



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Committee Minutes  
Thursday, September 10, 2015  
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 – arrived 7:20
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Lori Siefert	Member, Hardwick
	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/Parents/Townpeople	

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to accept the minutes of June 25, 2015 as written. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-3 with Mr. Miller, Mrs. Pease, and Mrs. Siefert abstaining. Mr. Kelly was not present for the approval of minutes.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent Marshall commended the HS administrative team and the Guidance team for the extraordinary job and attention to detail in putting together the high school schedule for this year. Dr. Marshall also recognized Stacey Skerry, Transportation Director and her job well done in rerouting the district and especially her hard work on scheduling busses through the Barre center construction. Dr. Marshall has contacted the Anti-defamation League for possible faculty training on the “December Dilemma”. It is important to work to ensure that all students, regardless of religion, are given same respect and opportunities through the holiday season. This program has been recommended by the DOE. Mr. Labarre requested a copy of their presentation so that he and other Committee members are able to answer any questions from the public. A webinar is also available from the ADL that we can have

made available to School Committee members. From a curriculum perspective, the schools are able to teach about all religions, however, having Santa Claus visit or shopping for Christmas during the school day is not acceptable.

The Consolidation Task Force has met and looked at demographic data. The second meeting consisted of visits to RLS and HCS. The next meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> will include visits to HES, NBGS & OCS.

Dr. Marshall introduced Joanna Cackett, the new Principal at Hardwick. Ms. Cackett started with the District on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Marshall also reported that the District released students early on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> due to the extreme heat in the classrooms. Some classrooms were 97 degrees at 10:00 a.m. and students were falling ill.

- b) Assistant Superintendent
  - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services
  - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and AP warrants 1A, 1B, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 5B were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
  - Director's Report: Mrs. Duval reported that we have an unexpended balance of \$5,247.00 for FY15. She also reported that our annual audit began in May and concluded in August. Full report from the auditors will be presented in October.  
Colin Boisvert, Manager of Food & Nutrition left the District on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The District has hired Keri Dubois-Gould to take over as Manager of Food and Nutrition with a start date of September 28, 2015. The District is currently looking at insurance plans. The District is currently looking at a projected increase of 8.8%. At this time, the District is questioning going out to bid and is looking at all options. Discussion ensued.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
  - Evan Barringer reported that the faculty has started off the school year and they are working on both new and old initiatives.
- 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) Barre Building
  - This subcommittee was created back when Barre Committee members would visit RLS on a monthly basis for updates. This matriculated into the Barre Building Subcommittee. Mr. Labarre suggested we disband this subcommittee at this time and regroup as an elementary school subcommittee. This subcommittee would report on activities at the elementary level.
- d) Budget
  - No report was given
- e) Central Office
  - Solar update – The subcommittee met on August 10<sup>th</sup> and looked at the final contract form Brightergy in regard to solar 'carports' on the campus. The subcommittee voted to put this project aside as they do not believe the District should be the first in the area to pursue this approach.  
At this time, Solar City does not have any projects moving forward. We would need an RFP if there are any off takers available.
- f) Collective Bargaining
  - Discussion in executive session
- g) Plant and facilities
  - The Committee members were invited to stop into the high school to visit the new biotechnology lab.

Clare Barnes, Plant & Facilities Manager and the custodial and maintenance staff were commended for the work done on this project. They were also commended for the phenomenal job done in all the buildings in preparation for the new school year.

- h) Policy & Review
  - First meeting of the year will take place on October 5<sup>th</sup>
- i) Special Education
  - Dr. Marshall discussed the situation at HES with DCF over the summer. The District received a report from Governor Baker which stated that the staff went above and beyond in their reporting with the police, DCF and the parents involved. The hard work of the HES staff did not go unnoticed by our Special Education Director, the District and the Governor. Barbara Page, Jill Peterson and the HES staff did a phenomenal job in their handling of this case.
- j) Task Force
  - Mr. Labarre reported as co-chair. As Dr. Marshall stated, the committee met twice over the summer. The committee believe is makes sense to start slowly with this endeavor to understand who we are and where we are as a District.
- k) Technology
  - No report was given

#### **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

#### **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Susan Twarog, Barre resident, spoke to the “December Dilemma” and expressed her concern over students being unable to participate in Christmas activities.

#### **7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

- Mr. Wolanin was saddened to lose a Principal due to budget constraints at the high school. Mr. Wolanin also commended the facilities staff for their job well done over the summer in the schools.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to enter into executive session to discuss the ratification of the Paraprofessional contract and the ratification of the QRSD Office Association contract.

The committee will return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:27p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to ratify the Paraprofessional contract as proposed.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to ratify the QRSD Office Association contract as proposed.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett, Executive Secretary