



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 12, 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
	Emily Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	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, Member Oakham

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
District Administrators/Staff	Cheryl Duval; Kristin Campione; Colleen Mucha; Andrew Walsh; Shelly St. George; Jill Peterson; Tricia Worthington; Sue Musnicki; Chris Carlson; Keri Dubois-Gould; Evan Barringer; Mark Miville;

Press:

Town Officials/Residents:	Greg O'Sullivan, Barre Selectboard member, representing the 5 district towns in the Collective Bargaining process Parents and community members not identifiable on Zoom
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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 15, 2020 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of October 15, 2020. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report - Dr. Muir deferred to Ms. Mucha for a brief description of the virtual Veteran's Day program which was held.
- Dr. Muir reported that the administration is working on a parent survey to be sent out next week.
- Dr. Muir also reported that the October 1st enrollment data has not been certified as yet. We do know that we have an increase in home schooled students and a decline in early childhood classes, such as kindergarten. Overall, we have a small decline in numbers.
- Dr. Muir introduced Mark Miville, Athletic Director, for a brief synopsis of the fall season. Mr. Miville reported that all had gone well with a brief break due to exposure on the Cross Country team and the Field Hockey team from opposing teams. Student athletes are answering their Sway questions and cannot practice or play if they don't check in on Sway. Participation figures – 43 B/G cross country; Golf – 17; B/G Soccer 38 JV & V; Field Hockey JV & V 38.
Winter athletic season is still being discussed and awaiting regulations. Basketball and hockey have been downgraded to moderately high risk with modifications. There will be no wrestling and no cheering this year. Tryouts will not begin until December 14th, and no games until after the first of the year. The season is slated to end February 21st, then Fall II sports will start which include football and rugby. That season will run from February 22nd through April 25th.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll Warrants 9 & 10 and AP warrants 13A, 14B, 14BV, & 15A were approved by the warrant subcommittee.
- Food Service Update – The District became an open site on October 12th with universal free lunch and breakfast to all students. The district has seen an increase over last year of 241 breakfasts, however lunches are down by 322 per day.
Food distribution takes place on Mondays from 4:00 – 6:00. Highest distribution was 5500 breakfasts and lunches in one evening.
Food & Nutritional Services Director, Keri Gould, has been working to procure free food for the district and was able to obtain \$7,000 worth of food for October and \$9,200 for November from the government.
The Committee asked Ms. Duval to extend their thanks to Ms. Gould and the Food Service Department.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, President of the QRTA, reported that our teachers are continuing to fight through exhaustion and stress and are doing a phenomenal job. Mr. Barringer expressed his dismay that Boston seems to be changing the rules in the middle of the game, much like what happened in March and April.

d) Student Advisory Council

- No report

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- Approval of Superintendent's Goals – the subcommittee met today and reviewed the School District and Superintendent Goals for the 2020-2021 school year. The draft goals were presented to the full Committee for review. Mr. O'Sullivan questioned why a transition out of COVID protocols is not included in the goals. It was explained that those are already covered in district goals 3 and 5. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the draft of the Quabbin Regional School District and Superintendent Goals for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
Discussion also ensued in regard to the three administrative contracts that the School Committee approves which expire on June 30, 2021. These include the Superintendent, Director of Student Services

and Director of Administrative Services. Mr. Brophy discussed the possibility of the Chair and Vice Chair negotiating the three contracts and bringing to full committee for a final vote.

Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Kelly to authorize the Chair and the Vice Chair to negotiate the contracts for the Superintendent, Director of Student Services and Director of Administrative Services prior to going to full committee for a vote.

Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

b) Audit

- No report was given. Should be reported on in December. The Auditor is waiting information from Worcester Regional Retirement

c) Budget

- No report was given. Unable to start building budget for next fiscal year until all collective bargaining units have been ratified.

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- Continue to meet and work on impact bargaining with the paraprofessionals, food service, and custodians. Waiting for a date to meet with the secretaries. Will be going into executive session to ratify the QRTA contract and the Office Managers contract.

f) Plant and facilities

- Glen Wojcik, Pioneer Valley Environmental, will start air exchange process on Monday at the Middle/High school. He will also go to the elementary schools.
- The first meeting for the HCS roof project will take place on December 1st when they will be putting out a bid for contractors.

g) Policy & Review

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to put Amendment to Policy DIA, Student Activity Funds, on the table for 30 day public review.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Blended learning was discussed at subcommittee. The district is continuing with the Highlander Institute this school year. This year their work will be with the entire faculty, as well as the pilot teachers from last year. The focus of their work will be on student independence, motivation and engagement.
- Dr. Muir outlined the "Quabbin Equity Imperative". The initial subcommittee consists of Dr. Muir, Colleen Mucha, Adam Couturier, Christopher Carlson and Janet Hicks. This subcommittee will be expanded to include all administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals and tutors. The district will work with a consultant to explore how to insure an equitable educational experience in the district. Mr. Barringer, QTRA President, expressed his desire to work to building better relationships with all students.

h) Special Education

- No report was given. Meeting on November 18th.

i) Technology

- No report was given. Meeting prior to December full committee meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mrs. Thompson questions what will happen on snow days for those students that do not have technology or internet, especially at the elementary level. It was explained that there will be paper based activities available as well as access to teachers. On a remote snow day, teachers will be available to students to answer questions throughout the day.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request to reschedule trip to Galapagos Islands. Mr. Devine is requesting that the Galapagos Islands trip scheduled for April, 2021 be postponed. If postponed, students will get refund for anything paid prior to 12/31/20.

Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to postpone the Galapagos Islands trip to Spring of 2022.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to move into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. The Committee will return to open session.

The committee returned to open session at 9:37 p.m.

10. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH POSSIBLE VOTE

- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to ratify the summary of agreement to the successive contract for the QRTA for the period of 7/1/20 – 6/30/23.
Motion passed by a roll call vote of 11-1-2: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – no; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – abstain; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Nutter – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes;
- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to ratify the summary of agreement to the successive contract for the Office Managers for the period of 7/1/20 – 6/30/23.
Motion passed by a roll call vote of 11-1-2: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Brophy – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – no; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – abstain; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Correia – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Nutter – yes; Chairman Wolanin – yes;

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary