



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 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
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick (left at 7:15)
	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 (left at 8:15)

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Gregory Devine; Sue Musnicki; Andrew Walsh; Clare Barnes; Evan Barringer, QRTA President
Press:	Ellie Downer, Turley Publications; Brad Miner, T & G
Town Officials	Clare Hendra, Oakham FinCom

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 February 8, 2018. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Marshall reported on the ALICE training that is currently being conducted in the Central Office. This is a “train the trainer” two-day course with approximately 56 participants including educators, health care workers, and police. The district is very fortunate to have received a \$17,000 grant from the Barre Savings Bank Endowment through Fidelity Bank. This grant will assist the district in retooling doors and purchasing the implements necessary to secure the rooms and buildings per the ALICE protocol. The Hardwick Police Department also received a grant through CMRPC and Homeland Security that funded the local police officers who attended.

- HS scheduling is moving along. Currently awaiting final numbers in order to plan for staffing.
 - Safety and Security Planning for the district is ongoing and will be complete by June 30th. Moving ahead with the Policy book updates that will be completed by June 30th also.
- b) Assistant Superintendent
- No report
- c) Director of Administrative Services
- Director's Report – Payroll Warrants 17, 18 and AP warrants 17V, 18A, 18V, 19A, 19B, & 20B were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee. Mrs. Duval included an explanation of the codes for the new members and as a reminder to other members – an A signifies a regular invoice-paying warrant where check are processed, a B signifies that the invoice is processed for a wire transfer and a V signifies the warrant is pay vending costs, which is processed as an auto-debit.
 - Mrs. Duval reported that our first OPEB deposit will be made on May 10, 2018 in the amount of \$10,001.
 - Mr. Wigler had asked for an explanation of target share. Mrs. Duval reviewed a handout that looked at target share calculations for all member towns.
 - Mrs. Duval also gave an update on the Food Service Department. The Quabbin Food Service Department has joined forces with other district to create a new purchasing group. Quabbin is the district furthest west, but they agreed to accept us and Wachusett into the group. At the end of February, only M/H and Ruggles Lane are profitable. As of the end of February, only the MS/HS and RLS are profitable. There have been \$20,000 in repairs thru February as opposed to last year when repairs were only \$14,000 for the entire year. There has been no influx of money into kitchens with the exception of the MS/HS. The dishwasher is currently down in New Braintree, however, they are hoping it is just the control panel, which can be repaired. Otherwise, the town will be responsible for replacement. The walk-in cooler at the MS/HS needs a new condensation unit. There is concern that the oven in Oakham will not run once it is put back into the kitchen. The district is looking at major capital investments at all schools.
- d) Teacher Advisory Council
- Mr. Barringer reported on the incredible music performance with elementary, middle school and high school students performing together. Tomorrow evening the choral concert will be performed in the same format.
 - Mr. Barringer reported that there has been discussion in regard to having an active shooter scenario during a professional development day.
- 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
- Mr. Wigler reported that a budget subcommittee meeting was held on February 15, 2018, and vote was taken to bring a figure of \$34,173,990 to the full committee. This figure represents a 1.95% increase over last year's budget with preliminary assessments of 4.71% for Barre, 6.44% for Oakham, 1.31% for New Braintree, 5.75% for Hubbardston, and 3.35% for Hardwick.
 - Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Dr. Allan to bring to public hearing on March 15, 2018 a budget figure of \$34,173,990.
- Due to conflicts of interests of some members of the School Committee, the Committee will vote on the following appropriation category independently of the total budget appropriation:

Line 3510-3520 Athletics and Student Activities in the amount of \$556,433. A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote (weighted vote 14.01).

The subcategories of the budget were approved by the remaining School Committee members; therefore, the conflict of interest statute allows all members to take action on the budget total of \$34,173,990.

A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote (weighted vote 15.00).

d) Central Office

- Discussion of Superintendent Candidate Interview

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to merge the discussion of the Superintendent Candidate with a vote for Superintendent of Schools.

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Sheila Muir was interviewed by the committee on Thursday, March 1, 2018 for approximately two hours.

Mr. Brophy started the discussion by stating that through his frame of reference and observations, the fact that she is known within the district, had an excellent interview and is passionate about the success of students. He feels she has embodied that from transition from teacher to assistant superintendent. He feels she would lead our district according to our district mission & values. It is important to have a person in place who can lead the district and “hit the ground running”.

Dr. Allan stated that most districts are fighting fires, but our district is always doing instructional improvement. The district values their programs in elementary schools and the academics and enrichment for children comes from Dr. Muir. He feels that interviews are great, but don’t tell the whole story. Dr. Muir’s history of what she has done over time tells the full story, and we should move ahead with the person we have confidence in.

Mr. Deschamps shared his perspective as an employee of the district until 2014. He expanded on the assessment data being evaluated in all the schools, as well as the readers and writers workshop, Teach Point, and data walls showing achievement in the elementary schools. He also spoke about her involvement during negotiations with six bargaining units and feels that going forward she would have insight as to what needs to be done. He also discussed the fact that she models best practices by being engaged, motivated, sustaining, and supportive of teachers. In essence, he feels Dr. Muir would be the best candidate.

Mr. Sarabia stated that he feels Dr. Muir would be a very good candidate, however, he would have preferred we have more candidates. Although he is sure she will do a good job, he will wonder if the district should have looked outside also.

Mr. Wolanin stated that he appreciated everyone’s point of view and reminded the committee that the whole committee voted for the superintendent search process back in the fall. The vote today is for the candidate, not on what our process should have been. He recommended that, if a member chooses not to vote, if Dr. Muir is elected or not, set up a time to speak with her and share your feelings.

Mr. Leclair stated that he felt the posting that went out internally was very limiting to candidates.

Mrs. Thompson states that, as a School Committee member, she feels this is the most important part of her job and wished there were more candidates to review. She does feel, however, that Dr. Muir will do a fine job.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to recommend Dr. Sheila Muir for the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Quabbin Regional School District.

Motion passed by a vote of 11-0-4 with Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Sarabia, Mrs. Chamberlain, and Mr. Spier abstaining.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to authorize the Chair to enter into contract negotiations with Dr. Sheila Muir for the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Quabbin Regional School District.

Motion passed unanimously.

e) Collective Bargaining

- Will be going into executive session later in the meeting to discuss negotiations with one of the bargaining groups.

f) Plant and facilities

- No report was given.

g) Adhoc OCS Asbestos Abatement

- With the asbestos abatement project complete, the committee made the decision to disband the Adhoc OCS Asbestos Abatement Subcommittee.

h) Policy & Review

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to remove the following policies from the table: ACA, ACAB, ACE, ADC, ADDA, BBA, BBBA/BBBB, BDA, BEDA, BHE, BIA, BIBA, CBD, CBI

Motion passed unanimously

i) Special Education

- No report was given

j) Task Force

- Update on CMRPC – The next meeting of QEMP will be held on March 14th

k) Technology

- No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Dr. Allan spoke in regard to the boys' basketball team and the good job Coach Dextrauder has done with them, as well as the fact that there is now a female helping with coaching. He also spoke how Coach Dextrauder does more than teach basketball, he teaches life lessons.

Dr. Allan also mentioned that he had attended the concert last evening with 170 students participating and what a wonderful performance was put on by all the students. He spoke of national composer John Mackey coming at the end of the month to work with the students and what a wonderful opportunity this is for our students.

- Mr. Wolanin reported to the committee that he had received a letter from a student who is a competitive horseback rider. She is requesting that she receive credits toward her Wellness & Health requirement as do the students who play a varsity sport. Mr. Devine gave an explanation of the credit requirements and discussion ensued amongst the members about the parameters that would have to be put in place to allow something such as this. After much discussion, it was decided to send this request to the April Policy & Reform/Review subcommittee in April.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Tentative discussion in regard to adjustment of 2017-2018 school calendar – Dr. Marshall had a discussion with Evan Barringer, QRTA Chair, about the number of snow days that have been taken. Currently, the district has used 6 snow days, bringing us to a last day of school on Thursday, June 21st. Question is whether or not we should contemplate using a day or two of April vacation to make up a

couple days. Mr. Barringer will contact and set up a meeting with the E-Board to see how they feel in regard to this.

- Contract approval with Van Pool for Special Education Transportation - It is time to renew the Van Pool Contract. This new contract is being written for a five year period, therefore, it must go to the Committee for approval. Currently looking at a 3 year contact with two 1 x renewals (based upon School Committee approval) at a 5% increase. Mrs. Duval discussed the increases since 2008 which have been minimal.

Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the administration's recommendation to renew the Van Pool contract for 2019-2021 at an increase of 5%.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Vote on school lunch increase – Mrs. Duval discussed the reasons behind the request for a price increase in school lunches. Currently the pricing for breakfast is \$1.50 and the requested increase is to \$1.75 at the MS/HS and elementary schools who serve breakfast. There are no federal subsidies of food for breakfast. At some of the schools, we are losing money per lunch. The last time there was a lunch increase was in the 14/15 school year. We will be mandated to increase school lunch prices for the SY 19/20 if we don't raise it in SY18/19. The increases would be as follows: Breakfast from \$1.50 to \$1.75 across the schools; elementary lunches from \$2.75 to \$3.00; MS/HS lunches from \$3.00 to \$3.25.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Marsh to increase school lunches for the 2018/19 school year per administrative recommendations.

The motion passed by a vote of 13-0-1 with Mr. Leclair abstaining.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to enter into executive session to discuss strategy of an issue of concern with respect to collective bargaining.

The Committee will return to open session

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:43 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to authorize the Superintendent to address and equalize the salary schedule of current paraprofessionals retroactive to July 1, 2017.

Motion passed by a vote of 12-1-0 with Dr. Allan opposed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary