



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, June 26, 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
	David Correia	Member, Hubbardston
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

**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; Gregory Devine; Clare Barnes; Jill Peterson; Julie Vincentsen; Evan Barringer, QRTA President;
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette
Townpeople/Parents	Jamie Cook; Andrea Letendre; Nikki Hutchinson; Julie Flamand; Jennifer Pollard; Teri LaValley; Grace Madsen; Richard Costigan; Kelley Watts

1. The Chair called the reorganizational portion of the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Nominations for Chair:

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

Mr. Wolanin chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Nominations for Vice Chair:

Mr. Wolanin nominated Mark Brophy as Vice Chair. Dr. Allan seconded the nomination.  
No other nominations were made.

Mr. Brophy was elected Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Appointment of Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary:

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Spier to appoint Dr. Sheila Muir as parliamentarian.

No other nominations were made.

Dr. Sheila Muir was elected Parliamentarian by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Kelly to appoint Ronald Christensen as Treasurer.

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Christensen was elected Treasurer with one abstention by Mr. Spier.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Marsh to appoint Kathleen Bourcier as Assistant Treasurer.

No other nominations were made.

Ms. Bourcier was elected Assistant Treasurer with one abstention by Mr. Spier.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Spier 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.

Mr. Wolanin then welcomed David Correia, newly elected School Committee member from Hubbardston to the board.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the minutes of May 17, 2018.

The motion passed with Mrs. Chamberlain and Mr. Wigler abstaining.

## **3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **a) Superintendent of Schools**

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Marshall reported that she had nothing to report that will not be covered later in the agenda.

### **b) Assistant Superintendent**

- No report was given

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

- Presentation of Warrants - Payroll Warrants 24, 25, 26, 26.1 and 26.2 and AP warrants 29a, 30a, 30b, 31a, 31b, 32a and 32v were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- Director's Report

#### ○ Authorization to Borrow in Anticipation of Fund FY19

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan 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, 2018 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.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs.

Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 14-0-0 (weighted vote 14.05).

○ FY18 Budget Transfer Request

Mrs. Duval discussed budget transfers that need to be made in the amount of \$190,500 as follows: Transfer \$2,877 from Regular Education Instructional Support to cover deficit in Athletics and Student Activities; transfer \$276 from Networking & Telecomm, \$2,822 from Fixed Charges, and \$5,092 from Benefits and transfer \$1,667 to Food and Nutritional Services for negative balances as of 6/26/18, \$6,523 to Tuition for Choice and Charter deficit; transfer \$15,426 from Special Education Transportation & transfer \$15,200 to Special Education District Administration for legal deficit and \$226 to Special Education Technology deficit; Transfer \$150,000 from Special Education Tuition to Facilities to purchase student desks and chairs to facilitate blended learning classrooms in English, Math, Science & Social Studies; transfer \$1,684 from Regular Education Instructional Support to Building Technology to purchase a laser printer for the principal's office; transfer \$15,000 from Regular Education Transportation to School Security for materials needed for ALICE preparation; transfer \$40,500 from Special Education Transportation to Facilities to retrofit the QRMHS sign to a digital display.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to transfer \$190,500 as listed above. 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 \$2,827. A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – 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 of 13-0-1 (weighted vote 13.06).

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 transfers of \$190,500.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 14-0-0 (weighted vote 14.05).

○ FY18 Budget Transfer Request to close the year

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to authorize the Director of Administrative Services to make transfers necessary to close the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

Motion passed unanimously

○ Food Service Update – Mrs. Duval reported that the program will profit \$45,000 this year with \$43,000 from the M/H school. RLS will also show a profit this year, but the remaining elementary schools will be in deficit.

Discussion ensued as to what would happen to the food service program if New Braintree and Oakham went back to respective schools. New Braintree would serve 30 meals per day and Oakham would serve 60 meals per day. With those numbers, the district cannot support staff nor supply food to each school. Suggestion would be to have a satellite program where food is delivered to the high school, meals are prepared and then delivered to OCS & NBGS. Unfortunately, in order to transport in a cooler, the weight that would have to be lifted would be heavier than what is allowed in the food service contract. Possibility of a refrigerated truck

was discussed, but that is cost prohibitive. Ultimately, the district would be spending more money for less of a product.

- d) Teacher Advisory Council
  - Mr. Barringer spoke to the many attributes of Dr. Marshall and thanked her for her many years of service to the district. The QRTA will provide a scholarship in Dr. Marshall's name for a student in the class of 2019 who is going into education.
- e) Student Advisory Council
  - Although no student representative attended, Mr. Devine did report that the new attendance policy instituted at the beginning of the school year did show some improvements in attendance.

#### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) Administrative Review
  - No report was given
- b) Audit
  - No report was given
- c) Budget
  - Mr. Wigler reported that the budget was approved in all 5 towns with an overall increase of 1.95% over last year. Mr. Wigler publicly thanked Mrs. Duval for all of her hard work.
- d) Central Office
  - Update on Plan for Success – There is an administrative meeting coming up before the school year begins. The Plan should be completed by late August, early September.
- e) Collective Bargaining
  - No report was given
- f) Plant and facilities
  - No report was given
- g) Policy & Review
  - Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to take the following policies off the table: Sections D, E, G, H, I and J will be removed from the table.  
Motion passed unanimously.
- h) Special Education
  - Special education met and discussed the different programs. Center of Hope is looking at New Braintree. Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Deschamps visited the Center of Hope as well as the Life Skills Program at the high school. Mrs. Thompson was the one who had initially suggested discussing a program for our students who are aging out of special education. The subcommittee discussed ongoing concerns at Stetson and the increased legal fees.
- i) QEMP
  - Update on CMRPC – Community meeting was held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at RLS with a very good turnout. CMRPC reported that they received 800 responses to their survey and have spoken personally to over 100 residents and business owners. At the meeting they discussed school strategies, building use and reuse, and regionalization of services. The final report will be distributed as a draft to the subcommittee. It is important that the work that has been done on this continues after the final report. This venture has opened dialogues and created relationships.
- j) Technology
  - No report was given
- k) Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - No report was given

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Consideration of varied building school use strategies for New Braintree Grade School  
Dr. Marshall reported that there has been discussion amongst administration in regard moving all students K – 6 to the Oakham Center School for the upcoming school year. It is much more cost effective to keep students together in one location, and New Braintree is not quite big enough to house all of the students. The district would continue to operate the school as a school, although a nearly empty one.

If all K – 6 students move to OCS, the district would then move the transitional program of 2 – 3 students with their job coach to NBGS and continue outreach with the Center of Hope and, possibly, FLLAC. FLLAC is currently looking for 17,000 square feet for their program but, due to proximity, NBGS may not be suitable. Center of Hope is not quite ready to move and, if an adult program were to move here for COH, it may not happen until sometime in 2019. The district would also reach out to the SWC Collaborative to see if they are interested in space in this area.

The administration is recommending that all student in grade K – 6 move to Oakham Center School, move transitional program to NBGS, and spend the year actively pursuing opportunities such as COH, FLLAC, and transitional program that towns can tuition into.

Question was raised as to why we couldn't leave grades K – 2 in New Braintree. Reasons as to why this would not be beneficial include the extra costs associated with providing office staff; a nurse would have to be shared between the schools; specials would be in 5 different schools with teachers traveling between schools; isolation is not necessarily positive. It is the belief of administration that the district can save a sufficient amount of money if the shift is made to OCS. If, after the year, the plan is unsuccessful, the district is no worse off, and would have to make the decision as to which programs will be moved back.

Question was raised as well about moving all NB students back to NB. At this time there are only about a total of 52 students from New Braintree. Educationally, it is not a good idea to move only NB students to NBGS. Classes would need to double up and, again, educationally, this is not a sound decision. There needs to be a commitment that there is an educational program housed in that school. The school cannot be closed without a town meeting vote. It would be an economic burden for the community if the school came off of the district rolls. Dr. Marshall has agreed to assist Dr. Muir in providing support to explore educational avenues for the building.

Mr. Spier stated that the economy in the region is slow. He feels that bringing other services into the district may potentially bring more people into the area and benefit the region as a whole.

Discussion ensued that the district should survey parents and see how they feel about moving the students to OCS for one year.

Dr. Marshall is suggesting that the Committee vote to authorize the Superintendent to survey parents, consult our legal firm, and meet with the New Braintree selectboard.

Discussion again ensued concerning leaving a few grades at NBGS.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to vote to authorize the administration to keep grades K – 1 at NBGS and grades 2 – 6 at OCS for the 2018-2019 school year while the district vigorously and assiduously review, survey, and look for more educational programs to be part of New Braintree.

Motion was defeated by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – no; Mr. Brophy – no; Mr. Kelly – no; Mr. Sarabia – no; Mr. Spier – no; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – no; Mr. Correia – no; Mr. Wigler – no; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – no; Mr. Jean-Francois – no; Chairman Wolanin – no. Motion defeated 3-11-0 (Weighted vote 3.05/11.01)

Mr. Nutter reminded the Committee that the mission is to do what is best for students. Oakham now has the capacity to hold all students. This may give parents a chance to see all perspectives.

Parents of students from NBGS/OCS expressed their opinions on moving all grades to OCS for the school year and all were in agreement that it was an educationally sound decision to do so.

At this time, Tricia Worthington, principal of NBGS/OCS joined the meeting via speaker phone. Mrs. Worthington reported that a parent meeting had been held to discuss configuration of the schools. The parents in attendance overwhelmingly supported moving all students to OCS for the school year. She reported that this year has made it quite obvious that the students belong together. The staff is in full agreement that it is not educationally sound to separate the students.

One big concern is the size of the grade 4 classroom. If all students are moved to OCS, there would be room to have two 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms as well as the possibility of funds for an additional teacher.

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Hansen to authorize administration to pursue utilization of the NBGS with all due diligence to pursue alternative educational opportunities and report back to the Committee by August 1<sup>st</sup>, including a survey of parents currently at NBGS.

Mr. Barringer, QRTA president, stated that, during conversations with staff at NBGS/OCS, the staff stated that they had concerns of safety due to the isolation of the school with only a few classes, and a principal who is not always in the building due to traveling between schools.

Mr. Brophy withdrew his motion and stated a new motion.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Hansen to authorize the administration to move all grades k – 6 to OCS for one year contingent upon a positive survey response from NB and Oakham parents while the district aggressively pursues alternative educational opportunities for the New Braintree Grade School.

Motion passed by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – no; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Kelly - yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – no; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes. Motion passed 11-3-0 (Weighted vote 11.01/3.05)

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

## **7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

- None

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Presentation by students on their student athlete exchange trip to Germany – Liz Blake presented a powerpoint of some highlights of the trip to Berlin. One highlight of the trip was their visit to a Syrian refugee camp where they were the first American group to be let in.
- Request for German student athlete exchange trip – April 2019. Liz Blake requested School Committee approval for another trip to Berlin.  
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve a student athlete exchange program with a school from Berlin with the usual provisos.  
Motion passed unanimously
- Approval of NJROTC Calendar for the 2018 – 2019 school year  
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the NJROCT Calendar of Events for the 2018-2019 school year.  
Motion passed unanimously
- Appointment of District Representative to FLLAC Board of Directors  
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to appoint Superintendent Sheila Muir as the Quabbin Regional School District Representative to the FLLAC Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion passed unanimously

- Appointment of District Representative to CAPS Board of Directors  
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to appoint Superintendent Sheila Muir as the Quabbin Regional School District Representative to the CAPS Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 school year.  
Motion passed unanimously.

## 9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- To discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to enter into executive session to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois - yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes.

The Committee will return to open session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 9:40 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to employ Dr. Sheila A. Muir as Superintendent of Schools from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 as outlined in administrative contract.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois - yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to employ Cheryl A. Duval as Director of Administrative Services from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 as outlined in administrative contract.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois - yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to employ Dr. Kristin Campione as Director of Student Services from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 as outlined in administrative contract.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois - yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
School Committee Secretary