, which failed. Oakham put a 2.5% increase for town meeting. Oakham needs an override to service municipal needs as well. Hardwick put a 6.5% increase, which is not sufficient to support school budget. New Braintree put a 2.5% increase and was met with negativity all around. Barre had an increase of 6.5% which the District could back into. Barre would be under the levy limit.

After the override was lost in Hubbardston, the budget was officially lost on June 14th. Administration now has 30 days to reduce the budget and go back to each town with new assessment figures. A \$1,000,000 reduction in the budget would bring assessments to: Hubbardston 6 – 7%; Barre 6.5%; New Braintree 9%; Oakham 10% and Hardwick 11%. The District/Towns have until December 1st to go back and forth. The District has given notice as required by law. Pink slips were given out to teachers and, for the first time, was not sure they would be called back. The District has been working with individuals to find jobs for pink slipped teachers.

At this time, it makes sense that we would look at cutting another \$1,000,000. We would be foolish to believe we could pass the budget with only \$500,000 in cuts.

The Commissioner has been alerted to our budget issues and the District will go onto a 1/12 budget. Mrs. Duval has a plan & process in place, as she is very familiar with working with a 1/12 budget. Dr. Marshall is asking for the Committee's approval and direction.

Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to move ahead with the Administration's recommendation to reduce the FY17 budget by \$1,000,000 in an effort to reduce assessments to the member towns.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued in regard to "specials" being affected in the elementary schools. It was explained that there were pink slips given out in music, art and PE, which had to be done before June 30th. Numerous options are being discussed on how to reduce the budget, including a reduction in "specials" at the elementary level.

- d) Central Office
 - No report was given.
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given.
- f) Elementary Schools
 - No report was given.
- g) Plant & Facilities
 - No report was given.
- h) Policy Review/Reform
 - No report was given.
- i) Special Education
 - No report was given.

- j) Administrative Review
 - No report was given.
- k) Administrative Review
 - No report was given.
- l) Technology
 - No report was given.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Discussion of School Consolidation – Planning and Timelines
At this time, the Task Force is still awaiting the Scope of Services from the Collins Center. Next meeting will be held on August 11th as a joint meeting with the Task Force and the School Committee.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Numerous parents expressed concerns about the budget and the potential of cutting “specials” at the elementary level. Discussion also ensued in regard to the pros and cons of the IB Program at the high school.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Resignation of Hardwick School Committee Member – Discussion ensued that Lori Siefert, Hardwick member has resigned. The Hardwick Selectboard and remaining Hardwick School Committee members will meet on July 11th to appoint a replacement member.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for Approval: Music Department Trip Proposal trip to Montreal – Garrett Maggio discussed the request for a Music Department trip to Montreal which will be organized by Garrett and Abbie Castriotta as their Capstone project for next year. Garrett spoke to the details of the trip and the cost, which will be assisted by group and individual fundraising.
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Music Department trip to Montreal with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously
- Request for Approval: NJROTC Field Trip Approval for 2016-2017 School Year – Captain Brennock was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, therefore, Mr. Devine spoke on behalf of the NJROTC. Annually, NJROTC provides a listing of events planned for the upcoming school year. Some trips are in state, some out of state, and a trip over April vacation to Gettysburg/NYC.
Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the NJROTC trips for 2016-2017 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously
- National Grid Energy Audit Proposal – Ed Kordash from National Grid gave a very brief presentation on the cost savings of changing all bulbs in the district over to LED lamps. After some discussion, it was decided to refer him to Plant & Facilities Subcommittee as well as those working on solar net metering to further discuss energy savings.
- Power Options Presentation – Meg Lusardi of PowerOptions, which is a non-profit energy buying consortium, spoke to the Committee in regard to the services they provide. PowerOptions conducts competitive procurement on behalf of members. Annual membership fees vary from \$75 - \$1,600, based upon the annual energy spent. Ms. Lusardi’s presentation focused on solar energy savings, specifically solar canopies.
- CAPS – Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund: Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Labarre that, as a district member of CAPS Collaborative, the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee supports CAPS Collaborative establishing a Capital Reserve Fund to support costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of fixed assets as approved by the CAPS Board of Directors.
Motion passed unanimously

- Appointment of District Representative to FLLAC Board of Directors
Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Labarre to appoint Superintendent Maureen Marshall as the Quabbin Regional School District Representative and Assistant Superintendent Sheila Muir, Alternate District Representative to the FLLAC Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 school year
Motion passed unanimously
- Scholarship Presentation – Hubbardston Country Hen Scholarship
Mr. Bob Beauregard and Ms. Mary Jane Bell from the Country Hen in Hubbardston attended the meeting tonight to present a \$1,000 scholarship to Emma Guertin, Class of 2016. Country Hen has committed to awarding a \$1,000 scholarship yearly over the next 30 years to Quabbin grads from Hubbardston.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session for discussion and review of ongoing litigation.

The Committee will return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 10:16 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mrs. Pease to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett, Secretary