



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2018
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	Dave Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick (arrived 6:50 p.m.)
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Gregory Devine; Sue Musnicki; Kristin Campione; Shelly St. George; Jill Peterson
Press: Parents/Town Officials	Ellie Downer, Turley Publications; Brad Miner, T & G

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the minutes of January 11, 2018. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0-1 with Mr. Jean-Francois abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – no report on any items that are not covered later in the agenda

b) Assistant Superintendent

- No report

c) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report – Payroll Warrants 15, 16 and AP warrants 15A, 15B, & 16A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.

- Director Duval introduced Kate Cannie, a representative from PARS (Public Agency Retirement Services) who attended the meeting to give brief overview of the development of an OPEB Trust Fund for the district. PARS designs and administers retirement trust programs for governmental agencies. PARS OPEB Trust Program is one of the fastest growing programs in New England and the nation with over \$1.5 billion in assets and over 270 clients. GASB45/75 and M.G.L. 32B:20 compliant irrevocable trust structure with an IRS Private Letter Ruling in 2007. Once the trust is established, the district's main responsibilities will be to contribute funds to the trust, submit disbursement requests, and monitor reports on account and investment activity. The initial contribution would be \$10,000 to establish the trust. The District Treasurer manages the trust. The committee needs to take a formal vote to establish the OPEB trust.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to accept a vote of the QRSD School Committee for acceptance of MGL Chapter 32B, Section 20, as amended by Chapter 218, Section 15 of the Acts of 2016 and adoption of the Public Agencies Post Retirement Health Care Plan and Trust (OPEB Fund) and to accept the language as written.

A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – abstain; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Sarabia – abstain; Mr. Spier – abstain; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes. The motion passed by a weighted vote of 11.10 (11-0-3).

- d) Teacher Advisory Council
 - No report was given
- 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) Budget
 - A subcommittee meeting was held on January 25th. Mr. Wigler started the discussion by reminding members that the FY18 budget was 1.8% high than the FY17 budget. The preliminary budget figure is at \$35,008,303, which is a 4.4% increase over the FY18 budget. Using this budget figure, preliminary assessments would be at 13.98% for Barre, 12.42% for Hardwick, 12.93% for Hubbardston, 8.49% for New Braintree, and 13.83% for Oakham. It is understood that these assessments will be difficult for the towns. Discussion ensued concerning ways to decrease the assessments by cutting or funding with E & D for capital projects, cutting or funding with E & D the elementary floors, and matching FY18 use of E & D.
 - In an attempt to look at keeping assessments lower, scenario was calculated using \$750,000 of additional cuts and using \$270,000 from E & D. This brought assessments down to 3.61% for Barre, 2.25% for Hardwick, 4.88% for Hubbardston, 0.46% for New Braintree and 5.57% for Oakham with an overall budget increase of 1.07%. However, this represents total cuts of over \$1,000,000, from a budget that is already stretched thin. Mrs. Duval has been tasked with looking at alternative budget figures that would help with town assessments.
 - Mr. Wigler expressed his concern that town officials do not come to the budget meetings when they begin in January, thereby not expressing their concerns about the budget figure and assessments until later in the process when cuts have already been made.
- d) Central Office
 - Planning for Success – District is working with DESE on putting together the Plan for Success. The contact for DESE is Lori Likis. Additional meetings will take place in the near future. She is currently reviewing information that was received from the Collins Center report, the world cafes that were held, as well as survey results from the superintendent search and information from CMRPC.

- Superintendent Search Update – MASC representative Tracy Novick put together a profile for the next Superintendent. The position was posted internally on January 29th and closed on February 5th. There is one internal candidate who will be screened by MASC. Ms. Novick will present a full report to the Central Office Subcommittee on February 15th at 7:00 p.m. A public interview will be scheduled with the full committee on March 1st. MASC will recommend questions for the interview as well as our own from committee members.
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given
- f) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given.
- g) Adhoc OCS Asbestos Abatement
 - Mrs. Duval reported that the district has been reimbursed by the town of Oakham for the full abatement project at the Oakham Center School.
- h) Policy & Review
 - Additional changes to the Academic Guide for 2018-19 were discussed. These changes include IB Sports, Exercise & Health Science (higher level and standard level) and Digital Design Lab. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Spier to accept the changes to the 2018-2019 Academic Guide as written. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Dr. Allan reported on a possible opportunity for our students for a certification and internship opportunity with the Starrett Corporation. A partnership with Starrett would offer specific training, national certification, and on the job experience. Students would have the opportunity to take part in a certification course, which includes 45 hours of training, and assessment at Quabbin, Snap-On Tools Turnkey Program, and industry recognized certification and/or paid (\$22/hour) internship experience at Starrett with opportunity for direct hire after graduation. Cost involved to Quabbin would be an investment in the required tools at approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000, a teacher for 1 trimester per year, and internship program oversight. Starrett would supply the student wages, transportation to and from Starrett and certification costs. There are still some unanswered questions that are being investigated. Our next step would be visit Athol High School's existing program, meet with Starrett, gain approval of the program and new course, and publicize to students. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to recommend that Administration pursue this opportunity with Starrett Corporation. Motion passed by a vote of 13-0-1 with Mr. Spier abstaining.
 - Continuing discussion about the role of blended learning in the school district – Dr. Allan reported that the subcommittee discussed Dr. Marshall discussed a 3 – 4 year plan for the district by identifying the goal and determining what the district is trying to solve and achieve. The district has teachers who are ready for this, and could possibly have a pilot program functioning in FY20. Resources will be needed for a pilot program and visits to other schools who are successfully doing blended learning will be essential. This program may offer opportunities for struggling students. Timeline would start with research and visits to schools who have blended learning models that match our goals by June 30, 2018. In FY19, we would need to develop a vision and action plan and by FY20, continue targeted professional development, implement and measure success with a pilot team. A brief presentation will be given to all committee members at a later meeting.
 - Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to place the following policies on the table for a 30 day public review: ACA, ACE, ACAB, ADDA, ADC, GBA, GBGB, JB, BBA, BBBA/BBBB, BDA, BEDA, BHE, BIA, BIBA, CBD, and CBI. Motion passed unanimously
- i) Special Education
 - Subcommittee met on Monday evening. Enrollments across the district were discussed. Also discussed that the district may need to take on more services with 12 residential students at Stetson. It was discussed that if a student from Stetson can be educated at Quabbin, then there is no reimbursement.

However, if the student is in a collaborative or co-op, the amount for that is billed back to the student's resident town. The subcommittee requested that Dr. Campione come up with a monetary figure of how much time is spent on Stetson. The subcommittee also discussed that there may be the need for an elementary behavioral classroom in the near future.

j) Task Force

- Update on CMRPC – Municipal officials meetings have all been held. There was discussion at some of these meetings about transparency in the schools. Upon further discussion, what they really were requesting was to be given less information about the line items and the budget process. Most meetings also discussed vocational opportunities for students. CMRPC will be putting a survey out to townspeople within the next week. These surveys should be returned by March 5th. The next meeting of QEMP will be held on March 14th

k) Technology

- The subcommittee met this evening. The budget for FY19 is down 10% due to cost savings. New lap top carts have been purchased for RLS as well as two each to the HS/MS. Parent portal has been successful with 63% of the HS with active accounts and 48% of HS parents logging in each week. At the MS level, 67% of the MS has active accounts with 56% logging in weekly. The HS will continue with paper MCAS tests with the exception of a random selection of students who will be using a computerized test.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Devine reported that a high school senior, Brodie Coughlin, is 1 point away from scoring his 1,000 points. Quabbin also drew the #1 seed in the large school for the Clark Tournament that takes place during vacation week.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Nutter expressed a concern with Policy BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee members. He requested a training on social media at some time soon.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval – Out of state leadership event for 12 students on Friday, March 2nd in Meriden, CT Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the out of state field trip with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously
- Chairman Wolanin informed the committee that a time sensitive field trip request was forwarded to him directly for approval. This request was for the high school band to travel to Keene, NH to perform. Chairman Wolanin approved the request with the usual provisos.
- Request for approval for MSBA Statement of Interest for New Braintree Grade School roof – Dr. Marshall explained that the Town of New Braintree had requested that we submit a Statement of Interest for accelerated repair of the New Braintree Grade School roof. This needs to be completed and submitted by Friday, February 16, 2018 and the QRSD School Committee must vote to allow the Superintendent to submit said Statement of Interest.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Sarabia that, having convened in an open meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2018, prior to the closing date, the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated February 16, 2018 for the New Braintree Grade School located at 15 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future, specifically, a new roof, checked off on the Statement of Interest Form and a brief description of the deficiency described herein for each priority:

The shingled roof on this building has surpassed its useful life and all warranties have expired. The shingles on this building have failed totally in some areas and are failing with the cracking of shingles in the areas where they are secured to the roof deck. The flashing is in bad condition. Due to water infiltration, walls, insulation and ceiling tiles have been damaged; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority or commits the Quabbin Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (tentative)

- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining – The executive session was tabled and will be placed on the agenda in March.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary