



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 14, 2016**  
**Educational Support Center**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Edward "Ned" Kelly	Member, Hardwick (arrived 7:06 p.m.)
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	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. Cackett; G. Devine; C. McComb; T. Worthington;
QRTA President	Evan Barringer
Parents & Staff	
Press	Bradford Miner; Ellie Downer

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

**2. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session for discussion with respect to negotiations.

The Committee will return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting returned to open session at 7:26 p.m.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A motion was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the minutes of June 23, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 13-0-2 with Mr. Spier and Dr. Allan abstaining.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

##### a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall opened by congratulating Sheila Muir and Kristin Campione on completing their Doctorate of Education degrees.

Dr. Marshall also commended the Plant and Facilities department on their hard work in the buildings this summer.

Principals were commended on their patience and understanding as faculty and staff moves are made across the district. In addition, Dr. Marshall thanked the School Committee for their support as we go through the FY17 budget process. Dr. Marshall also commended and thanked Mrs. Duval for her diligence and hard work with the FY17 budget process.

##### b) Assistant Superintendent

- No report was given

##### c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrant for FY16 #27 and FY17 #1 and AP warrant 1A and 1B were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- FY16 School lunch report – passed over
- Update on retired teacher's health insurance owed by other districts – Mrs. Duval spoke to the fact that some districts are refusing to pay for their retired teacher's health insurance. She has been in discussion with other districts in this regard and is working on how best to ensure the district receive their payments due.

##### d) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, QRTA President, questioned Mr. Devine in regard to the IB program. The question posed to Mr. Devine was whether or not the students who are entering the IB program will be told that the program could end. Mr. Devine assured him that there would be a meeting and discussion in regard to the IB Program with all students. In addition, the IB Program will be discussed at one of the first meetings of the Review & Reform Subcommittee

##### e) Student Advisory Council

- No report was given.

#### **5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

##### b) Audit

- No report was given

##### c) Budget

- The Budget Subcommittee and the QRSD School Committee met on Monday, July 11, 2016 and reviewed the reductions necessary to cut another \$1,000,000 from the proposed FY17 budget. The proposed number presented at town meeting was \$34,062,615. The new proposal for FY17 with the cuts made would be \$33,058,485. Discussion ensued at subcommittee that members felt very strongly about keeping elementary "specials" in the budget. The subcommittee meeting was quite lengthy with over 50 parents and staff in attendance. Mr. Wigler did allow questions from the floor, and many parents voiced their concerns.

Reductions made at the joint meeting included: cuts in general expenses totaling \$228,285; JV Soccer, JV Baseball, JV Softball and 2<sup>nd</sup> JV Football coach for a total of \$30,002; HS Social Studies RIF, Hubbardston teacher retirement fill by RIF in Hardwick, School Psychologist filled by RIF of ELL Teacher; P & F Jr. Executive Assistant not filled, Retirement of paraprofessional on 10/21/16, not filled for a total reduction of \$231,218; stipend positions were reviewed for necessity and some are being recommended for cuts or reductions for a total reduction of \$16,917; reductions in plant and facilities are recommended for a number of reasons which include excess FY16 balance available due to winter milder winter conditions, contract bidding finalized, final inventories and cuts for a total reduction of

\$211,270; additional technology cuts for a total of \$99,435; the cut of elementary specials would reduce the budget by \$551,285.

Last evening there was a five town meeting of selectmen and finance committees. Many of the towns expressed that a \$1,000,000 cut may still not be enough to support their town budgets.

Mr. Wigler and the Budget subcommittee are recommending to the QRSD full committee to reinstate specials and provide options to restructure the FY17 budget by reducing from the \$1,000,000 cuts made on July 11<sup>th</sup> and/or by adding specials back into the budget.

Administration spent a good deal of time trying to find ways to make reductions without cutting specials in the elementary schools. The district expected an anticipated 13% increase in health insurance which came in at 10% instead, thus saving 3% for the district. Other reductions include the retirement of a special education teacher whose position will be filled internally. There is a paraprofessional retiring in October who will not be replaced. There is a requested leave for a special education teacher who will be returning at the beginning of the school year, here for a brief time, and out for the remainder of the school year whose position will also be filled internally. Administration met with Plant and Facilities as well as elementary Principals and decision was made to close wings of schools at RLS, HS/MS and OCS. This will reduce force in custodial and maintenance and not replace 2 retirements in that department. The HS schedule will require a full utilization of staff. Small classes will not run. The district will capitalize on those teachers with numerous certifications. Vacancies may be filled by long term subs. Another area being looked at is a potential for those seniors who have met their graduation requirements by the end of Trimester II being offered the opportunity for internships outside of school, internships within the district, classes at Mount Wachusett, etc. This proposed budget will be able to continue to offer programs in the HS that have been accustomed to. Some foreign language classes will be done online.

The MS schedule with world language will remain intact.

Much discussion ensued in regard to the Intervention Coaches and their roles in the district and whether or not the Intervention programs would succeed without their guidance. Dr. Marshall feels very strongly that the reduction of the coaches would be a last ditch effort as she feels this program is of high value to the elementary schools and student achievement.

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Brophy to accept the revised assessments and reductions as detailed by administration for the adoption of the FY17 budget in the amount of \$33,058,485.00

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 \$549,670. A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Deschamps – abstain; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – no; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Wolanin – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 13.11)

Line 3510-3520 Athletics and Student Activities in the amount of \$460,509. A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Wolanin – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 14.01).

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 \$33,058,485.

A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Labarre – no; Mrs. Pease – yes. Chairman Wolanin – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 14.06).

Discussion ensued that the new assessments will be mailed to the towns on Friday. The towns will have 45 days to call town meetings and act on the new assessments. Barre will not have to call a town meeting as the number they voted on at their annual town meeting meets the budget figure. Hubbardston will need to appropriate an addition \$27,892 (6.69%), Hardwick and additional \$95,162 (10.99%), New Braintree \$74,491 (9.24%) and Oakham \$152,500 (10.73%).

- d) Central Office
  - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
  - One contract is up for this year which the subcommittee will meet about within the next few weeks. Other contracts are up next year.
- 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
  - A subcommittee meeting was held tonight and updates to student services were discussed. This included the changes in the needs of our population, the Stetson School group home, the district's substantially separate programs as well as the need for a program evaluation of all special education programs and services.
- j) Task Force
  - Initial Scope of Service has been received from the Collins Center. All members are currently reviewing. A joint meeting of the Task Force and School Committee is scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>. However, a good majority of administration will be unable to attend. Therefore, the meeting has been moved to Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- k) Technology
  - No report was given

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **8. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

- Mr. Wigler commented that he had gone through the list of Forbes' top 50 schools. Two students from the Class of 2016 were accepted to two of those schools, and both were IB students.
- Chairman Wolanin spoke about the addition of an adhoc subcommittee – Solar/Retro Subcommittee. Any member who is interested should contact the School Committee secretary with their name.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
School Committee Secretary



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

School Committee Meeting

**Executive Session Minutes**

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Educational Support Center

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	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
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	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

**ALSO PRESENT**

Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services

1. The executive session was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Due to the current state of the FY17 budget, some members of the School Committee as well as members of the District town selectboards have discussed having the members of the QRTA return a portion of their raise. Any type of overture for this must be done in a formal way with Dr. Marshall approaching the QRTA. Dr. Marshall has been speaking with the QRTA President, and this has been discussed with the QRTA Executive Committee. At this time, there is no interest on their (the QRTA's) behalf. At this time, it may be best to leave the QRTA agreement as is without reopening, as the District may have leverage when the contract is reopened in June of 2017. If something should change and the contract was reopened, the funds would only reduce assessments, not call back teachers that have been laid off. In addition, when contracts are reopened, you tend to get caught with discussing other items in the contract, not just what the contract was opened for.

Mr. Labarre commented that he would be more inclined to ask for something back from the faculty than tell the little ones there are no specials. Mr. Sarabia stated that he does not want to see an "us vs. them" relationship with the teachers.

Dr. Marshall did state that the District may not have money for the next contract, and therefore would have to look at language instead. She also stated that Interest Based Bargaining worked very well for the last contract and it may be worthwhile to pursue that avenue again in 2017.

A motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Dr. Allan to adjourn executive session.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The executive session adjourned at 7:25 p.m. to return to open session for remainder of School Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
Executive Secretary