



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 11, 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
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	Richard Paula	Member, Barre
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Lori Siefert	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree

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 7:07 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of October 28, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of November 13, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Mr. Miller abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Labarre and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the executive session minutes of November 13, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Mr. Miller abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall stated her concerns with Chapter 71 funding cuts. Governor Patrick has used 9c to cut regional transportation. This would represent an increase to our budget of approximately \$300,000 this fiscal year. There is controversy at this time because, in 2010, law was passed which stated that regional school transportation payments made by the state cannot be lowered by a greater percentage than any reduction made to state chapter 70 payments in that fiscal year. Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools has solicited legal support to sue the state. Assistance from each school district in the amount of approximately \$500 may be solicited to help in this effort.

If help is not given, we will have no alternative to balance the budget without going into our reserves. If this happens, we will be starting the FY16 budget in a negative.

Discussion ensued in regard to Governor Elect Baker and what his support of the educational system will be.

- b) Assistant Superintendent
 - No report was given
- c) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 11 & 12 and AP warrants 11A, 12A & 12B were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
 - Last year, Mrs. Duval brought to the attention of the Committee MGL 32B, Sec. 9A1/2 which allows districts to bill back credible years of service for health insurance for retirees. In the past, the Committee has chosen to table this and not invoice other districts for the amount of retired teachers' insurance. However, at this time, Mrs. Duval recommended to the Committee that we begin invoicing other districts. At this time, she is still waiting the final number of retirees this involves; last school year we had 7 new retirees.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to authorize the Quabbin Regional School to bill back for credible years of service for health insurance for retirees.
Motion passed unanimously.
 - Mrs. Duval gave a brief update on the school lunch program and the participation in the Oakham Center School. Mrs. Duval reported that participation this year is lower than last year and a survey has been sent to all parents to try to determine the reason for this.
At this time, the lunch program has 45 students across the district that owe \$1,300 in lunch fees.
 - Mrs. Duval also reported that Solar City is on target with starting in February.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - Evan Barringer, QRTA President, reported that DESE has pulled the proposal of tying student test scores and teacher evaluations to educator licenses.
- 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
 - No report was given
- d) Budget
 - No report was given. The first Budget Subcommittee meeting for FY16 will take place on January 15th at 6:00 p.m. prior to the full Committee meeting.
- e) Central Office
 - No report was given.
- f) Collective Bargaining
 - The Collective Bargaining subcommittee met in executive session this evening for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategies.
- g) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given.
- h) Policy & Review
 - Dr. Allan explained that Policy DJE Bidding Requirements needed to be modified to align the policy with current language included in MGL 7:22A; 7:22B; 30B.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to place Policy DJE – Bidding Requirements to be placed on the District website for 30 days for public comment to be re-voted at the January meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of the Attorney General’s Regulations Regarding Open Meetings, updated November 11, 2011 to include CMR 29.10 – Remote Participation. This will be placed on the District website for 30 days for public comment to be re-voted at the January meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion then ensued in regard to the extensive presentations made by seniors Sydney Tuttle, Jakob Anderson and Marshall Bertrand on their Capstone, Internship, and Honors Research Projects at the December 1st Policy and Review/Reform meeting. Discussion also ensued in regard to a way to memorialize the work that students are doing with these projects.

i) Special Education

- No report was given

j) Technology

- No report was given.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Chairman Brophy publicly thanked Athol Savings Bank for their generous donation to the Quabbin girls’ soccer team.
- Mrs. Siefert commended the MS Music Department on a job well done with the 7th grade band and chorus concert.
- Mr. Miller questioned why the K-3 music program had been deferred to February. Dr. Marshall explained that with the changes within the music department they felt they needed more rehearsal time for the younger students.
- Mr. Labarre commented that there are concerns among parents in regard to religious holidays in the public school. Dr. Marshall explained that religion can be taught and discussed; however, a religious holiday cannot be celebrated. Discussion then ensued in regard to the “December Dilemma”.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- None

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next full School Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett, Executive Secretary