



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2014
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Richard Paula	Member, Barre
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Lori Siefert	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	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	
Town Officials	
Parents/Townspeople	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Ms. Siefert to approve the minutes of October 9, 2014, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1 with Dr. Allan abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall reported on the size of classes at the high school. There are some classes that have been combined at different levels, i.e., French II/IB French SL YR 1, etc. These numbers may change as the year progresses due to adds/drops each trimester. Dr. Allan questioned why the Policy & Review/Reform subcommittee had not been made aware of classes with fewer than 15 students enrolled. Dr. Marshall felt that this practice had not been followed over the past few years and that the policy of doing that was no longer in effect. Mr. Brophy suggested that for next school year we bring the classes with low numbers to the subcommittee for further discussion.

- b) Assistant Superintendent
 - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 9 & 10 and AP warrants 9 & 10 were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
 - Mrs. Duval presented a written report of the Food and Nutritional Services Department. Sales projections indicate that the department will become profitable a few months earlier in FY2014 than last year. Mr. Boisvert, Manager of Food & Nutrition, has incorporated many new ideas in an effort to increase profits. Some of these include incorporating more fresh fruits and vegetables, expanding offerings at the MS/HS with the addition of a Dim Sum concept station, and the addition of a hot Grab-n-Go system at the MS/HS. At this time, no accounts have been sent to collection. All 15 accounts that were in jeopardy for being sent have been paid. Of note is the fact that two school districts have requested to use our policy for collection of lunch accounts.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - Evan Barringer, QRTA President, spoke to the Committee in regard to the discussion DESE is now having in attempting to tie student test scores and teacher evaluations to the educator's licenses. Mr. Barringer is asking the School Committee for support in objecting to this proposal. Mr. Brophy discussed the fact that there is very strong support against this proposal with the MASC, MSSA, etc.
- e) Student Advisory Council
 - Senior Cooper Wolanin reported that fall sports are ending at the high school with Field Hockey and girls soccer moving on to district play. The NJROTC inspection took place at the high school in early November and was a success for the program. NHS induction took place last evening with the induction of 42 members. The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship breakfast took place this morning and was well attended by the scholarship recipients as well as their parents. Sixty-two (62) Quabbin students received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
 - No report was given.
- b) Audit
 - No report was given.
- c) Barre Building
 - No report was given
- d) Budget
 - FY15 Budget Discussion and transfer request was passed over
- e) Central Office
 - Health Insurance Renewal Information – Mr. Wolanin reported that health insurance will be increasing by 13% on our current plan. RFQs on other plans came back with increases from 13% to 26.5%. The budget impact of this 13% increase would mean an increase of \$104,000. Discussion ensued in regard to the agreement of the collective bargaining units. There are no options that would include leaving BCBS, only making changes within BCBS. Discussion of MGL Chapter 32B, Sections 21, 22 & 23 – Defines procedures to make plan design changes to current plans to plans similar to the GIC plans; requires a mitigation of cost plan. Adoption of these regulations would allow the School Committee to initiate the process to negotiate moving to a "GIC look-alike" plan. Mr. Wolanin has suggested that the Committee invite the District's attorney to the December School Committee meeting to answer questions and discuss the new regulations.
- f) Collective Bargaining
 - Currently in negotiations with the paraprofessional association. Committee will go into executive session later in meeting.
- g) Plant and facilities

- Mr. Kelly reported that Solar City has broken ground. The new tanks in Hubbardston have been installed and are functioning. The water tank in Hardwick is functioning and the water is being closely monitored.

h) Policy & Review

- The following policies were available on the website for 30 days for public comment and shall now be removed from the table.

Motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to remove the Nondiscrimination Statement Policy changes with the addition of gender identity from the table.

The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1 with Mr. Labarre abstaining.

Motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to remove Chapter 222 (An Act Relative to Student Access to Educational Services and Exclusion from School) from the table.

The motion passed unanimously.

The MCAS review scheduled for the November policy meeting was tabled to the December meeting.

Dr. Allan also reported that Maura Shea, QRHS student, brought forth a presentation which discussed how the music program has impacted her and other students' school careers. QRHS teacher and parent Maureen Chase addressed the impact of music across the academic disciplines. She stated that music students demonstrate outstanding discipline and collaboration in their other courses. Maura ended the presentation with the discussion of the benefits of the music program at Quabbin. She shared data and research on the academic success of students in music programs as compared to non-music students. HS Program of Studies – Meghan Cloutier, Director of Guidance, presented a summary of the proposed changes & modifications to the 2015-2016 Academic Guide. The only major change was to the credit structure for promotion/retention.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to accept the changes to the academic guide as written with a one year pilot for the credit structure for promotion/retention.

Motion passed unanimously.

i) Special Education

- Subcommittee met this evening and discussed the Corrective Action Plan. The main issues that were addressed have been corrected. This includes providing hard copies of IEPs, making sure IEPs are sent out within ten days of the meeting and the moving of rooms. Discussion ensued in regard to the hiring of a Behavior Specialist and Language Based Consultant. This will be beneficial for students who were originally going to be placed out of district. Students can now live in the District as well as be educated within the District. Stetson School was also discussed. Students are now being placed by DCF into an intensive group home at Stetson; therefore, the students placed there are residents of Barre and have to enroll locally if the situation allows. The District becomes responsible programmatically for the students. The needs of the students require a great deal of administrative time with paperwork, meetings, etc.

j) Technology

- No report was given.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Approval of overnight field trip to New York City with updated agenda – Dorothy Verheyen-Cudjoe presented the updated agenda for the NYC field trip that was tentatively approved at the October meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the NYC field trip with the usual provisos.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jennifer McMenemy read a statement expressing her concern over the size of classes at the Ruggles Lane School, specifically the 4th grade class. Ms. McMenemy requested that the Committee consider class sizes when developing the 2015-2016 budget.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Sarabia reported that he had attended the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship Breakfast and then visited the high school. He was concerned that historically Wednesday was late bus day for students to stay after for extra help. He felt that the extra help days were being replaced by professional development. Mr. Sarabia feels that we should revisit this for next year and would like an update at the next meeting. Mr. Wolanin commented that the teachers he had visited with at open house expressed that they were available at any time, not just Wednesdays. Mrs. Chamberlain questioned the number of early release days. It was explained that the faculty needs to be provided with significant amount of training. In order to provide the faculty with the support they need, the District has had to provide this additional professional development time. The Committee was reminded that the District had sent out a survey to parents and the results of that survey had helped to build the school calendar.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Approval of changes to HS Program of Studies – addressed under Policy Subcommittee report.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A motion was made and seconded to enter in executive session to discuss and ratify recent negotiations of a one year contract for the Paraprofessional Association.

The Committee will return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken:

Dr. Allan-yes; Richard Paula-yes; Lee Wolanin-yes; Ned Kelly-yes; Tex Sarabia-yes; Lori Siefert-yes; Debra Chamberlain-yes; William Hansen-yes; Peggy Thompson-yes; Steven LaBarre-yes; Mark Brophy-yes.

The motion passed 12-0.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to ratify recent negotiations of a one year contract for the Paraprofessional Association.

A roll call vote was taken:

Dr. Allan-yes; Richard Paula-yes; Lee Wolanin-yes; Ned Kelly-abstain; Tex Sarabia-yes; Lori Siefert-yes; Debra Chamberlain-yes; William Hansen-yes; Mark Wigler-yes; Peggy Thompson-yes; Steven LaBarre-yes; Mark Brophy-yes.

The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett, Executive Secretary



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting

Executive Session Minutes

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	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. 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 8:25 p.m.
2. Discuss and ratify recent negotiations of a one year contract for the Paraprofessional Association.

Discussion ensued in regard to the negotiations for the Paraprofessional Association. They have been offered a single year contract and will begin new negotiations in January of 2015. Some additions to the contract include increase of family sick leave to 10 days; increase salary by 2% in FY15.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A roll call vote was taken:

Dr. Allan-yes; Richard Paula-yes; Lee Wolanin-yes; Ned Kelly-yes; Tex Sarabia-yes; Lori Siefert-yes; Debra Chamberlain-yes; William Hansen-yes; Peggy Thompson-yes; Steven LaBarre-yes; William Hansen-yes; Mark Brophy-yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

The executive session adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett , Executive Secretary