



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2020**  
**Educational Support Center**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Deb Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston – arrived 6:38
	Dave Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham - departed 8:15
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick – departed 8:30
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree – arrived 7:02
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

Absent: Geoffrey Spier, David Marsh, David Correia

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Kristin Campione; Gregory Devine; Jill Peterson; Colleen Mucha; Adam Couturier; Tricia Worthington; Kristin Campione; Andrew Walsh
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette;
Town Officials/Residents:	Clare Hendra, Oakham FinCom; Dan Galante; Matthew Urban, Barre Selectman; Susan Rayne, Hubbardston FinCom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of December 12, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-0. Vote was taken prior to Mrs. Chamberlain's and Mrs. Thompson's arrival.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

a) Superintendent of Schools

• Superintendent's Report

- Update on Student Opportunity Act – DESE requires a report to be submitted which needs to be approved by the School Committee. This will be presented at the March meeting.
- Update on Rural Schools Aid Efficiency Plan – We received a letter from the state today which increased our Rural Schools Aid by \$42,000. The District has to submit a plan stating how we are going to increase services to students. The District has an FY20 Priority Action Plan which will be

submitted to the state, and we will continue to report to the state what we are doing. The funds are distributed once the plan is submitted.

- Update on DESE School District Regionalization Grant Fund Code 191 – The District has applied for the Regionalization grant. The District applied for this grant independently, but had tried to originally apply with North Brookfield, as it would be better to study regionalization jointly. An RFP will be put out to hire a company such as MARS as a neutral third party to get a recognized organization to reach out to multiple district about needs, what each district has. There is a very fast turn around on this grant of \$26,500, which has a June 30<sup>th</sup> end date. The District does anticipate more funding, as the state is encouraging district to pursue regionalization.
- Update on Ware Public Schools meeting – Dr. Muir was made aware of an article on MassLive in regard to regionalization in Ware. The article stated that Ware had hired a consulting company to look at regionalizing with neighboring towns, and that Quabbin had not expressed an interest. Dr. Muir felt that it was important to speak to Ware as we had reached out to them in 2017, but did not have record from this year, and learned they were having a public meeting with the results of that study. Our message to Ware was that we are always open to discussion with neighboring districts in regard to sharing services or finding other ways to work together.
- Dr. Muir also reported that the District had received a \$30,000 Project Lead the Way grant which will extend the STEM program in the middle school. This allows us the opportunity close the gap in the MS with a much more hands on program, and will extend the program we have in grades K – 6.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of warrants – Payroll Warrants 13, 14, 15 & 16 and AP warrants 17A, 17BV, 18B, 19A, 20A, 20BV, 21B & 22A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- Ms. Duval reported that in January we had 47 attempts of check fraud. However, the protocols that we have in place were able to stop the fraud.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- No report

d) Student Advisory Council

- MS/HS - There was no report from the MS/HS Student Government.
- Elementary – The Hubbardston Center School 6<sup>th</sup> grade leadership team, consisting of Lizzy Matheson, Adelaide Harmon, Addison Galante, Madeline Stauder, Ryan Hebert and Farrah Wojcik. These students are selected by their peers. They are positive role models for the school and emulate safe, responsible and respectful behavior. The students reported to the committee about events taking place in each grade at HCS and the ways in which the sixth grade students assist the younger students.

#### 4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- Subcommittee met on January 28<sup>th</sup> and were presented with a preliminary budget for FY21 with a marginal increase of 5.3%. Mr. Wigler reviewed the highlights of the presentation and informed the Committee that the presentation was on the website and in their packets. One important funding issue involves the PK tuition which has been used as a funding source. In FY19, DESE informed us that we cannot count those children as resident students and must report as tuitioned in, therefore not on foundation enrollment. By offering PK without a fee, these students can be counted in our foundation enrollment.
- Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Kelly to discontinue PK tuition for the 2020-2021 school year.  
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- The District received \$200,000 - \$260,000 income last year from Medicare reimbursement. In June, 2019, this figure changed dramatically to \$90,000 less. The District can no longer include this as a revenue source and recommend decreasing this line by \$100,000.  
Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Kelly to reduce projected revenue from \$212,000 to \$106,000.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- Subcommittee has met in executive session to discuss strategic bargaining. Met with teachers and have set dates for meetings moving forward. Paraprofessionals are ready to begin as well.

f) Plant and facilities

- A brief subcommittee meeting was held and discussion of the roof studies and Capital Plan was held. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to accept the Capital Plan for FY21. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Update on HCS roof – OPM fee and architectural fee seems to present a problem to the town. Next deadline to submit is May 26<sup>th</sup>, which would mean June 24<sup>th</sup> for MSBA Board meeting. It is recommended that the town not wait. If submitted earlier than the deadline, it will be for the full amount. Town of Hubbardston needs to make this decision.
- Roof studies were done of the roofs needing replacement and/or repair. NBGS has 5 or more years in the life of the roof. Recommendation is that within the next 5 – 10 years to replace. The roof is 23 years old, which does not meet the threshold for MSBA of 25 years. The Hardwick roof is 20 years old and should have 10 years or more of useful life remaining. However, the windows do need to be replaced but, again, this does not meet the minimum requirement for MSBA. The Town of Hardwick will be made aware of the recommendation of window replacement.

g) Policy & Review

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to remove the following policies from the table:  
JFABD, JFABE, JFABF, DK, IMG  
Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to place the following policies on the table for 30 day public review:  
JBB – Educational Equity (Addition to Manual)  
BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee  
IC/ICA – School Year/ School Year Calendar  
ID – School Day  
IE – Organization of Instruction  
IGA – Curriculum Development  
IGB – Support Services Programs  
IHAM – Health Education  
IHBEA – English Language Learners  
JCA – Assignment of Students to School  
JEB – Entrance Age  
JF – School Admissions  
JH - Student Absences and Excuses  
JII – Student Complaints and Grievances  
JJA – Student Organizations  
JJH-R – Travel Regulations  
JLCB – Inoculation of Students  
JLCC – Communicable Disease  
JRA – Student Records

## JRD – Student Photographs

The Policy & Review/Reform Subcommittee meeting also had a discussion with Chief Carbone on the partnership between the QRSD and the Barre PD and the School Resource Officer. Therese Salvadore and a student reported on the use of blended learning in their digital design class. Toni Brown brought three elementary students to the subcommittee meeting, and they performed for the gathering. A list was given to all members which highlighted the many wonderful programs available to students in the QRSD.

- h) Special Education
  - No report was given
- i) QEMP
  - No report was given
- j) Technology
  - No report was given. Next meeting 3/12/20

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on lease of New Braintree Grade School – the RFP is currently out and advertised in the Telegram & Gazette and Turley Publications. Mandatory walk-through will take place on March 4, 2020. The RFPs are due on March 25, 2020. The District has posted the RFP on two state websites with no response as yet, and has direct mailed three copies.
- Update on lease of Oakham Center School - Dr. Muir and Ms. Duval are continuing to meet regularly with the Oakham Selectboard for discussion of leasing. They are still unsure as to how they want to move forward. A parent meeting was held at NBGS in regard to the status of the lease project. Parents are very frustrated that the children are not together, and why we are seeking to lease instead of closing. It was suggested that they contact their town officials to express their concerns. Parents had many ideas on the use of the NBGS, and it was explained that the District has no control over the use of the building.

### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

### 7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Dr. Allan reported that the boy's and girls' basketball teams both took the league titles this year and are currently in district play. It was also discussed that hockey had 5 Quabbin players in the co-op with Gardner, and it was nice to see students attending those games as fans.

### 8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for Approval: Out of state trips to Nature's Classroom locations for elementary schools. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve the out of state trips to Nature's Classroom for elementary schools with the usual provisos. Motion passed unanimously.
- Q-Drug Presentation – Kathy Inman and Nehr Jenkins requested approval from the Committee to apply for a \$125,000 five year grant with the Quaboag Hills Substance Abuse Alliance. The grant would have to be matched through donations or volunteer time of in kind services. A vote from the Committee would show leadership support and would strengthen the opportunity to receive the grant. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to support a partner with the Quaboag Hills Substance Abuse Alliance to apply for a Drug Free Communities grant. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
School Committee Secretary