



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 17, 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
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston (left 7:14)
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick (left 8:00)
	Jason Leclair	Member, Hubbardston
	David Marsh	Member, Barre (arrived 7:35)
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Sue Musnicki; Clare Barnes; Kristin Campione; Shelly St. George; Julie Vincentsen; Tricia Worthington; Evan Barringer, QRTA President; Mark Miville; Nick Adams
Press:	Brad Miner, T & G; Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette
Townpeople:	Kevin Nimitz, New Braintree resident

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Nutter to approve the executive session minutes of March 8, 2018.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

A motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to approve the minutes of April 24, 2018.

The motion passed with Mr. Leclair and Mr. Brophy abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Marshall reported that she had met with the New Braintree Selectboard and discussed the possible use of the New Braintree Grade School for an adult education program with the Center of Hope. This would be a transitional program for our age 18 – 22 students who have aged

out of the high school. Discussion ensued as to how to inform the townspeople and get their opinion on how they would feel about using the school for this type of program.

Center of Hope does not know how big their client base would be in this area, but are hoping for approximately 55 clients over the course of three years. For year one, the goal would be to rent a portion of the school; year two would be to expand the amount of space; year three would be the deciding factor as to whether or not the program works here. If the Center of Hope decides that it will not work, the district has at least spent a couple of years offsetting costs.

If this is not a viable option, the decision will have to be made how to move forward. It is not educationally sound to house K – 1 in one school and 2 – 6 in another school. Educationally, it would be best if the students were combined in one school.

In looking at the three-year enrollment forecast, it appears that combining the two schools at Oakham would make the best fiscal sense. If there are only two grades at NBGS, the food service program will not work. The district would be required to purchase a refrigerated truck and transport the food from the high school.

Mrs. Worthington held a meeting a few months ago with parents to discuss school options, and most parents want to keep the students together in one school and find some kind of use for NBGS.

If we are able to help facilitate a thriving transitional program, we can bring students in from other towns on a tuition basis.

Question was raised as to moving the preschool back to New Braintree. It was explained that the district's pre-k program meets special education requirements. Many of the students in the pre-K program are part of the NECC program and special education students. The other children in the school are "modeling". The capacity to mainstream the children is of great importance.

There are still many questions to be answered with this program and the opportunities available, and discussion will be ongoing.

Dr. Marshall also discussed the advances being made with the Starrett program. Brent Bolger is currently off to training. We continue to work with MWCC for their biotech and digital design programs. The district is currently vetting teachers to be adjunct professors so students receive college credits here at Quabbin. An articulation agreement is being worked on that would allow our English teachers to teach required English. With articulation, the only college that would accept credits would be MWCC. If adjunct, credits would be accepted at any college.

School Safety & Security continues to be discussed and worked on with the local fire and law enforcement agencies. The School Safety Plan will be totally in place by August.

Dr. Marshall thanked the Barre Police Department and local police departments for their assistance with the gun clip which was found on school property. It appears that it was a local resident who dropped it and there was no ill intent.

b) Assistant Superintendent

- The district was recently awarded an Innovation School Grant which was awarded for more funds than were requested. The grant must be used within 30 days. Faculty will work with Jason Gilmartin on curriculum integration and curriculum vertical alignment. Work will be done after school hours and after the school year is over.
- The district has been invited by DESE to present at a federal grants conference on the work our intervention specialists have been doing. Question was raised as to the success and results of this program. Dr. Muir reported that the district has anecdotal data from MS teachers that students coming in have stronger skill set in reading, writing and math. The MCAS scores at the middle school are showing some improvement. In addition, the middle school curriculum has changed so that middle school picks up where the elementary schools leave off.

- The district is looking at software for a platform for blended learning. Andrew Walsh, Director of Technology, is researching how the software will work with our curriculum. We are attempting to implement this in the fall for the new school year.
- Dr. Muir reported that she had been asked by the Committee to make a recommendation in regard to reorganization. She has been meeting with members of the Central Office and building level administrators as we move into the change in leadership. In working on reorganization, there are many important factors to keep in mind: the departmental review by DESE specified the leading concern was written curriculum documentation needs to be updated and show alignment with standards; student achievement data, AP scores, MCAS scores & SAT scores; development of strong community relations; support of all students and, specifically, at risk students; financial stability. Taking all of those factors into consideration, the recommendation is not to replace the Assistant Superintendent, but rather to implement two district curriculum directors – one for K – 6 and one for 7 – 12. These positions would be revenue neutral due to splitting the assistant superintendent salary and the retirement of the graduation coach. These positions would allow for more intervention at the secondary level by helping to build these types of programs. In addition, there are many new items on the horizon for the district, such as blended learning; social emotional learning that needs to be addressed; alignment of science curriculum.

Dr. Muir's recommendation is to replace the Assistant Superintendent with a Director of Curriculum for grades K – 6 and Director of Curriculum for grades 7 – 12 to support ongoing work with new initiatives the district has going forward with the new Strategic Plan.

Discussion ensued in regard to the benefits of these positions and the question of being “top heavy” administratively. Dr. Marshall explained that all districts, at the very least, are required to employ a Superintendent, Director of Pupil Services, and Business Manager. Benchmarking shows that all of those positions make the same amount of money per year. Per pupil expenditure is based upon the cost of these positions divided by the number of students. If you have larger student population, then this figure is much lower. Dr. Marshall explained that the district is moving forward with so many initiatives that now need to an administrative framework to provide support. Students need to be educated to their futures.

Discussion ensued that the FY19 budget allocates 3% to administration and the district needs to the tools to support the administration, as well as the staff needed for high quality education. Question was raised as to if the Directors of Curriculum will report out to the School Committee, but it will most likely be to the Policy Subcommittee. It was stated that Dr. Muir was hired by the School Committee to do a job and, if two additional people are necessary to help with the success of the district without spending a lot of additional funding, the Committee members should support Dr. Muir's recommendation.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to support administration's recommendation to replace the position of Assistant Superintendent with a Director of Curriculum for elementary grades and a Director of Curriculum for secondary grades.

Motion passed with one opposed vote by Mr. Sarabia.

c) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report – Payroll Warrants 23 and AP warrants 26A, 27B and 28V were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- Mrs. Duval reported that the Food Service Department received a grant to replace the steam in Hardwick. This will need to be purchased within 30 days in order to meet the grant requirements. Mr. Sarabia questioned the legislation recommendation on lunch shaming. If this legislation were to go through, the district would be unable to deny access to athletics, proms, etc. The district is watching legislation and will need to comply. If this does come to fruition, the School Committee general fund will have to pay for any negative balances. At this time, it is not certain that legislation will pass.

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
 - Congress is debating amendments to the Senate budget. Senator Gobi is trying for 85% reimbursement for regional transportation. Massachusetts Association of Rural Schools has been working on sparsity aid. If this goes through, Quabbin does fall under the auspices of sparsity aid.
- d) Central Office
 - Update on Plan for Success – the Administrative team has created four pillars and will create the Plan for Success from those pillars. The goal is to wrap up in late June.
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given
- f) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given
- g) Policy & Review
 - Subcommittee meeting was held this evening. There was discussion of the PE/Wellness waiver. Unfortunately, Mr. Devine was unable to attend and the subcommittee recommends waiting until they can have a discussion with him about what is appropriate and what is not appropriate for the waiver.
 - Discussion of new course for the academic guide entitled “Precise Measurements” which will be necessary for the Starrett program.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to add the new course Precise Measurements to the academic guide.
Motion passed unanimously.
 - Policies in Sections D, E, G, H, I and J were discussed. These policies represent finality of all the district policies. Recommendation is to put all the policies on the table for public review for the next 30 days.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to place policies from Sections D, E, G, H, I, and J on the table for public review for 30 days.
Motion passed with one abstention by Mr. Spier
- h) Special Education
 - No report was given. Last meeting had to be cancelled. A new date has not yet been set.
- i) Task Force
 - Update on CMRPC – Community meeting has been set for June 6th at the Ruggles Lane School. At this meeting, CMRPC representatives will discuss their findings with the community and look for recommendations from the community on steps going forward.
- j) Technology
 - No report was given
- k) Ad Hoc Subcommittee
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kevin Nimtz, New Braintree resident, expressed his concerns as to safety in the New Braintree Grade School and questions who is responsible to protect the children in the school. Dr. Marshall explained that we work very closely with all of the police departments in the district towns. All of our principals are trained in our safety protocols and all teachers are aware and trained in our procedures. Mrs. Worthington explained that all exterior doors at the NBGS are locked. Visitors need to be “buzzed in”.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Dr. Allan spoke in regard to his speaker series at UMass Amherst where John King, former Secretary of Education was keynote speaker, and Dr. Marshall sat on the panel. Dr. Allan also read from the School Committee annual report of 1886-1887.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of 2018-2019 School Calendar
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Marsh to accept the proposed calendar for the 2018-2019 school year.
Motion passed by a vote of 8-2-1 with Dr. Allan and Mrs. Chamberlain opposed and Mrs. Thompson abstaining.
- Donation – Mr. Paul Lockwood of Lockwood Remediation Technologies gave a generous donation of \$2,000 to the high school which he is requesting to be spend on the 2019 high school musical production.
- Strength and Conditioning Coach, Nick Adams:
Coach Adams was introduced by Athletic Director Mark Miville. Coach Adams wanted to update the Committee on the success of the Fitness Center at the high school. He supplied a comparison of months with community served – as of Jan 26 there were 18 male & 18 female members; March 23 there were 31 male & 56 female members; April 2 there were 36 male & 33 female members. A year round strength and conditioning fitness program is offered for all grades 7 – 12. When the fitness center opened in FY13/14, 3,627 members were served over the course of the year. For FY17/18, 8,338 members have been served.
The goal with students is to create healthy behaviors. Coach Adams has received a grant for “Free Fruit Fridays” as well as a “Team BuildR” Program, which is a strength and conditioning program with an online component.
Quabbin is one of the few schools in the state to offer a strength and conditioning program.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary