



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 10, 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
	David Correia	Member, Hubbardston
	Dave Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree (arrived 6:53)
	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
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette
Parents/Town Officials	

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to approve the minutes of December 13, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

• Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Muir notified the Committee that the high school has the opportunity to partner with a high school in Dubai that is trying to "Americanize" their curriculum. They currently have an enrollment of 3,200 students. They have chosen a school in Massachusetts due to the high quality of education.
- Dr. Muir reported that the District has been awarded a \$10,000 Innovation Pathway Planning Grant which will be used for developing an IT pathway for students as well as an advanced manufacturing pathway.
- Dr. Muir attended a recent Rural Schools meeting. They are in the planning stages of a "Day on the Hill" where representatives from rural schools, students, administrators, teachers, school

committee members and town officials will attend and speak to the challenges that rural schools have due to the funding formula. The MTA, AFT, MASC, Principal's Association, and MASS have all joined forces for this cause. Tom Scott, Executive Director of MASS spoke to the Rural Schools Commission and expressed that he feels very confident that a lawsuit would go forward.

- After the December 13, 2018 meeting vote on the closing of New Braintree Grade School, it was immediately questioned whether the vote should be majority 2/3 or weighted 2/3, because the language in the Regional Agreement was not clear. The vote taken at that time was a majority 11-4, but a weighted 9.86/4.03. On Friday, December 14, 2018, Dr. Muir contacted our attorney for clarification. Since that time, the attorney has been reviewing the Regional Agreement in an effort to determine which is correct. Approximately five minutes before the beginning of the January 10, 2019 meeting, legal counsel contacted Superintendent Muir questioning the votes taken on December 13th. It was determined that there was a malfunction of the spreadsheet that was used to calculate the December 13, 2018 vote. The majority vote was correct at 11 – 4, but the weighted vote should have been 10.97/4.03. The weight of one Hubbardston member was counted only in the majority affirmative vote, not the weighted affirmative vote. With this information being brought to light, the question was raised as to whether or not the seven day notice to the Town Clerk would apply. Chairman Wolanin stated that the vote on December 13th was ambiguous, and that the notice to the Town Clerk should go forward within the seven day window from January 10, 2019. Dr. Muir will consult with the attorney for clarification and, if advised to proceed with notification, will do so.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report – Ms. Duval stated that she would like to dispel misinformation on food service at Oakham and New Braintree. The staff prepares food at each school, and only transports milk, produce, yogurt which cannot be delivered to the schools due to the low quantity needed. All entrees and hot lunches are cooked on site. Currently looking for a combination oven for OCS which would steam, grill and air fry. This would improve the quality of the food and increase cooking time.
- Oil Bid Update – The first bid was thrown out and the second bid opening took place on January 3, 2019 at an increase of 5 cents/gallon.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, QRTA President, asked for the School Committee's support in a model resolution in support of full funding for our public schools with the MTA. The MTA is attempting to gather support of schools to put the heat on Boston and support continued legal action against the Commonwealth. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to authorize the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee to urge the legislature to approve and fully fund a new foundation budget formula by May 1, 2019. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Student Advisory Council

- MS/HS – Thomas Doyle, a sophomore and member of Student Government, reported on events upcoming at the middle/high school. HS Yearbook is currently planning Spirit Week for the week of February 4th which will culminate with a Student Government sponsored semi-formal Snowball on February 9th. There is an increase in school pride and spirit with more students attending events.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- First budget subcommittee meeting was held tonight with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 7th. Discussion included declining enrollment. One item discussed was the possibility of

eliminating athletic fees with which the subcommittee appeared to be in agreement with. FTE requests for the coming year were discussed. Dr. Muir and Ms. Duval will be meeting with principals again at the end of the month to talk about cuts. At this time, the total budget comes in at an increase of 5.84%. This increase would represent double digit assessments for the member towns. Ms. Duval discussed the timeline of the budget process – Governor’s Budget released on 1/23 followed by DESE report a few days later. Next will be DOR release of cherry sheets, estimated regional transportation, school choice and assessments. With that information the District will go to the March public hearing. Next will be the House budget in April and the Senate Budget in June.

- d) Central Office
 - Strategic Plan Update – Plan was voted and accepted at the December meeting. Will work on benchmarks for next meeting.
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - Meeting in February to begin food service negotiations.
- f) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given.
- g) Policy & Review
 - No report was given. Next meeting Monday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m.
- h) Special Education
 - No report was given.
- i) QEMP
 - No report was given.
- j) Technology
 - No report was given. Next meeting Thursday, February 14th at 5:30 p.m.
- k) Warrant
 - Warrant subcommittee meets twice a month. Warrants approved by the subcommittee will be presented at the next meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on possibility of lease of New Braintree Grade School – The District will move forward to request written approval from the Town of New Braintree for the District to sublease space in the New Braintree Grade School. In order for the district to lease space, we would have to follow the Procurement process. Dr. Muir has communicated with one potential tenant and they are aware that we are moving forward. Dr. Muir will attend Monday evening’s New Braintree Selectboard meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Wolanin expressed that he feels all the district towns need to look at the fact that not all towns need an elementary school. Discussed the fact that it has been five years since the Regional Agreement was done, and he feels it is time to open up discussion about a new Regional Agreement. Maybe it is time to tie student population to which school they are near, based upon population. The District is responsible for lease of the buildings until 2025. Rewriting the Regional Agreement may allow us to move students if necessary without a town vote. Discussion ensued that the towns are struggling financially, and it may be time to bring all the selectboards from the towns together and come up with a 5 year plan with objectives. An updated demographic study is necessary, and it is believed that CMRPC has one that goes out to 2040.
- Dr. Allan spoke about the free clinic for wrestling that is being offered to students in grades 2, 3, & 4. He also spoke in regard to the Alumni Band Concert which drew QRHS alumni musicians from across the country.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Addition of language to MOU for SRO – Chief Carbone has suggested the addition of the following language to the MOU, Section III C, at end of paragraph two as follows: “However, at no time will a shotgun or rifle be locked, secured or stored in the school building”
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to add the additional language as stated above to the MOU for the SRO. Motion passed unanimously.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary