



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	David Correia	Member, Hubbardston
	Dave Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick – departed 6:35
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Geoffrey Spier	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

Absent: Debra Chamberlain

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 13, 2020 - A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of February 13, 2020. Motion passed by a vote of 12-0-2 with Mr. Spier and Mr. Marsh abstaining.
- February 27, 2020 – A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of February 27, 2020. Motion passed by a vote of 11-0-3 with Mr. Spier, Mr. Marsh & Mr. Hansen abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools
 - Superintendent's Report - Dr. Muir reported that she had attended two musical performances this week and commended the musicians and the faculty on the tremendous job and the talent involved.
 - Dr. Muir reported that she, Andrew Walsh, Colleen Mucha, Adam Couturier and a HS faculty member had presented at the MassCue conference on Friday, March 6th. Quabbin was asked to be the keynote speaker at lunch in regard to our continuing work with Blended Learning.
 - Dr. Muir informed the committee that, in light of COVID-19, all field trips and after school activities have been cancelled, as well as any outside group use of the schools. All members of the Committee received a copy of the 2015 Pandemic Plan. At this time, we are following recommendations from DPH, CDC, and the state in dealing with COVID-19.
- b) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of warrants – Payroll Warrants 17 & 18 and AP warrants 23A, 24B, 25B, 26A, & 26B were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- c) Teacher Advisory Council
 - No report
- d) Student Advisory Council
 - MS/HS - Nathan Legare, grade 11 and Emmeline Riendeau, grade 12, both class officers and members of student government, reported on events at the Middle/High School. Nathan is a member of the Drama Club and reported on their recent production which won awards at the drama competition at Westford Academy. Nathan also reported that the band members were extremely disappointed because they
 - Elementary – There was no report from the elementary schools this evening.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
 - No report was given
- b) Audit
 - No report was given
- c) Budget
 - Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Kelly to bring the preliminary budget figure for FY21 of \$36,230,026, which represents a 3.4% increase over the FY20 budget to tonight's Public Hearing. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Mr. Spier – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes.
 - FY21 Public Budget Hearing – Ms. Duval provided a brief introduction and informed the audience that the purpose of this public hearing is to give everyone an opportunity to provide input relative to the proposed FY21 budget. Ms. Duval reviewed the District's mission, core values and goals included in the Strategic Plan. A comprehensive PowerPoint presentation relative to the preliminary FY21 budget was reviewed.
- d) Central Office
 - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - Subcommittee has met in executive session to discuss strategic bargaining. Met with teachers and are continuing to negotiate. Dates are set for future meetings. Paraprofessionals are ready to begin as well.
- f) Plant and facilities
 - Update on HCS roof – Currently in a holding pattern and waiting information from Hubbardston and MSBA.
- g) Policy & Review

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to remove the following policies from the table:
BEDH; JBB; IC/ICA; ID; IE; IGA; IGB; IHAM; IHBEA; JCA; JEB; JF; JH; JI; JJA; JJH-R; JLCB; JLCC; JRA; JRD
Motion by a vote of 12-0-1 with Mr. Spier abstaining

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) QEMP

- No report was given

j) Technology

- Subcommittee met this evening. MCAS is scheduled for March 24 and March 25. Our system has been evaluated by Pearson and we are all set to administer testing from their perspective. The tech department will be checking the infrastructure next week. The tech team is sterilizing keyboards with rags and isopropyl alcohol. If schools have to close, discussion will ensue in regard to sending Chromebooks home. Verizon has the capability of providing free hotspots with a \$40/month fee.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on lease of New Braintree Grade School – The RFP has been cancelled because no one attended the mandatory walk through.
- Update on lease of Oakham Center School - Dr. Muir has continued to attend meeting with the Oakham Selectboard. At their last meeting, they requested more time to consider the lease. Dr. Muir met with them again on 3/9/20, and without their third member there, who was on vacation, they did not want to make any decisions. They are concerned that the revenue the lease would bring in may not be worth the loss of space, seeing Oakham would only receive 12%. They are also concerned about getting the wrong tenant.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Student Opportunity Act Plan – Dr. Muir spoke at last meeting that the School Committee needs to approve the plan by April 1st. The plan is still in draft stages, but represents a confirmation of the continuing work we have been doing with students in line with our Strategic Plan, vision, mission, core values and goals.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy that the Chair approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan when it is complete.
Motion passed unanimously.
- School Choice 2020-2021 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to recommend that, in accordance with state law requiring all schools to be open for school choice, the Quabbin Regional School District accept school choice students for the 2020-2021 academic year in grade levels where space is available. The administration will be cautious not to accept a number of choice students that would adversely affect District finances.
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 8:20 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary