



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 11, 2014
Educational Support

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Richard Paula	Member, Barre
	Ada Pease	Member, Oakham
	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
District Administrators	
Press	

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chair Mark Brophy.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Siefert and seconded by Mr. Paula to accept the minutes of August 14, 2014 as written. Motion passed by a vote of 9-0-2 with Ms. Thompson and Mr. Wolanin abstaining.

A motion was made by Ms. Siefert and seconded by Mr. Paula to accept the executive session minutes of August 14, 2014 as written. Motion passed by a vote of 9-0-2 with Ms. Thompson and Mr. Wolanin abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools - Dr. Marshall introduced Stacey Skerry who has taken on the responsibility of Transportation Coordinator. Dr. Marshall commended Ms. Skerry on the fine job she is doing in routing buses and dealing with bus appeals. The district office has had 57 bus appeals which have all been dealt with. Of those 57 appeals, 36 of them were approved, and the balance of the appeals were denied due to safety issues with the bus/bus stops per the bus company. Ms. Skerry spoke to the accommodation of bus passes. All elementary bus passes have been honored for day care issues and MS/HS passes are being dealt with on an as needed basis. Discussion ensued in regard to the difficulty in providing service to some of the back roads in the district. Due to the condition and accessibility of some roads, the vans and busses have refused to travel down some of these roads. Discussion then ensued in regard to parental responsibility. It is the responsibility of the parent to get their child to and supervise them at the bus stop. Once the students are on the bus, then they are the responsibility of the District. Some parents have notified school committee members of their appeal, however, School Committee members have no real role in the bus appeal process. If a member is notified by a citizen, the member should contact the Superintendent or the Transportation Coordinator to discuss the situation.

Dr. Marshall introduced the new Principal at Ruggles Lane, Julie Vincentsen.

Preliminary opening day figures, though unofficial, look to be stable.

- b) Assistant Superintendent – Assistant Superintendent Muir reported that the District had welcomed 11 new teachers, with many in their first year of teaching. A number of teachers were transferred within the district. Many elementary teachers moved within their buildings, grade levels, and some to other schools. Two MS teachers moved over to the high school. Everyone is doing a great job settling in to their positions.
- c) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 5, 5.1 & 6 and AP warrants A5, A6 & B6 were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
 - Ms. Duval reported that the district out of the eleven families that had gone to collection only four remained uncollected. At this time, we have 79 students with negative balances. Four are at or over \$15. This results in \$307 in arrears.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - Evan Barringer, QRTA President, reported that the school year was off to a great start. The faculty is very pleased to have teacher leadership positions in the elementary schools. Mr. Barringer invited the School Committee members to come into the schools to observe the learning that is taking place.
- 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
- e) Central Office
 - No report was given
- f) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given
- g) Plant and facilities
 - At this time, there is still an odor from the water tank in Hardwick. Therefore, until that is gone, students and staff will continue to drink and use bottled water. The pumps in Hubbardston are scheduled to arrive on Friday, September 12 with installation the following week. Clare Barnes, Plant & Facilities Manager, distributed a report which listed the repairs/upgrades that took place within the District over the summer. See attached report.
Mr. Wigler commended the Facilities department on the cleanliness of the Hubbardston building and the help given by Mr. Pimental for the Hubbardston Fall Fundraiser.
- h) Policy & Review/Reform
 - No report was given
- i) Special Education
 - No report was given
- j) Technology
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- FY15 Budget Increase – Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to increase the FY15 budget in the amount of \$30,510.00 from \$32,238,530.00 to \$32,269,040.00 to add an elementary bus route in Hardwick.

A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Paula – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Siefert – yes; Ms. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Ms. Thompson – yes; Ms. Pease – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes.

The motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote (11-0-0, 11.35 weighted vote)

- Regional Agreement Approval – A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Ms. Siefert to formally accept the Quabbin Regional School District Regional Agreement as certified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Paula – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Siefert – yes; Ms. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Ms. Thompson – yes; Ms. Pease – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote (11-0-0)

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joshua Smith expressed his concerns to the Committee in regard to the time of the school day. Mr. Smith feels that it is necessary to put together a subcommittee to study the times of the start of the school day. Mr. Smith spoke to the recent studies in the news which state that teenage students function in school better with a later start to the day. Dr. Marshall commented that other schools in the area have looked at this, but all schools would need to be on the same schedule, specifically for extra-curricular activities. Discussion ensued in regard to organizing a task force to include Committee members, parents & students to investigate the logistics of a later start to the day.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Discussion ensued in regard to student names being left off the publicized honor roll list. It was discussed that a “human” check should take place before publicizing names.
- Discussion ensued in regard to the boys’ soccer program and the lack of players. There are not enough players for a junior varsity team. Therefore, some eighth grade players will be brought up to play JV. Some parents are concerned that we may not have the usual amount of games and they’ve paid the fee for a full schedule. The principals and the athletic director will discuss this further.
- Mr. Hansen questioned what music programs had been cut given the cutbacks that have been made. It was discussed that the only cuts have been to the private lessons that were given during the school day.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- NJROTC Field Trip Approval for 2014 – 2014 School year.
A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the NJROTC Field trip schedule for the upcoming school year with all the usual provisos.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Ms. Siefert to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett
Executive Secretary