



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 15, 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
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

Absent: Emily Cartier, Hardwick
Fred Jean-Francois, Oakham
Marcelino Sarabia, Hardwick

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Sue Musnicki; Gregory Devine; Jill Peterson; Kristin Campione; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Colleen Mucha; Adam Couturier; Chris Carlson; Andrew Walsh; Evan Barringer, QRTA President; Keri Dubois-Gould;
Town Officials/Parents	Parents and community members not identifiable on Zoom
Guests	MARS/NESDEC representatives Jay Barry, Steven Hemmen, Mark Abrahams; Sydney Giorgi, grade 10; Camden Dyer, grade 12

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

Nominations for Chair:

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

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Wolanin was elected Chair by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Wolanin chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Nominations for Vice Chair:

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

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Brophy was elected Vice Chair by unanimous roll call vote.

Nominations for Parliamentarian:

Dr. Allan nominated Dr. Muir as Parliamentarian. Mr. Brophy seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Dr. Muir was elected Parliamentarian by unanimous roll call vote.

Nominations for Treasurer:

Mr. Brophy nominated Ronald Christensen as Treasurer. Mr. Deschamps seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Christensen was elected Treasurer by unanimous roll call vote.

Nominations for Assistant Treasurer:

Mr. Brophy nominated Kathleen Bourcier as Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Marsh seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Ms. Bourcier was elected Assistant Treasurer by unanimous roll call vote.

Nominations for Executive Secretary:

Mr. Brophy nominated Jessica Bennett as Executive Secretary to the School Committee. Dr. Allan seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Ms. Bennett was elected Executive Secretary to the School Committee by unanimous roll call vote.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 17, 2020 – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of September 17, 2020.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that the district will be holding a seasonal flu vaccine clinic on Saturday in conjunction with Barre Family Pharmacy.
Dr. Muir also reported that the USDA has approved waivers for Open Site feeding which will start on Monday in the district. Food will be distributed to all children in the district ages 0 – 18. Food will be distributed from the high school on Mondays from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm.
Dr. Muir stated that Mr. Miville reported that athletic competitions have begun, and all is going well. Athletes are happy to be able to be participating in sports. She let the Committee know that passes have been left at Central Office if members would like to attend a game.
A video of Elicia Bray's 4th grade classroom at Hardwick Elementary School was shown. Ms. Bray demonstrated her model of teaching two classrooms at the same time via Google Meet and a camera in the classroom she is in. The students interviewed were very happy to speak to the fact that they feel they get more out of the class with Ms. Bray leading both classrooms, and feel like they are all together.
Dr. Muir reported that Ms. Bray uses her own personal laptop to facilitate this type of learning. Elementary teachers do not have their own laptops and Dr. Muir is hoping the towns will share their CARES Act funding to help the district with technology.

- b) Director of Administrative Services
 - Director’s Report – will address later in the meeting.
 - Presentation of Warrants – Payroll warrants 7 & 8 and Accounts Payable Warrants 10B, 11A, and 12A were approved by the warrant subcommittee.
 - Food Service Update – During the month of July, as an open site feeding all participating children ages 0-18, the Food and Nutritional Services department distributed 15, 200 breakfasts and lunches with an average daily distribution of 674 meals. During the month of August, as an open site feeding all participating children ages 0 – 18, the Food and Nutritional Services department distributed 17,642 breakfasts and lunches with an average daily distribution of 570 meals. While an open site in July & August, food service had a profit of \$38,471. The district is currently operating in the red, and lost \$30,801 in September. This is due to the number of meals being ordered are not being picked up. If this continues, the district budget must supplement for any losses in the food service department.
- c) Teacher Advisory Council
 - Mr. Barringer reported that all was going well with hybrid learning and that they are working with the administration on collective bargaining.
- d) Student Advisory Council
 - Camden Dyer, Grade 12 and Sydney Giorgi, Grade 10 reported that they thought the hybrid model was working well, but felt that improvements could be made. They feel that too much time is spent on the computer and they miss the teacher collaboration and feel they need more time with teachers. It was discussed that they felt they would get more help from teachers if they were taught in person versus online. Some students also do not have sufficient internet to work from home. They also discussed sports, specifically field hockey, and expressed that they are thankful that they can play in spite of the guidelines.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
 - No report was given. Will be meeting in a few weeks.
- b) Audit
 - No report was given. Report is not ready as yet. May be available for December meeting
- c) Budget
 - No report was given
- d) Central Office
 - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - A quick update will be given in executive session. Continue to work with the groups.
- f) Plant and facilities
 - Report – Subcommittee met and discussed air quality. Will sample some of the systems to be sure they are allowing enough air into the building. Discussed the cleaning process across the district buildings. The Subcommittee reviewed the process for “deep cleaning”, and that is what is done on daily basis across the district.
 - HCS Project – Review & Approval of Inter-Municipal Agreement – The school district carries any debt on a school project, and the Committee needs to approve an Intermunicipal Agreement with the town of Hubbardston to take on the bond.
Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Nutter to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Hubbardston for the Hubbardston Roof Project.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- g) Policy & Review

- Policy additions and updates due to COVID-19 were approved on an emergency basis in August with the agreement that they would be placed on the table for full approval in October.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to place the following policies on the table for 30 day public review:
JLCB – Immunization of Students
EBC Supplemental – Creation of a General (Interim) Policy on COVID related issues
EBCFA – Face Coverings
IHBHE – Remote Learning
Amendment of Policy AC – Non Discrimination and Harassment
Rescind ACA & ACAB – replaced by AC

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) Technology

- No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Vote for Reallocation of Budget – 2/3 vote required – Motion made by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to amend the FY21 budget in the amount of \$12,873 in the following line items: 2110-3200 Instructional Support for \$21,129 for the addition of Intervention Tutors for hybrid teaching support; 3510-3520 Athletics & Student activities (\$12,666) for reduction of stipend for strength & conditioning coach for FY21; 4110-4300 Facilities \$140,284 for the addition of 6 custodians for COVID-19 prevention with salaries paid by grant through 12/31/20; 4400/4450 Technology Infrastructure Maintenance & Support (\$2,000) for double travel stipend when transferring function codes; 5100-5200 Benefits (\$133,874) due to actual health insurance increase received, but reduction to retired teachers' health insurance; 2110-3200 Special Education Instructional Support (\$12,873) due to the reduction of Central Office staff.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- MA Association of Regional Schools (MARS) Regionalization Presentation – The district received a small amount of grant funding to look into regionalization. An RFP was put out for Shared Services and Regionalization opportunities, and the district contracted with the MARS consulting group. Discussion ensued with MARS/NESDEC representatives Jay Barry, Steven Hemmen, and Mark Abrahams in regard to the scope of the report which all Committee members received via email.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. The Committee will return to open session.
- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.
Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote and entered into executive session at 8:50 p.m.

The Committee returned to open session at 9:06 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Brophy to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary

TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON
QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

This Intermunicipal Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into under and pursuant to Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws ("Section 4A"), by and between the Town of Hubbardston, Massachusetts (the "Town"), acting by and through its duly elected Board of Selectmen, by vote of said body on _____, 2020 and the Quabbin Regional School District, (the "District"), acting by and through its Regional District School Committee (the "School Committee") by vote duly adopted on _____, 2020. In consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Town and the District hereby agree as follows:

1. **RECITALS.**

a. The Town is generally authorized by the Massachusetts General Laws to finance, acquire land for, construct, originally equip and furnish public buildings.

b. The District was duly established pursuant to Chapter 71, and by an agreement among the Towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree and Oakham, Massachusetts (collectively, the "Member Towns"), (the "District Agreement") to provide education for pupils in grades kindergarten to 12 residing within the Member Towns.

c. Pursuant to Chapter 71, Sections 16(c) and (d), of the General Laws, the District is authorized to construct, reconstruct, add to, remodel, make extraordinary repairs to, equip, organize and operate schools for the benefit of its Member Towns, and to incur indebtedness for these purposes.

d. The District and the Town have determined that there is a need for replacing the roof on the Hubbardston Center School, located at 8 Elm Street in Hubbardston, Massachusetts (the “Project”).

e. The District Agreement provides that the incurring of indebtedness to finance public school facilities within the Member Towns shall be incurred by the District.

f. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”) has advised that the District is the entity legally entitled to receive any school building assistance grants that may be approved on account of the Project.

g. The Town has a more favorable long term credit rating than does the District, and would expect to obtain more favorable interest rates on its bonds and notes, than would the District.

h. In accordance with Section 4A, two or more governmental units may enter into an intermunicipal agreement so as to permit any one of such governmental units to such an agreement to exercise the powers of another other governmental unit that is a party to such an agreement.

2. FINANCING OF THE PROJECT. The District authorizes the Town to act on its behalf and exercise all of its legal powers and duties with respect to the financing and undertaking of the Project and the authorization and issuance of bonds and notes therefor. The Town shall authorize and incur its own general obligation indebtedness in order to finance all capital costs of the Project, which indebtedness shall be issued at such times and in such amounts, as shall be sufficient to meet the cash flow requirements of the Project. The Town shall obtain all necessary professional and other services necessary to carrying out the Project and shall oversee all aspects thereof. All amounts payable on account of principal and interest

on any bonds or notes issued by the Town to finance the Project, shall be paid directly by the Town. The District shall not be liable for the repayment of any costs of the Project or for any debt issued by the Town to finance the costs of the Project. Any and all school building assistance grants paid by the MSBA to the District on account of the Project, pursuant to Chapter 70B of the General Laws, as amended, or pursuant to any other authority, shall be transferred to the Town within three business days of the receipt thereof, thereby reducing, by a like amount, the total borrowing authorized by the Town to pay costs of the Project.

3. TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF BONDS OR NOTES ISSUED BY THE TOWN.

The District recognizes that the bonds or notes of the Town to be issued to finance the costs of the Project are expected to be issued as obligations the interest on which is exempt from federal income taxation. To ensure the ability of the Town to issue its bonds or notes on a tax-exempt basis, the District represents that there are no contracts or other arrangements for the use, operation or management of any component of the Project by any party other than a governmental unit or (ii) any such contracts or other similar arrangements that may be in place have been approved in an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel. Absent an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel, the District will not enter into any contract or other arrangement after the Issue Date for the operation or management of any component of the Project by any party other than a governmental unit.

4. RECORD KEEPING. As required by Section 4A, the Town and the District shall maintain accurate and comprehensive records of services performed, costs incurred and reimbursements and contributions received on account of the Project; shall provide for the performance of regular audits of such records; and shall provide periodic financial statements with respect to Project expenditures.

5. TERM. The term of this Agreement shall be 3 years from the date hereof, or such lesser term as shall be necessary to complete the Project, including the audit/close-out of the Project by the MSBA.

6. AMENDMENTS. Any provision of this Agreement may be amended by an amendment approved by vote, duly adopted, by the Board of Selectmen of the Town and by vote, duly adopted, by the Regional District School Committee. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be valid unless duly authorized as an amendment hereof and duly executed by the Town and the District.

7. GOVERNING LAW. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

8. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts, all of which taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument, and any party hereto may execute this Agreement by signing one or more counterparts.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town by its Board of Selectmen and the District by its Regional District School Committee, each duly authorized, have executed this Agreement under their respective seals as of the ___ day of _____, 2020.

QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

By _____
Chair, Regional District School Committee

(DISTRICT SEAL)

TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON

By _____

Selectmen

(TOWN SEAL)