



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, February 14, 2019
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
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham (arrived 6:55)
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree (arrived 7:02)
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Kristin Campione; Julie Vincentsen; Tricia Worthington; Shelly St. George; Jill Peterson; Sue Musnicki; Greg Devine; Colleen Mucha; Adam Couturier; Andrew Walsh; Clare Barnes; Mark Miville
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette
Parents/Town Officials	

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to approve the minutes of January 10, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Mr. Spier abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

• Superintendent's Report

- MASC Presentation – Dorothy Presser – Ms. Presser was here today to discuss with the School Committee what the roles and responsibilities of the School Committee are, and to discuss the role of goal setting and monitoring in School Committee work and how to work effectively together.
- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported to the Committee that Shelly Zalneraitis, teacher at OCS and varsity field hockey coach, was recently awarded the Massachusetts Women in

Athletics Distinguished Service Award at the Massachusetts Celebration of Girls and Women in Sports Day at Faneuil Hall on February 1, 2019.

Dr. Muir also reported that the “Day on Hill” with the Rural Schools Association had been rescheduled to Thursday, February 28th due to weather.

Action Plans and Goals of the principals and the Superintendent were placed in all committee member packets this evening. Dr. Muir requested that committee members review and, if they have specific questions, reach out to her.

- Annual Reallocation of weighted votes – According to language in the 2015 Regional Agreement, the School Committee needs to take an annual vote to reallocate the voting weight of each member. This weight is based upon the annual census of the district Town Clerks. Regional agreement states on or before October 1st. Ideally, would want the vote done in January before the budget season begins.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to approve the reallocation of weighted votes as of February 14, 2019.

Motion passed by a vote of 11-1-1 with Mr. Sarabia opposed and Mr. Spier abstaining.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director’s Report – Ms. Duval spoke in regard to three documents that were in the Committee packets this evening and how they may affect the upcoming FY20 budget. Copies of these will be sent to the district selectboards.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- No report was given.

d) Student Advisory Council

- Elementary – no report was given
- MS/HS – Colin Brown and Mabel Matheson reported that there was a MS talent show where students and faculty performed. On January 28th, a vaping presentation was given to the 6th grade students as well as middle school and high school students. This presentation went over the dangers of vaping and the importance of making good choices. January 24th was scheduling night for the 8th grade with guidance discussing the different courses available as well as graduation requirements. Captain Brennock and NJROTC cadets presented to the 8th grade to discuss their program for those incoming freshmen who may be interested in signing up for NJROTC

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- FY20 Budget Update – Mr. Wigler reported that with the funding received in state aid and the amount paid out for charter school tuition, the District netted \$87. Regional school transportation increased by \$83,469, however, our new contract comes in at \$155,000 higher for the coming year, therefore, our revenue is in the negative by \$71,059. Discussion ensued in regard to the FY20 preliminary budget which comes in at an increase of 5.84% or \$1,997,295. Dr. Muir and Ms. Duval have been working on ways to reduce the budget and have come up with a plan to cut the preliminary budget by using unencumbered funds to purchase assets in the FY20 preliminary budget. The District also expects to be able to make another reduction with expected increased funds from the house budget. House revenue will go directly to decreasing assessments. Currently we have \$505,373 in unencumbered funds from Employee Separation Costs (\$73,000), Health Insurance (\$180,000), Unemployment (\$20,000), Workers’ Compensation Insurance (\$2,577), and Retired Teacher’s Health Insurance (\$229,796).

- FY19 Budget Adjustment – 2/3 vote required – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to transfer \$505,373.00 from Appropriation category 5100-5250 Benefits as follows: \$217,049 to line 2110-3200 Instructional Support, \$282,324 to line 4110-4300 Facilities, and \$6,000 to Special Education line 2110-3200 Instructional Support.
Motion passed by a 2/3 weighted roll call vote of 11.97 in favor and 1 opposed as follows:
Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes.
- Discussion then ensued in regard to the possible elimination of athletic fees. Ms. Duval presented the Committee with a breakdown of the cost per player per sport with transportation and coach fees. The Committee also received a copy of a survey of other school districts and their athletic fees, if applicable. Various scenarios were discussed and decision was made to take all of the data collected and put together a proposal for the next budget subcommittee meeting.

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- Beginning tentative talks with Food Service. Expect to report out next month.

f) Plant & Facilities

- No report was given

g) Policy Review/Reform

- Update – Blended Learning, MCAS, Innovation Pathways - Dr. Allan spoke to the presentation made by two teachers who are successfully using blended learning in their classrooms. He also reported that the MCAS scores are being used as data to determine if students are at, below or above grade level. MCAS is embedded in the classroom throughout the year instead of right before the test. Dr. Allan reported on the Innovation Pathways Grant which will allow students to follow two paths; one through an IT certification and one through a tooling certification. The HS has received a preliminary \$10,000 grant and has applied for a \$138,000 implementation grant as well.
- Discussion of retirement timeline – Dr. Allan stated that he has a concern with teachers retiring mid year as he feels this creates a disruption in learning time. He would like to request that if a teacher starts the year, then they finish the year. Discussion ensued in regard to contracts and it was decided to table the discussion until October.
- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to place the following policies on the table for 30 day public review:
 - AC – Non discrimination
 - JB – Equal Educational Opportunities
 - JFBB – School Choice
 - DIA/DIA-R – Student Activity Accounts
 - JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Use by Students Prohibited
 - GBEBD – Online Fundraising and Solicitations – Crowdfunding
 - ILD – Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research
 - JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
 - JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children

h) Special Education

- Update – preschool focus group, district programs, special education anticipated positions for FY20 – The preschool focus group has been meeting on a monthly basis and put together a survey for parents to try to determine their preschool/daycare needs. Unfortunately, the survey did not show much data other than what was already known. The group will continue to look at preschool and the locations where preschool should be held. It was reported that the language based classroom currently has four students and will have two students next year. Currently looking at a behavioral classroom at the elementary level. Two elementary students are currently placed out this year and

could be brought back to an in district program. Hubbardston and Ruggles Lane are looking at the possibility of sharing a special education teacher next year.

- i) QEMP
 - No report was given.
- j) Technology
 - Technology Budget Items – Network, Computer Labs – Networks have been upgraded at all schools. Computer labs have been updated and are in good shape for the next couple of years.
 - MCAS online testing – Early practice tests presented some problems where students were getting locked out. Implemented procedures so this won't happen. Last year only practice tests were done online, but this year all tests will be online with the exception of grade 10 science which will be paper and online.
 - Aspen Parent Portal – Participation rates, expansion – 70% of HS parents are using the portal and 65% of MS parents
 - BYOD – Participation, Incorporation into curriculum – the District has put safeguards in place so that students are good internet citizens. Some teachers incorporate devices into their curriculum, but not all teachers are doing so.
- k) Warrant
 - Mr. Deschamps spoke to the respect he has for Cheryl and her team for the work her department does and the safeguards that are put in place.
 - The warrant subcommittee has met on the following dates and approved these warrants:
 - On December 18th – Payroll warrant #13, Accounts Payable warrants #22A & #22BV
 - On December 28th – Payroll warrant #14, Accounts Payable warrant #23A
 - On January 15th – Payroll warrant #15, Accounts Payable warrants #24B & 25A
 - On January 29th – Payroll warrant #16, Accounts Payable warrants #26BV & 27A
 - On February 12th – Payroll warrant #17, Accounts Payable warrants #27B, 28A, & 28BV

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on possibility of lease of New Braintree Grade School – Dr. Muir reported to the Committee that a letter was sent to the New Braintree Selectboard asking for permission to sublet space in New Braintree Grade School. The lease does not allow the District to sublet without their permission. Dr. Muir attended the January 14th Selectboard meeting hoping for a decision, however, one member was unavailable and the board wanted to wait until his return to make a decision. Dr. Muir then attended the January 28th meeting. The board had some parameters for subletting that they wanted to put into place and said they would do that before the meeting ended that evening. Chair of the Selectboard, Randy Walker, was present this evening, as was board member Joseph Chenevert. Mr. Walker reported that they had a letter ready to send in regard to the lease.
- New Braintree School Closure – The District received a letter from the New Braintree Selectboard stating that the vote to move forward with the school closure was null due to the fact that the Committee did not meet the seven day notification timeline. The District believed that due to the fact that we were waiting clarification of the vote from legal, and that opinion was not received until January 10th, we were within our seven day notification timeline given that the board received notice on Monday, January 14, 2019. The letter received from the Selectboard in regard to the timeline was shared with the District's legal counsel. His legal opinion is that the votes to move forward should be interpreted as weighted votes of the Committee. He offered three options moving forward.
 - Committee could vote to send letter to the Selectboard asking them to waive the seven day requirement.
 - Take another vote to move the process forward
 - Start the entire process over as outlined in the Regional Agreement. The attorney's opinion is that this option would be the "cleanest".

Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to set a meeting to discuss only the closure of the New Braintree Grade School for a vote to move the process forward.

Discussion then ensued in regard to the motion. Dr. Muir cautioned the Committee that, as an example, if a vote was taken this evening, the town would need to be notified by February 21st. The town then has three months before they can proceed, which brings the time to May 21st. The town can then set up a meeting any time after three months, but no longer than six months, which brings the latest time for a vote to August 21st. A timeline for this would be extremely difficult for parents due to the fact that they would not know where their children would be attending school. This was a major concern last year. Dr. Muir is recommending pushing the vote off until next year. By that time, we will know more about the leasing of the building. It is also very difficult for administration to do any sort of planning to start the school year one week later.

Mr. Brophy stated that if we are not able to make changes for the 2019-2020 school year, but we should continue to work with the town. In his opinion, that is the safest, cleanest, and most respectful way to move forward. If the plan is to consolidate, redistrict, etc., we could work with the community.

Dr. Allan suggested waiting a bit for a vote and we may find something suitable and workable for the town and the District.

Mrs. Thompson questioned how the District can just decide to do another vote without going through the process. Mr. Wolanin explained that even though we voted in December, it was an ambiguous vote, and was not actually a true vote until the legal opinion on January 10th.

Mr. Sarabia and Mrs. Chamberlain both believe that starting the process over again is the best way to go. They feel that the meetings took place in November, and voting again now is not the cleanest thing to do.

Dr. Muir stated that in starting the process over again, there may be citizens who were not actively involved back in November and there may be a different audience.

Mr. Wolanin rescinded his motion.

Mr. Spier suggested we send a letter asking if the town will waive the seven day notification requirement.

Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Brophy to start the process over to close the New Braintree Grade School.

Motion was defeated by a weighted roll call vote of 3.94 in favor and 9.03 opposed as follows:

Dr. Allan – no; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – no; Mrs. Chamberlain – no; Mr. Hansen – no; Mr. Wigler – no; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – no; Mr. Jean-Francois – no; Chairman Wolanin – no.

Motion made by Mr. Nutter and seconded by Mr. Hansen to consider legal's second recommendation of conducting a new committee vote.

Motion passed by a weighted roll call vote of 9.88 in favor and 3.08 opposed as follows:

Dr. Allan – no; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – no; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Brophy received a request from a constituent in regard to NJROTC students wearing their uniforms for graduation. Discussion ensued that students who wore something other than their cap and gown would not present a show of unity with the class. In addition, it would open up the door to other groups wishing to wear something else, such as an athletic uniform. Mr. Devine will speak with Captain Brennock and try to come up with a mutually agreeable solution.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval for MSBA Statement of Interest for Hubbardston Center School roof
Having convened in an open meeting on February 14, 2019, 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 15, 2019 for the Hubbardston Center School located at 8 Elm Street, Hubbardston, MA 01452 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, metal and rubber roof on this building has surpassed its useful life and all warranties have expired. The shingles are failing and new leaks keep appearing. The metal roof leaks happen when the screws become loose. The rubber roof is fragile due to age. Over the last few years, snow and ice have caused more damage and leaks. Due to the leaking, we have damaged sheet rock and ceiling tiles; 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 made by Marcelino Sarabia and seconded by William Hansen.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin - yes
- Request for approval for MSBA Statement of Interest for New Braintree Grade School roof
Having convened in an open meeting on February 14, 2019, 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 15, 2019 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 made by Marcelino Sarabia and seconded by Mark Brophy.

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

- Request for approval for MSBA Statement of Interest for Hardwick Elementary School roof & windows
Having convened in an open meeting on February 14, 2019, 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 15, 2019 for the Hardwick Elementary School located at 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville, MA 01031 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 warranties at Hardwick Elementary School have expired. The plywood is buckling in a few areas raising the shingles. Shingles are starting to crack. Ridge vents have to be replaced continually as they are coming off. The window mechanisms to open and close the windows have been continually repaired over the past five years. There is tremendous heat loss around all windows and seals in many windows are broken;
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 made by Marcelino Sarabia and seconded by Mark Brophy.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin - yes
- School calendar 2019-2020 – Mrs. Chamberlain expressed that she is concerned about the number of professional development days and the disruption in learning. It was suggested that the District survey parents on the amount of early release days next year. Mr. Brophy suggested looking at a model of doing away with February and April vacations. Look to put an adhoc subcommittee together to look at different possibilities for the calendar.
Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the 2019-2020 school calendar as presented.
Motion passed by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – no; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – no; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin - yes
- Hockey Cooperative – Parents of some of the hockey cooperative players were in attendance to discuss the fees for the program that they were informed about in January. The cooperative is between four schools and the four regional schools pay \$8,000 for the hockey cooperative. The five students from Quabbin are paying almost \$1,600 per player. The families did understand that the fee they would be paying would be higher than the regular athletic fee, but not the price they were given in January. The students from the other towns are currently paying between \$200 - \$400. The parents are hoping that

the School Committee could find a way to put some funds aside in the FY20 budget year to help alleviate some of the cost per student for the cooperative. The parents had attended the Budget Subcommittee meeting on February 7th, and Mr. Wigler recommended that the parents attend the full committee meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2019 for further discussion.

Motion made by Mr. Nutter and seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain that the Quabbin Regional School District fund the participation the of Quabbin student athletes in the Cooperative Hockey Program in the amount of \$6950 for the 2018-2019 hockey season. This amount shall be funded by the District again for the 2019-20 hockey season, subject to reconsideration by the QRSD School Committee, should the needed funding change. This motion shall expire at the end of the 2019-2020 hockey season and shall not bind the District to further fund the program following that season. Discussion ensued

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to amend the motion to read:

Motion made and seconded that the Quabbin Regional School District fund the participation the of Quabbin student athletes in the Cooperative Hockey Program to a maximum amount of \$6950 for the 2018-2019 hockey season. This amount shall be funded by the District again for the 2019-20 hockey season, subject to reconsideration by the QRSD School Committee, should the needed funding change. This motion shall expire at the end of the 2019-2020 hockey season and shall not bind the District to further fund the program following that season.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Request for approval – Ski Club trip to Mt. Snow, Vermont on Saturday, March 16, 2019
Motion made by Mrs. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve a Ski Club trip to Mt. Snow, Vermont on Saturday, March 16, 2019 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Preapproved – Music trip to NYC to see “The Lion King” on Saturday, April 13, 2019. Due to an approval being required prior to the date of the February 14th meeting, Chairman Wolanin approved this trip with the usual provisos.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary