



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 12, 2019
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Deb Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Correia	Member, Hubbardston
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick (arrived 6:46)
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

Absent: Mark Brophy, Barre
David Deschamps, Barre
Fred Jean-Francois, Oakham

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Sue Musnicki; Greg Devine; Colleen Mucha; Adam Couturier; Jill Peterson; Andrew Walsh; Kristin Campione; Clare Barnes; Capt. Daniel Brennock; Lt. Kathy Frydel; Evan Barringer, QRTA President;

Press: No press was present at this evening's meeting
Parents/Town Officials Randall Walker, Town of New Braintree Selectboard

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Lee Wolanin.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of July 16, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2-0 with Mr. Correia and Mrs. Thompson abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that school lunch regulations were changed from MS to HS. There is no a difference in caloric content of meals served to MS students vs. HS students. In order to accomplish this, the schedule would have been impacted and the food service staff would have had to

break between the lunches to make different food. If the students all eat lunch together, this alleviates that problem. There are now 3 lunches with mixed MS & HS students.

- Dr. Muir reported that the Facilities Department had worked tirelessly over the summer with routine maintenance and cleaning, as well as the addition of a new phone system and new track. Some projects have gone well, and some have been more challenging.
- The Technology Department was also extremely busy this summer as they rolled out over 630 computers, including over 80 for staff. They also transitioned over to a new email system and transitioned over a million emails.
- The Special Education department has implemented two new substantially separate programs with one at the elementary level and one at the HS level. Both programs are small and starting slowly. Nonviolent crisis intervention training took place over the summer with numerous staff members participating as well as many members of the Barre Police Department.
- Curriculum directors were busy over the summer hiring new staff, planning professional development, and working on curriculum.
- The District hired 31 new employees over the summer.
- All administrators took part in an Administrative Summit over the course of two weeks in the summer and all felt it was very worthwhile.
- The first day of the new year kicked off on August 26th with a meeting where we honored our 20 year and 30 year employees. All employees met together and discussed the Strategic Plan, goals and action plan, and then broke into small groups to put together a model of the Quabbin student. The day ended with an uplifting performance by the students of the Berkshire Hills Music Academy. BHMA has a troupe that performs for groups and gatherings. BHMA uses music to help individuals with intellectual disabilities develop skills for communication, independence, and employment.
- All members of the Committee received a jar of honey from the hives at the high school.
- School Choice enrollment is up by 24 students.
- Budget was approved at town meetings on August 26th by Hardwick and New Braintree.
- Mr. Wolanin, Mr. Brophy, Ms. Duval and Dr. Muir met with the Superintendent and two North Brookfield School Committee members to discuss collaborating, staff sharing, and possible exploration of tuition agreements. There is currently some funding available in the state budget to support regional sharing.
- Dr. Muir distributed an article to all members in regard to bussing for private schools. There is an 83-year old law in Massachusetts that mandates public bussing to transport private school students to St. Aloysius. The District is not required to transport students from any town other than Hardwick.
- The District currently has approximately 40 faculty members and administrators taking part in a Blended Learning Pilot program with the Highlander Institute.
- The Barre Police, Fire & EMS will be conducting an Active Shooter Training Drill at the MS/HS on September 19th. Student volunteers who have signed up for the police cadet program at the high school will be volunteering as well as parents and staff.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report
 - Presentation of warrants - Since our last meeting, the following warrants were approved: Payroll warrants 2, 3, 4, 5 were approved. Accounts Payable warrants 2A, 3B, 4A, 4BV, 5A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 7BV were approved.
 - Auditors spent two days in the district in August. Our balance is \$70,764.00. The budget was approved on August 26, 2019 and new assessment letters were sent out. The HSC roof was approved to fund a feasibility study. Paperwork to start this process has started. Ms. Duval reported that the district has a new meal program with online payment center. This was rolled over in August and did have some glitches, but appears to be up and running fine at this point. The district has gone three months without any net metering credits, so we were over budget on electric. This deficit was made up with other funds in the facilities budget.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, QRTA President, reported that he feels that the Blended Learning Pilot is the right direction for the school district. He feels that if done well, blended learning is wonderful, but if done poorly, harms students. He feels that the district is being proactive by walking before we run and the QRTA feels that moving forward with this is what is in the best interest of the students.

d) Student Advisory Council

- High School: Cedulie Benoit-Smith, senior at the high school, reported that the three combined MS/HS lunches are working out great. The first fire drill of the year went well, especially now that the numbers on the parking lot have been repainted for reporting purposes. There is a new 1-1 Chromebook initiative which is working out well. Cell phones are still being used, but students are being taught to use them with respect. The first day of school with Link Crew working with the freshmen went well. A club fair will take place on Friday which will give students the opportunity to see what clubs are available. Fall sports started up and are in full swing. Football has their first game against Athol tomorrow at home.
- Middle School: Tucker Dawson, grade 8 student at the middle school, also reported that the three combined MS/HS lunches are working out great. Tucker also reported that middle school sports are underway. MS dances begin next week.
- Elementary: Five students from Hubbardston Center School's Garden Club - Ella Nichols, Tess Dunphy, Brynn Dunphy, Molly Gagne, John Tyler – reported on the garden at Hubbardston Center School. Jill Peterson reported that these students had worked in the garden all summer along with a tremendous amount of help from Mrs. Dunphy and Mrs. Gagne. The students reported on the delicious vegetables and beautiful flowers they had grown as well as the insects, snakes and wildlife that has been in the garden. They want to encourage other students to help with the garden, as they feel it has been so much fun to see the garden grow from seed to harvest.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given. Next meeting will take place prior to the next School Committee meeting on October 10, 2019

b) Audit

- No report was given.

c) Budget

- No report was given

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- No report was given

f) Plant & Facilities

- Subcommittee meeting was held this evening. Reported on the wonderful job the facilities team did over the summer and how busy they were with major projects such as the track replacement and the phone system. There were issues with the HS roof from one of the hailstorms. The "chiller" at the HS is acting up. The new phone system is having some communication problems which should be cleared up soon. Next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 17th at 9:00 a.m.

g) Policy Review/Reform

- No report was given. First meeting of the year will be held on October 7, 2019.

h) Special Education

- No report was given.

i) QEMP

- No report was given.

j) Technology

- No report was given.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Possible lease of New Braintree Grade School – Dr. Muir referred to the summary of correspondence in the School Committee packets in regard to the parameters requested for the lease of the New Braintree Grade School. Dr. Muir met with the Selectboard on August 12, 2019 and discussed and confirmed additions to the parameters.

At this time it appears that the district is ready to move forward with the RFP for New Braintree Grade School. Discussion ensued in regard to the timeline of the RFP process and the suggestion of meeting with the Oakham Board of Selectmen to put out an RFP for the Oakham Center School as well.

Motion made by Mr. Sarabia and seconded by Mr. Marsh to allow administration to move forward with the RFP process for lease of New Braintree Grade School.

Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mrs. Thompson stated her opinion that New Braintree and Oakham are slighted on choices for lunch. Other schools get four to five choice but New Briantree and Oakham only get two choices. She also inquired on water filling stations in other schools as well as the fact that other schools have monitor screens to show the food choices in the cafeteria.

Ms. Duval responded by explaining that the district is struggling to maintain a food service program that is self sustaining and does not have to be funded from the general budget. The only program that makes a profit is RLS and the MS/HS. In order to run programs efficiently, changes were made in personnel. Food has to be purchased in bulk quantities, and with only 15 students purchasing lunch, food would have to be thrown away. Dairy items are shipped to Oakham. New Braintree food service drives to Oakham and picks it up. The district is purchasing the lowest quantity of milk for Oakham and New Braintree and still throwing food away. Question was raised about transporting food from one building to another. In order to do so, the purchase of a refrigerated truck would be required. Mrs. Thompson again stated that she would like to see more variety for the students. Mr. Walker, New Braintree selectman asked if students could choose from a menu that was distributed earlier and would that help with menu planning and food waste? Ms. Duval explained that federal laws changed in 2010, and we have to offer choices even if they had picked something else.

Ms. Duval suggested having the Food and Nutritional Services Director attend a future meeting to explain the food service program.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval – NJROTC Calendar of Events for the 2019-2020 School year:
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the NJROTC calendar of events for the 2019-2020 school year with the usual provisos.
The motion passed unanimously.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary

Approved by QRSD School Committee 10-10-2019