



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, August 13, 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
	Emilly Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Correia	Member, Hubbardston
	Dave Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston (arrived 6:40)

Absent: Dr. Richard Allan, Barre
Fred Jean-Francois, Oakham
David Marsh, Barre

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
District Administrators/Staff	Cheryl Duval; Kristin Campione; Colleen Mucha; Andrew Walsh; Clare Barnes; Shelly St. George; Jill Peterson; Chris Carlson; Keri Dubois-Gould; Evan Barringer; other staff members
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette;
Town Officials/Residents:	Parents and community members not identifiable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 16, 2020 – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Wigler to approve the minutes of July 16, 2020. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- July 30, 2020 – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Wigler to approve the minutes of July 30, 2020. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- August 6, 2020 – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Wigler to approve the minutes of August 6, 2020. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report - Dr. Muir reported that this evening is the 8th grade recognition ceremony. This is being done as a "drive through" diploma distribution.
Dr. Muir reported that the district is very close to having all parents' responses to our school reopening survey. A thank you was extended to the Office Managers and Central Office staff for the phone calls made for followup. At this time, survey responses indicate 68.2% in person in PK – 5 and 17.5% remote for PK – 5. For Grades 6 – 12 responses indicate 74% hybrid and 18% remote.
Today was the last day of the extended school year. This was very challenging to organize as we are just at the beginning of understanding the protocols for health and safety. Dr. Muir and Dr. Campione publicly thanked the staff of the ESY program. Our students benefited greatly from the face to face aspect of the program. There were no cases of COVID reported. The program consisted of 32 in person students, 25 staff members and 36 remote students. Dr. Campione also extended her thanks to the facilities crew who were constantly cleaning and sanitizing high touch surfaces, as well as the nurses who helped facilitate the program.
Dr. Muir reported that she had attended the New Braintree Selectboard meeting to discuss the school reopening plan. She and the Selectboard had a lengthy discussion, and she addressed all of their concerns and questions. They have come to a mutual understanding of each other's perspectives. They did ask for a letter indicating that once the crisis is over, the K & 1 students would return to the New Braintree Grade School.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Ms. Duval reported that Powers & Sullivan, our auditing firm, was in the district this week. Although it is the same firm, we currently have a new auditing team. Accolades were given to Stacey for having information to them immediately when they ask for it. The team was impressed with that. The full report will be given to the Committee in October.
- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll Warrants 2 & 3 and AP warrants 3A, 4B, 4V, and 5A were approved by the warrant subcommittee.
Ms. Duval reported that we continue to serve food from the M/H and HES on Mondays and Thursdays, which will continue through August 27th.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, President of the QRTA, reported that the QRTA and the district continue to have good dialogue in regard to safety precautions with school reopening.

d) Student Advisory Council

- No report

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- Meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Brophy explained to the Committee that part of their obligation as Committee members is to evaluate the Superintendent. Out of 15 committee members, 11 members returned their evaluations.
- Standard 1: Instructional Leadership
 - Indicator – Proficient
 - Comment - Dr. Muir is a proven leader and she continues to emphasize a shared vision for all students and staff to be successful within the teaching and learning environment
- Standard 2: Management & Operations
 - Indicator – Proficient
 - Comment – Dr. Muir demonstrates exceptional leadership in this area. She is very effective in using the human and technical resources at her disposal to manage the environment within the entire school community that ultimately benefits the students

- Comment – Dr. Muir participated in a 2 year mentoring program relating her position as Superintendent of Schools and she is developing a keen understanding to Regional School Budgets and town obligations and truly understands the delicate balance of how not to only develop budgets, but how to work with our member towns to fund the budget, especially during tough budget realities including the present time of COVID-19 pandemic. Although we are on a 1/12th budget, Dr. Muir keeps working tirelessly to keep the district on the right track.
- Standard 3: Family & Community Engagement
 - Indicator – Proficient
 - Comment – Dr. Muir continues to work with all stakeholders/partners to ensure we continue to have an excellent school district for our community, but also develops programs (Academic, Social/Emotional, physical, etc.) that allows us to reach diverse learning styles and differences. She has made a major effort to involve the community in planning, reviewing and recommending what should be the next steps of what QRSD should look like in light of declining enrollment.
- Standard 4: Professional Culture
 - Indicator – Exemplary
 - Comment – Dr. Muir is an exceptional leader; she listens well, adapts where and when necessary and holds her ground for the right reasons – “What is in the best interest for students and teachers/support personnel”. High quality teaching and learning opportunities along with accountability measures must be applied as to ensure successes for our students, and continued teacher development is paramount for our staff to be effective teacher and teacher leaders. QRSD has an effective leader leading us during these unprecedented times.
- Overall Rating: Proficient
- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the report of the Administrative Review Subcommittee and performance standards of the Superintendent of Schools. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- Reconsideration of FY21 Budget – a 2/3 weighted vote will be required.
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to reconsider and amend the FY21 budget by reducing the budget by \$29,484 by removing the capital request and by transferring \$1,000,000 from the Retired Teachers’ Health Insurance account (001.5.90.5250.800.000.06.0) to the School Choice Revolving Account, which closed the fiscal year 202 with a reserve due to the transfer of expenses to the General Fund budget, as authorized by School Committee, to use the excess balance available due to the COVID-19 mandatory school closure.
The FY21 budget, in the amount of \$34,993,542 includes
\$16,704,328 in Chapter 70 Aid,
\$941,749 in Regional School Transportation Reimbursement,
\$46,075 in Charter Reimbursement
And \$607,000 in district revenues and reserves to offset member town assessments including \$427,000 from Excess & Deficiency (E&D); \$10,000 for the OPEB Trust Fund contribution and \$417,000 to reduce member town assessments.
Motion passed by a weighted roll call vote of 11.15/0.95
Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – no; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes.
The town will receive assessment letters tomorrow and will have 45 days to hold a meeting to vote the budget in their town.

d) Central Office

- No report was given

- e) Collective Bargaining
 - Continue to meet and work on impact bargaining.
- f) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given.
- g) Policy & Review
 - Policy EBCFA Face Coverings – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve policy EBCFA Face Coverings as written. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- h) Special Education
 - No report was given
- i) Technology
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Deschamps commended the Chair on his speech at graduation and felt it was very fitting for the current climate.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- None

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary