



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Committee Minutes  
Thursday, June 25, 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    |
|            | Steve Labarre           | Member, Oakham      |
|            | Jason Leclair           | Member, Hubbardston |
|            | Marcelino (Tex) Sarabia | 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 |                                     |
| Students/Parents              |                                     |
| Press                         |                                     |

1. The Superintendent called the reorganizational portion of the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.  
Nominations for Chair:

Dr. Allan nominated Mark Brophy as Chair. Mr. Kelly seconded the nomination.  
No other nominations were made.  
Mark Brophy was elected Chair by unanimous vote.

Mr. Brophy chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Nominations for Vice Chair:

Dr. Allan nominated Lee Wolanin as Vice Chair. Mr. Kelly seconded the nomination.  
No other nominations were made.  
Lee Wolanin was elected Vice Chair by a vote of 10-0-1 with Mr. Wolanin abstaining.

Appointment of Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer & Secretary

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly 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 Mr. Wolanin 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 Mr. Wolanin 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 Mr. Wolanin 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.

Chairman Brophy took a moment to officially welcome our new Hubbardston member, Jason Leclair.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of May 14, 2015 as written.  
The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-2 with Mr. Leclair and Mr. Sarabia abstaining.
- A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of May 28, 2015 as written.  
The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-2 with Dr. Allan and Mr. Leclair abstaining.

Chairman Brophy 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. Dr. Marshall also reported that the budget had passed in all five towns and commended Cheryl Duval and her team for their efforts with their efforts to bring information to the district towns. Dr. Marshall also publicly thanked the district towns for their support of the school system. At this time, she has begun conversations with neighboring districts about sharing resources.

### **b) Assistant Superintendent**

- Assistant Superintendent Report – no report was given

### **c) Director of Administrative Services**

- Presentation of Warrants - Payroll Warrants 24, 25, 26, 26.1, 27 and Accounts Payable Warrants 25A, 26A, 26B, 27A, and 28A were signed by the warrant subcommittee.
- Mrs. Duval reported that we will have sufficient funds to cover the remainder of the FY15 budget with a balance of \$2,000. The budget will be closed out by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Duval gave a final report on the school lunch program. The district has had a 2% increase in participation over last year and a 27% increase in catering. We currently have \$3,700 in outstanding debt. At our last meeting, the committee authorized transferring \$2, 500 into the food service account to cover the outstanding debt. General consensus is that our policy on outstanding debt needs to be reworked, however, the Policy and Review/Reform Subcommittee does not meet again until October. Due to that, Dr. Allan suggested the Committee allow a temporary policy be put into place for the beginning of the school year until the subcommittee meets again.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to allow Director Duval, Mr. Brophy, and Dr. Marshall to write a temporary policy for outstanding debt for school lunches until the Policy & Review/Reform Subcommittee meets in October.

Motion passed unanimously

- Authorization to Borrow in Anticipation of Funds FY16  
A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin 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, 2014 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.  
The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
  - FY15 Budget Transfer Request - passed over. This was voted on and approved at the meeting of May 28, 2015.
  - Authorization to Establish a Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund  
Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by M r. Wolanin to authorize the Quabbin Regional School District to establish a Regional Transportation (RTR) Fund as allowed by MGL Chapter 71, Section 16C, as amended by Chapter 233 of the Acts of 2014.  
The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
  - Early Retirement Incentive Authorization – Motion tabled
- d) Teacher Advisory Council – Mr. Barringer reported that this year brought an overhaul of the curriculum for grades K – 12 as well as large class sizes which did present some challenges, but the QRSD faculty stepped up to the plate and did a great job. Professional development is taking place this week and next week and faculty and staff will continue to work through the summer.
- 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
  - FY16 Budget Status update – Budget was approved in all five of the district towns. Governor Baker has agreed to a portion of the 9C cuts being given back to the districts.
- e) Central Office
  - Solar Net Metering Update – still waiting for one more piece that has not been connected to the grid as yet.
  - Update on Solar RFP/RFQ – Brightergy led us to believe that Grafton HS had done a solar carport, but, on further investigation, they only did rooftop solar. Mrs. Duval spoke with Grafton, and there were some illegalities, therefore she found another draft to base our RFP/RFQ on. It was the decision of the subcommittee to take a month to review and digest the information before making a recommendation to the full committee.
  - Superintendent Evaluation Update – Will be sent to Committee members via email or snail mail over the summer.
- f) Collective Bargaining – contracts to be discussed in executive session later in the evening
- g) Plant & Facilities – no report was given
- h) Policy Review/Reform - no report was given
- 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 - Mr. Wolanin commended the students and administration on both the HS graduation and the MS graduation and commented on how well attended both events were as well as the behavior of the student.

Mr. Labarre questioned when the parent portal piece of Aspen will be rolled out and feels we need to move forward soon on this. He also spoke in regard to the task force that has been established to look ways to improve both financial efficiencies and educational programs, including how best to utilize our buildings. All towns have appointed a member with the exception of Barre. The first meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks. Mr. Labarre also spoke to the problems students are having with FastMath. Mrs. Muir acknowledged that the District is aware of the problems with the program and are in the process of determining other ways to measure math fact fluency.

Lastly, Mr. Labarre questioned Nature's Classroom. This was an item that was cut from the budget because it no longer fits with our curriculum. When that decision was made, the contract for HCS's September trip had already been signed. However, inadvertently, Oakham/Hardwick/NewBraintree put a payment plan out. Determination was made that the schools/students may fundraise for Nature's Classroom, but no stipends would be paid to chaperones. Discussion ensued in regard to the many benefits of Nature's Classroom, even if the program does not fit with our curriculum.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to recommend that the schools be allowed to continue with Nature's Classroom as self-sustaining, fund raised program.

The motion passed unanimously.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval for International Field Trip to England, Ireland & Wales as proposed by Gregory Devine for April vacation, 2017.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the International Field Trip to England, Ireland & Wales with the usual provisos.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Request for approval for NJROTC Field Trips for 2015-2016 School Year – Captain Brennock gave a brief synopsis of the NJROTC program and reported that the first day of school will see 143 cadets. In addition, NJROTC received the Distinguished Unit with Honors award for the 10<sup>th</sup> year. Captain discussed the many field trips that are scheduled both in and out of state for the 2015-2016 school year, including his request for approval for a NJROTC Field Trip for April 2016 to Hawaii. At this time, 30 cadets have signed up for the trip with 7 on a wait list. Cost for the trip with flight will be approximately \$1,850 - \$2,000 with the cadets staying on base.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the NJROTC Field Trips for 2015-2016, including the trip to Hawaii in April 2016 with the usual provisos.

Motion passed unanimously.

- QRHS band trip to California to perform in April, 2016 – Music Teacher Peter Lewis presented before the committee with a request for band, orchestra, and chorus to travel to Disneyland in California to perform in April of 2016.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Music Department trip to Disneyland in California in April of 2016 with the usual provisos.

Motion passed unanimously.

- French Exchange Trip Update – Liz Beard-Blake and four students, Maureen Whitney, Conor Nickerson, Abby Bryant, and Margaret Anderson, spoke to the Committee about the French Exchange trip and their experiences. They shared the Quabbin International Club website which had information about their trip, including their itinerary, as well as a short slide show with pictures. In all, the students expressed their love for Frances as well as spoke about the lifelong friendships they have made.

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

- A motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session to discuss the Food Service contract ratification vote and the Paraprofessional contract ratification vote. The Committee will return to open session

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The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 9:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Hansen to ratify the Food Service contract as proposed for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

The motion was defeated by a vote of 0-10-1 with Mr. Leclair abstaining.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett, Secretary