



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 1, 2012**  
**Educational Support Center**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre (arrived 8:30)
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre (arrived 7:37)
	Edward (Ned) Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Steven Labarre	Member, Oakham
	Charles Miller	Member, Barre
	Richard Paula	Member, Barre
	Lee Tavares	Member, Oakham
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston
	Timothy Williams	Member, Hubbardston
	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre (acting Chair until 8:47 p.m. when he relinquished to Mr. Brophy)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. Maureen Marshall	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
Sheila Muir	Assistant Superintendent
District Administrators/Staff	
Town Officials	
Parents/Townspople	
Press	

1. The meeting began at 7:35 p.m. with Mrs. Muir's presentation on QRSD's MCAS performance. Although we did not have a full quorum, this part of the meeting did not require full committee. The actual meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Paula to approve the minutes of October 10, 2012. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-3 with Mr. Miller, Mrs. Thompson, and Dr. Allan abstaining.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Marshall commended Assistant Superintendent Muir as well as the building administrators for their fine work with MCAS.
- Dr. Marshall commended Mr. Ray Dewar, HS Principal with his fine work with Humans vs. Zombies. This event was well organized, well received, and the students behaved well throughout the week.
- The HS will be hosting the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipient Breakfast on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. As a token, for the recipients, the QRTA purchased flash drives for each student.
- Mr. Dewar and his team have selected a student for the MASC Scholars Luncheon to be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at Clark University.

- Dr. Marshall asked the Committee for permission to give the Building Principals administrative permission to consider reorganization within the district. Would like to begin looking at ways to reorganize the schools/grades. Mr. Labarre questioned if this was for all grades or specifically for moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the MS. A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Paula. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Dr. Marshall spoke to the Committee in regard to charging the Central Office Subcommittee with taking the regional agreement to look at what our attorney has recommended. Modifications would come from the committee and all towns would need to agree. Some changes are perfunctory and some major.

b) Assistant Superintendent

- Mrs. Muir presented a PowerPoint presentation on the performance of QRSD's MCAS scores as well as an overview of the changes. (See attached). Discussion ensued in regard to our improvement in ELA performance – currently exceeding state average for student performance. In addition, our dropout rate is down to 1.1% from 4.3% in 2007. Our four year graduation rate has increased from 82.1% in 2007 to 89.1% with our five year graduation rate up from 85.5% to 90.8%.
- We have increased our rigor and expectations across the board. Every student should be prepared to take IB courses and our IB expectations are perfectly aligned with the common core.
- In 2014 there will be implementation of new standards with transition from MCAS to PARCC which is a national assessment. These new assessments are very expensive to implement and are unfunded mandates which are a great expense to the district.

c) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants: Payroll Warrants 9, 10 and AP warrants 10A, 10B & 10CA were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- Director Duval informed the Committee that our Moody's bond rating may drop as a result of not having a budget in a timely fashion.
- We are trying to set up a time in December for the financial advisor from Unibank to present to the Budget Subcommittee, Finance Committees and Selectboards with information on the best way to finance the roof project for the towns.

d) Teacher Advisory Council

- No report was given.

e) Student Advisory Council

- No report was given.

#### 4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given.

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- Report was given on the joint meeting held between the Budget Subcommittee and the Ad Hoc Food Services Committee to discuss cafeteria issues. The Subcommittee is making a recommendation to present a new budget with \$100,000 put back in to cover expenses in the Food Service Department. However, discussion ensued in regard to the fact that if the insurance comes in at a lower rate, we may have a chance to make up the difference in money for the cafeteria. Politically, it may look better to have the efforts in to reduce the budget.
- At this time there are three towns on our insurance plan. If we pull the town employees out who are at higher risk, we may be able to get a reduced rate. Ms. Duval recommends the Committee talk with the towns in regard to picking up their own insurance.
- Mr. Labarre questioned why we are suddenly changing our mind. The subcommittee voted to put the \$100,000 back in to cover healthcare costs for the cafeteria. It was explained that if the committee voted on the recommendation of the subcommittee, then, by law, the towns have to be notified and

they have the opportunity to go back to town meeting. However, the towns do not have the 45 days necessary to call a full town meeting.

- It was decided to table the budget subcommittee recommendation to add the \$100,000 back into the budget at this time.
- d) Central Office
- No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
- No report was given
- f) Plant and facilities
- No Report was given
- g) Policy & Review
- The following policies were reviewed at the Policy Subcommittee meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The policies will be put on the website for 30 days for public comment. They are as follows:
    - i. Policy G - Personnel
- h) Special Education
- No report was given
- i) Technology
- No report was given
- j) Ad Hoc Food Services
- The retirement of the current Dining Service Manager was discussed. Mr. Miller is currently setting up site visits to privatized cafeterias in Pelham/Amherst, Leominster, North Middlesex and Grafton. He will also set up visits for in house cafeterias with farm to school programs at Tantasqua and Chicopee. Mr. Miller made a motion for QRSD to develop an RFP for food management services timely with the start of of the 2013/2014 school year. Motion seconded by Lee Wolanin. Motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1 with Mr. Wigler abstaining. Mr. Wigler pointed out that the new regulations may be why kids are not eating, not necessarily the food itself.

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- No unfinished business.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No one addressed the Committee.

## **7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

- Mr. Wigler handed out literature in regard to labor market trends in the Central Massachusetts region.
- All School Committee members are invited to the NJROTC inspection to be held on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Brophy spoke in regard to Mint Green Planet, a clothing recycling company out of Worcester. He has invited them to attend our December meeting to present to the Committee.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussion ensued in regard to the Ruggles Lane Roof & Window Replacement Project. Need to vote this evening on the motion to authorize \$3,200,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of replacing the roof and windows at the Ruggles Lane School. The town of Barre will be holding a special town meeting on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> to see if the town will vote to fund the project. The state has agreed to reimburse the town 57.74% of the costs. The MSBA has agreed to fund \$1,691,265 of the total.
- Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin that the Quabbin Regional School District hereby authorizes the amount of \$3,200,000 for the purpose of paying costs of replacing the roof, windows installed in the 1950s and any related appurtenances, and for the payment of all other associated costs (collectively, referred to as the "Project"), at the Ruggles Lane School, located at 105 Ruggles Lane, Barre, Massachusetts 01005, for which the proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the

required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Ruggles Lane Accelerated Repair Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d), of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 57.74% of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. In addition, I move that within seven (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns of this District as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized, as required by the District Agreement and by Chapter 71, Section 16(d), of the General Laws.

- A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Miller – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Paula – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mr. Williams – yes; Mrs. Thompson –yes; Mr. Labarre – yes; Mr. Tavares – yes . The motion passed unanimously.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bennett  
Secretary