



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Committee Minutes  
Thursday, June 11, 2020  
Educational Support Center**

**This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 2 utilizing Zoom Technology.**

**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
	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

Absent: Fred Jean-Francois, Oakham  
Geoffrey Spier, Hardwick

**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; Shelly St. George; Jill Peterson; Tricia Worthington; Sue Musnicki; Chris Carlson; Janet Hicks; Keri Dubois-Gould; Evan Barringer; Jill Langlois; Lisa Topper; Lisa Payne
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette;
Town Officials/Residents:	Susan Rayne, Hubbardston FinCom; Dan Galante, Hubbardston Selectboard; Ryan McLane, Hubbardston Town Administrator; other parents and community members not identifiable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- May 5, 2020 - A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the minutes of May 5, 2020. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote

### 3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

#### a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report - Dr. Muir reported that Bacalaureate and Awards Night took place on June 5<sup>th</sup> as a "drive in" format. District staff and district emergency response teams lined the drive coming through Central to welcome the seniors and their families. Graduation is currently scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup>, and we are awaiting further guidance on social distancing protocols at that time.
- School Closure & COVID-19 Update - Remote learning has been ongoing, and students are engaged. Teachers and administration have been working incredibly hard to support online learning. A survey had been sent to parents in May in regard to how remote learning was working for students and parents. Many of the concerns that parents presented have since been addressed. Another survey was sent out to parents today. The district is continuing to support families through delivery of paper copies, technology support services, parent support groups and video resources to support student engagement.

#### b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report
  - **FY20 Budget Transfer Request:** In preparation to close the FY20 budget and reserve any remaining budget balance, due mostly to the COVID-19 mandatory closure of schools, the director recommends to the School Committee to reclass all expenditures charged to the School Choice Revolving Account to the appropriate accounts in the General Fund Budget, totaling \$1,390,216.92. This will create a larger than usual reserve in the revolving account that could then be used, without further appropriation, to reduce the FY21 General Fund budget. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve a budget transfer request as follows:
    - Transfer \$254,953 from Special Education 3300 Transportation to Regular Education 3300 Transportation
    - Transfer \$123,525 from 3510-3520 Athletics & Student Activities to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$13,325 from 3600 School Security to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$85,426 from 4110-4300 Facilities to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$56,834 from 5100-5250 Benefits to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$14,747 from 5260 Fixed Charges to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$11,692 from Regular Education 9000 Tuition to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$99,429 from Special Education 2110-3200 to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$48,678 from Special Education 3300 Transportation Services to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$14,688 from Special Education 9000 Tuition to Regular Education 2110-3200 Instructional Support
    - Transfer \$118,886 from 4400/4450 Technology & Infrastructure Maintenance & Support due to E-Rate reimbursement to 2110-3200 Regular Education Instructional support for hardware, software and licensing purchases
    - Transfer \$2,610 from Special Education 1435 Legal to Special Education 1450 Admin Technology & Support to cover over-expenditure of account

Transfer \$5,000 from 5100-5250 Benefits to 3400 Food & Nutritional Services to cover negative school meals balances

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call weighted vote of 13.14: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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;

- **FY20 Budget Transfer request to close FY20:** Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to authorize the director to make transfers necessary to close the Fiscal Year 2020. The motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 13.14: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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;
- **Authorization to Borrow in Anticipation of Funds FY21:** Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan 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, 2020 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. The motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 13.14: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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;

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll Warrants 23, 24, & 25 and AP warrants 32, 33V, 34, 35V, 36 & 36R were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.
- Food Service Update – Currently still distributing at three locations in the district. There has been some reduction in meals since families have received checks and EBT cards. At last meeting there was discussion about distribution of dairy boxes. Although that did not come to fruition, the district has been distributing produce boxes which families are enjoying. At this time, we are able to distribute from Hardwick for summer feeding, but will need a waiver from the USDA if we want to offer summer meals at more than Hardwick Elementary. Mr. Kelly extended his thanks to our Food Service Department.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, President of the QRTA, expressed that the next 18 months would prove to be very challenging as guidance comes in as to what schools will look like in the fall. Mr. Barringer also expressed that, in light of recent events, he feels the district should spend time looking at curriculum and the lack of diversity in the curriculum. He feels that teachers and students need to be taught how to have conversations about diversity, social justice and racism. He also feels the district needs to be comfortable with kickback from parents and community members when they disagree with what and how this is taught in a community that is not diverse.

d) Student Advisory Council

- No report

#### 4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- No report was given
- d) Central Office
  - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
  - The subcommittee met in executive session. Currently still working on contract negotiations. However, with so many unknowns in the budget, it is difficult to work on contracts. Discussion ensued that, according to the QRTA contract, if a reduction in force is to take place, notice is to be given by June 15th. Unfortunately, difficult decisions will have to be made within the next few days. Dr. Muir is optimistic that those who may receive a “pink slip” will be called back once we know state figures and if there is aid for the mandated PPE.  
The district received information from DESE on purchasing PPE for students which is approximately \$490 per student. PPE was just ordered for the first 12 weeks of school at a cost of \$100,000. Almost every school district in the state is in the same position.  
Mr. Kelly inquired if the state has made any decisions in regard to sports. At this time, the MIAA is talking about doing spring sports in the fall due to less contact. Youth sports are allowed to begin. The question is raised as to whether the district can afford to have fall sports. Dr. Muir reiterated that the district may have to make incredible decisions across all aspects of the QRSD. Decisions are all based upon our revenue from the state. At this time, we are in a holding pattern.
- f) Plant and facilities
  - No report was given
- g) Policy & Review
  - No report was given
- h) Special Education
  - Subcommittee met on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Discussed Pandemic Individual Plans. Reviewed the Tiered Monitoring Report in regard to ELL. The report looked at 14 areas of which 11 were fully implemented. The 3 that were not was because they were not all SEI endorsed. Waiting final guidance on Extended School Year.
- i) QEMP
  - No report was given
- j) Technology
  - No report was given

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- FY21 Budget Discussion – All of the district towns have scheduled their annual town meetings. The district is not anticipating the towns recommending the budget figure that was voted on at the Public Hearing. The district administration recognized that the towns would have struggled at that figure under normal circumstances. Unfortunately, the towns do not have any more information than we do at this point. The district expects to be on a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. Normally, regional districts need to report that they will be on a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget by July 1, however, this year, DESE required that information by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

## 7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Nutter recommended looking into the audio in the PDC as the quality is muffled.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Marsh to approve a new charter with name change from FLLAC Educational Collaborative to Keystone Educational Collaborative.  
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote:

Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to appoint Superintendent Sheila Muir as the Quabbin Regional School District Representative to the FLLAC/Keystone Educational Collaborative  
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote:  
Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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
- 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 2020-2021 school year.  
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote:  
Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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
- Request for approval – NJROTC trip to the Southwest, April vacation 2021 (rescheduled from April 2020 due to pandemic)  
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the NJROTC trip to the Southwest for April vacation 2021 with the usual provisos.  
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote:  
Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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
- Modification to SY19/20 School Calendar – Dr. Muir explained that currently, the district’s school year for students ends on June 24<sup>th</sup>, which is day 186. Per the Commissioner of Education, we can end earlier at 185 days, which would be June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Muir is requesting a change to the calendar for students to end on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the faculty and staff participating in professional development on June 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Marsh to approve the change in the school calendar for the 19/20 school year.  
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote:  
Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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
- Academic Eligibility for Fall Athletics – Mr. Devine explained that the MIAA has loosened its Fall Eligibility Requirements due to the closure of schools and the switch to remote learning. Currently, at the conclusion of every trimester, to be eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities for the following trimester, a student must earn a passing grade in every subject. During the pandemic, students are being graded on a credit and no credit basis. Mr. Devine is recommending one of three options for consideration by the QRSD School Committee:
  - Option 1: HS Students – All HS students will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for Fall 2020, regardless of credit/no credit grades from Trimester 3, 2020. MS Students – All middle school students will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for fall 2020, regardless of credit/no credit grades from Trimester 3, 2020 and end of course grades for 2019-2020 school year.
  - Option 2: Implement Original MIAA Rule 58.1: High School students who fail more than one course for Trimester 3 will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities in Trimester 1 of the 2020-2021 school year. Middle school students who receive no credit for more than one course in Trimester 3 or a failing grade for more than one course will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in Trimester 1 of the 2020-2021 school year.
  - Option 3: Current QRSD Academic Eligibility Policy remains in effect.

Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve Fall Eligibility requirements for MS & HS students according to Option 1 stating that all HS students will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for Fall 2020 regardless of credit/no credit grades from Trimester 3, 2020 and all MS students will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for fall 2020, regardless of credit/no credit grades from Trimester 3, 2020 and end of course grades for 2019-2020 school year.

Motion passed by a roll call vote of 12-1-0:

Dr. Allan – no; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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

- Discussion of possible early retirement incentive – Dr. Muir requested authorization from the Committee to explore an early retirement incentive if there is interest and if it would be feasible financially.

Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wigler to authorize administration to explore early retirement incentive if there is interest and if it would be feasible financially.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote:

Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – 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

#### **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