



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2019
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre (arrived 6:40` p.m.)
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
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick (departed 6:45 p.m.)
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Vice-Chair Mark Brophy in the absence of Chair Lee Wolanin who arrived at 6:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to approve the minutes of February 14, 2019. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Budget Subcommittee report was taken out of order for the purpose of voting on a budget figure to bring to the FY20 Public Hearing.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools
 - Superintendent's Report
 - Superintendent's Report –
- b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report
- c) Teacher Advisory Council
 - No report was given.
- d) Student Advisory Council
 - Elementary – Makenzie Casey and Madeline Scheeler, Hubbardston Center School students reported to the gathering on specials at Hubbardston Center School which include music with chorus and instruments. They also spoke to the STEM program which includes a Makerspace station, lego station and other projects such as egg drop. Part of every day at the HCS is an intervention time with group work in reading and math.
 - MS/HS – Ben Hood, gr. 10 & Cedulie Benoit-Smith, gr. 11, both class presidents reported that they had attended Rural Schools Day on the Hill with Mr. Deschamps, Mr. Nutter, Mr. Devine & Dr. Muir. They felt that they were “preaching to the choir”, and felt that their voices were heard in regard to the inequities in education for rural schools. They reported that Student Government is working on having an all school fundraiser. They reported that the MS QKC recently collected 1,040 pairs of socks which were donated to a homeless shelter. They also collected money from their volleyball tournament for the MS foundation

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
 - No report was given
- b) Audit
 - No report was given
- c) Budget
 - Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Dr. Allan to approve a reduction in the athletic fee structure by one-half (1/2) to \$60.00 for MS sports and \$105.00 for HS sports with no fee for students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals. Any member who currently has a student participating in MS or HS athletics should not vote on the reduction of fees. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 12-0-2 (11.97/2.09):
Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – abstain; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – abstain; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes
 - Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Dr. Allan to approve an FY20 budget figure of \$35,135,804 which represents a 2.81% increase over the FY19 budget to bring to public hearing. The motion passed by a weighted roll call vote of 13.06/1.00
Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes

Mr. Spier left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

- FY20 Public Budget Hearing (7:00 p.m.)
Ms. Duval provided a brief introduction and informed the audience that the purpose of this public hearing is to give everyone an opportunity to provide input relative to the proposed FY20 budget. Ms. Duval reviewed the District's mission, core values and goals included in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Duval reviewed a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation relative to the preliminary FY20 budget.

Following the presentation, the Committee heard testimony (questions and concerns) from town officials in attendance.

- d) Central Office
 - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - Update later in the agenda
- f) Plant & Facilities
 - No report was given
- g) Policy Review/Reform
 - Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to adopt the following policies:
 - 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
 - No report was given.
- i) QEMP
 - Update
- j) Technology
 - No report was given
- k) Warrant
 - Since our last meeting, the warrant subcommittee met and digitally reviewed and approved the following warrants: Payroll warrants # 18 and #19; Accounts payable warrants 29A, 29B, 30A, 30B & 30BV

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on 7 day waiver notice from New Braintree Selectboard – Dr. Muir updated the Committee on the letter that was sent to the Board of Selectmen requesting a waiver of a 7 day notice of the vote as outlined in the Regional Agreement. The request was denied by the Board of Selectmen.
- Possible lease of New Braintree Grade School – Dr. Muir referred to the letter in the Committee members packets in regard to the parameters placed upon leasing the New Braintree Grade School. In order to move forward, an RFP would have to be sent out listing those parameters. Mr. Sarabia asked if we would be able to find an entity who would be willing to follow the parameters that are listed. Dr. Muir is unsure at this point whether the original entity we spoke with would be agreeable to the restrictions of time and space. Members expressed their concerns about the restrictiveness of the parameters set by the Selectboard with time and rooms available for use. They fear that the restrictiveness will prohibit renters from being interested in leasing. Mr. Wolanin suggested that Dr. Muir speak with the Selectboard to see if they can mutually agree on the parameters.
- New Braintree Grade School closure – Discussion ensued that the School Committee will look at having a meeting with just the one topic of a school closure vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Hansen expressed students spoke with him in regard to the student making threats, and students felt that they were not getting good information from teachers. He understood an assembly was held, but felt that it should have happened earlier. Dr. Muir explained that there was never any direct threat to students or staff, but that we will certainly take those concerns under consideration for future.
- Mr. Wolanin would like to see a biweekly article about what goes on at Quabbin as way to let the people who may not have a direct connection to Quabbin know what goes on. Discussion ensued about the possibility of having a HS student write an article once a month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval - Senior class trip to High Meadow Resort in Granby, CT in May, 2019
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to approve the Senior class trip to High Meadow Resort in Granby, CT in May, 2019 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes
- Request for approval – NJROTC (4 cadets) to Norwich University, Norwich, VT on March 29 -31 for a Youth Leadership Conference
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to approve an NJROTC trip (4 cadets) to Norwich University, Norwich, VT on March 29- 31 for a Youth Leadership Conference.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes
- School Choice 2019-2020 – Openings at most grade levels
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to recommend that, in accordance with state law requiring all schools to be open for school choice, the Quabbin Regional School District accept school choice students for the 2019-2020 academic year in grade levels where space is available. The administration will be cautious not to accept a number of choice students that would adversely affect District finances.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – 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

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Sarabia to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining at 9:37 p.m.

The Committee will return to open session

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – 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 meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 9:42 p.m.

10. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT RATIFICATION (2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to ratify the food service contract with a 2.0% COLA increase for FY20 for food service workers at the MS/HS, Hubbardston Center School, New Braintree Grade School, Oakham Center School, Hardwick Elementary School and Ruggles Lane School.

Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 13.11:

Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Sarabia – 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

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary

Minutes approved by the QRSD School Committee on April 25, 2019