



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Tuesday, June 6, 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
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	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	Sue Musnicki; Gregory Devine; Clare Barnes; Jill Peterson; Julie Vincentsen; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Colleen Mucha; Chris Carlson; Andrew Walsh; Evan Barringer, QRTA President; Peter Lewis
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette
Townspople/Parents	New Braintree Selectboard members Joseph Chenevert, Bill Howland, Randy Walker.

1. The Chair called the reorganizational portion of the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Nominations for Chair:

Mrs. Thompson nominated Mrs. Chamberlain as Chair. Mr. Hansen seconded the nomination.
Dr. Allan nominated Lee Wolanin as Chair. Mr. Brophy seconded the nomination.
No other nominations were made.
A ballot vote was conducted and Mr. Wolanin was elected Chair by a vote of 10 – 4.

Mr. Wolanin chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Allan nominated the following individuals and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion:

Mr. Brophy as Vice Chair; Dr. Muir as Parliamentarian; Ronald Christensen as Treasurer; Kathleen Bourcier as Assistant Treasurer and Jessica Bennett as Executive Secretary.

Mr. Wolanin nominated Mark Brophy as Vice Chair. Dr. Allan seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Positions of Vice Chair, Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Executive Secretary were appointed by unanimous vote.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 25, 2019 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the minutes of April 25, 2019.

Motion passed by a vote of 12-2-0 with Mr. Hansen and Mr. Wigler abstaining.

- Executive session minutes of March 14, 2019 – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that graduation had gone off beautifully. It was a gorgeous early summer evening, and the graduates were all well behaved. This year started a new tradition of inviting elementary faculty members and administrators to participate in the ceremony, and many were delighted to attend. Dr. Muir recognized Julie Vincentsen who is leaving Ruggles Lane to pursue a principal position in another district. Chris Carlson and Sue Musnicki will be teaming together to lead RLS for the next two year.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report
 - FY19 Budget Transfer Request – a 2/3 vote will be required
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve an FY19 Budget transfer of \$35,000 from 2250 Building Technology to 2451 Classroom Technology – due to change in billing cycle of Aspen Student Information System; transfer of \$125,000 from 4400/4450 Technology Infrastructure and Support to 2451 Classroom Technology due to E-Rate Reimbursement Transfer; \$2,080 from 5260 Fixed Charges to 3400 Food and Nutritional Services to cover bad debt
Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 14.05: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – 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
 - Authorization to Borrow in Anticipation of Fund FY20
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to authorize the Quabbin Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71 § 16(g) as amended by Chapter 13, § 4 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given, for a period of less than one year, in accordance with G. L. Ch. 44 § 17.
Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 14.05: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – 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

- FY19 Budget Transfer Request to close the year
 Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to authorize the Director of Administrative Services to make transfers necessary to close the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget
 Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 14.05: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – 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

- FY20 Budget update – a 2/3 vote may be required. Ms. Duval has reviewed new information that has come in and identified areas of unanticipated savings to the current recommended budget of \$196,688. These savings came from staffing savings from February to current; decision not to move forward with Grade 7 – 10 MYP; GIC retired teacher insurance; decision of some staff who had planned to retire but have decided not to. This \$196,688 savings bring the overall budget from a 2.8% increase to a 2.2% increase over last year’s budget, which represents a 3.94% assessment increase overall. This savings would translate to assessments to the towns as follows: Barre 3.47%; Hardwick 1.07%; Hubbardston 6.97%; New Braintree 6.82% and Oakham 2.86%.
 Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to recommend the new budget number for FY20 of \$34,939,16 which represents a 2.2% overall budget increase, a difference from 2.8%.
 Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 14.05: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – 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

- Food Service update – Ms. Duval reported that within the MA School Purchasing Group, there was only one bidder – Thurston’s. Some items increased by 50%. There is a projected increase of 11-1/2% in food costs, which equals approximately \$32,000. Currently, our profit is \$32,000. There was some discussion on raising lunch prices, however, because this was done last year, it was felt best not to increase again this year.

- One of the capital projects that was discussed when building the budget was for a press box for Alumni Field. The cost of the tower came in over \$100,000. The height of the tower was concerning with the footprint and location. Another possibility was a press box in the bleachers. However, that price came in at over \$140,000 not including concrete, etc. The company came back with a bid for a smaller box of 8’ x 12’ which is approximately \$30,000 less. However, the cost of excavation, concrete, bleachers, etc., will exceed what the Committee voted for. Recommendation from administration at this time is to not proceed at this time, even though the funds are saved in Athletic Revolving Account. This is a major project that will not impact all students in the district.
 Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Allan to postpone the press box construction until next fiscal year.
 Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – 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

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Mr. Barringer recognized Sue Musnicki as she moves from the Middle School to Ruggles Lane. Mr. Barringer commended Mrs. Musnicki on her attitude of "I believe that this is what's best for kids". Mrs. Musnicki has been a strong leader, role model and mentor for many.

d) Student Advisory Council

- Cole Wilson, student at Hardwick Elementary School reported on the happenings at the elementary schools in the district. Sixth grade students from Hardwick, Oakham & New Braintree attended Nature's Classroom at Camp Jori in Wakefield, RI. Fifth grade students from Ruggles Lane went to Yarmouthport. Many of the other grades in all of the schools have been going on field trips to various locations to culminate and connect the learning that has been ongoing throughout the year. There have been concerts at each of the elementary schools. Band students in grade 4 from across the district had a Showcase Concert at QRHS. All of the 6th grade students will be traveling to the MS for step up day on Friday, June 7th for the opportunity to visit the MS. Many other events will be taking place before the end of the school year in all of the elementary schools.
- Cedulie Benoit-Smith and Jacob Warburton reported for the Middle/High School. They stated that, for the first time, there was a Junior-Senior Prom which was held at the Manor in West Boylston. All those who attended enjoyed the evening. Class elections took place this week. Freshmen elections will take place in the fall. They spoke to the Alternative Learning Assignments that were assigned to make up for the no power day in September. They felt that they all went well and all students handed them in on time. They reported that the spring sports teams were currently participating in or had participated in district play.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- Information on the Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review will be distributed within a few weeks.

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 and facilities

- No information has been received on the SOIs that were submitted for Hubbardston, Hardwick & New Braintree. MSBA meets on June 26th.

g) Policy & Review

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to place policy ADF on the table for 30 days for public review.
Motion passed unanimously.

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) QEMP

- Mr. Deschamps reminded the Committee members about the CMRPC dinner on Thursday, June 13, 2019 which will be held at the Salem Cross Inn. QEMP is the recipient of the Regional Collaboration Award from CMRPC. Next tentative meeting is scheduled for August 6th.

j) Technology

- No report was given

k) Warrant

- Since our last meeting, the Warrant Subcommittee met and digitally approved Payroll warrants 23, 24, and 25 and Accounts Payable Warrants 35B, 36A, 36V, 37A, 38B, 39A, 39B, and 39V.

It was brought to the attention of Ms. Duval that House Bill 271, approved on January 10, 2019, addressed the oversight of the legislature in omitting regional school districts in earlier legislation that allows cities and towns to allow one member of the board of selectmen to sign warrants for the release of checks.

MGL Chapter 71, Section 16A has been amended to read, "The regional school committee may designate any one of its members for the purpose of signing payroll warrants and accounts payable warrant to allow for the release of checks, provided, however, that the member shall make available to the board, at its next meeting, a record of such actions".

Motion made by Mr. Deschamps and seconded by Mr. Kelly that the Warrant Subcommittee be abolished and the School Committee appoint one member, and two alternatives, to sign warrants for the purpose of releasing checks beginning June 7, 2019. Mr. Deschamps was appointed designee with Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Wolanin, and Mr. Kelly as alternates.

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

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Possible lease of New Braintree Grade School – Dr. Muir met with the New Braintree Selectboard and further parameters for the possible lease of the grade school were discussed. Committee members feel that the parameters are still too restrictive and that another meeting with the Selectboard is warranted for discussion. Once the procurement process begins, it takes approximately three months before awarding.
- Closure of New Braintree Grade School – At the beginning of the year, our attorneys advised starting the school closing process over. In March, Chairman Wolanin felt that it was important to take a vote of the Committee again on the closing. It is now June, and if a vote were taken now, nothing would change for the new school year – students are going to New Braintree. Mr. Wolanin feels that the Committee should wait and start the process over again in September. This would give the administration time to discuss the parameters of a lease and the RFP over the summer months. We continue to have declining enrollments, and New Braintree will have only two classrooms for the coming school year. Mr. Wolanin's recommendation would be that the Committee vote in September, follow the necessary timelines outlined in the Regional Agreement, and bring the vote to the town for a decision. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Hansen to postpone further discussion on the New Braintree Grade School closure until September while authorizing Dr. Muir to enter into continued discussions with the New Braintree Selectboard in regard to an RFP for the lease of the New Braintree Grade School. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 13-0-1 (weighted 13.06/1.00): Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Brophy and other administrators and school committee members attended the MARS meeting last week. Also in attendance were Senator Gobi and Jeffrey Riley, Commissioner of Education. Discussion

took place on sparcity aid for rural school districts. Mr. Brophy encouraged the Committee members to voice our concerns about lack of aid to state representatives. He also stated that, as School Committee members, it is our responsibility to speak at town meetings in regard to the budget and budget dilemmas that we face. It is important to advocate together.

- Mr. Hansen commented that he was quite upset by the Chair of the Hubbardston Finance Committee's misstated facts and remarks at the annual town meeting. He felt that she was rude and disrespectful.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval – Envirothon team to hike Mt. Monadnock on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Mt. Monadnock field trip with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously
- Request for approval – QRHS Band trip to perform at J.F.Kennedy Center, Washington DC in March 2020.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Band trip to Washington, DC in March 2020 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Request for approval – Request for German student athlete exchange trip – April vacation 2020.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the German student athlete exchange trip with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Request for approval – Request for two members of yearbook committee to attend Josten's summer workshop at Bryant University on June 25th and June 26th accompanied by Yearbook Advisor Joanne Leblanc.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the yearbook summer workshop at Bryant University with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Appointment of District Representative to FLLAC Board of Directors
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to appoint Superintendent Sheila Muir as the Quabbin Regional School District Representative to the FLLAC Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 school year.
Motion passed unanimously
- Appointment of District Representative to CAPS Board of Directors
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to appoint Superintendent Sheila Muir as the Quabbin Regional School District Representative to the CAPS Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 school year.
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 8:33 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary

Approved by QRSD School Committee 7/16/19