



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 8, 2021
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
	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

Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
District Administrators/Staff	Cheryl Duval; Kristin Campione; Colleen Mucha; Andrew Walsh; Adam Couturier; Gregory Devine; Tricia Worthington; Sue Musnicki; Jill Peterson; Janet Hicks; Chris Carlson; Mark Miville; Evan Barringer; Keri Dubois-Gould; Eleni Marinelli; Shannon Harris; Ashley Cranston;

Press:

Town Officials/Residents:	Clare Hendra, Oakham FinCom; Negr Jenkins, Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group; Maegan Powers; Amy Correia Other parents/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**

- March 15, 2021 – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Nutter to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2021. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- March 16, 2021 – Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2021. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported all students who were hybrid at the MS/HS have returned to full in person classes. Plant and Facilities Department worked the entire weekend prior moving furniture in preparation for the students return. Most classes have been able to maintain 6 ft. distancing, but a few classrooms are closer.
- The Pooled Testing Program began today in all the schools. At this time less than 20% of students and staff are currently enrolled. Registration is ongoing, so we anticipate more families will register as the program moves forward.
- Dr. Muir thanked the Barre Fire, EMS and Board of Health, as well as the Rutland Regional Vaccination Clinic for providing vaccination clinics to our staff, bus drivers and van pool drivers. The first clinic took place on Tuesday, March 16th, and the second clinic will take place tomorrow, April 9th.
- Dr. Muir informed the Committee that the Commissioner may recommend that MCAS graduation requirement may not be needed for this year's Junior class. The district is currently awaiting updated guidance.
- DESE has also recommended that school do not have proms in the upcoming months. Currently, the junior and senior classes are working on a plan for an alternate event for the students.
- Dr. Muir turned the meeting over to Mark Miville, Athletic Director for an athletic update. Mr. Miville reported that the district participated in the ice hockey coop this winter with three participants and a manager. Both boys' and girls' basketball teams had great seasons playing in the pod. The boys went 6-5 and the girls went 11-1. Parents adjusted well to the no spectator protocol and enjoyed the live stream of the games. All students had to participate in the SWAY app for symptom checks before practices and games. This identified any students with symptoms and pulled them out before any issues.

Fall II season is currently underway. Indoor track is taking place outside with 28 girls and 24 boys participating. Parents are able to attend because all events take place outside. Football currently has 34 students participating. Two players are from last year's varsity team. The team has seven seniors, five of whom are new to the team and the sport.

Spring sports will begin in late April with MS sports taking place for the 1st time in over a year, and will include sixth grade students. MS track, baseball and softball practices will begin at 5:00 p.m. and hopefully help parents with scheduling. The MS and HS seasons could potentially go until June 26th for the season.

Wrestling is still being considered by the MIAA, but is currently considered high risk, level II.

Open gym will begin May 5th for boys and May 6th for girls. Symptom checks will need to be done before checking in and logs will have to be kept.

Dr. Muir thanked Mr. Miville, Renee Boucher, and Kim Staiti for their constant communication with the athletic directors in the pods, which really contributed to our success and safety.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll Warrants 19 & 20 and AP Warrants 36A, 37B & 37FQ were approved by the warrant subcommittee.
- Food Service Update – Friday, March 13, 2020 was last normal feeding day. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 the district began providing breakfast and lunch food distribution. From March 17, 2020 to June 2020, we served 101,292 meals. July through August we worked under the USDA summer program, which was the first time for summer meals and served 33,142. We returned to school on September 8, 2020 and through March 16, 2021 have served 242,583 meals.

From March 17, 2020 – March 16, 2021, we have served 377,017 meals.

For comparison, in SY18-19 we served 196,344 breakfast & lunch. As of March 16, 2021, we have served nearly 24% more than all meals served in SY 18-19.

The director has applied for 5 grants for equipment totaling over \$48,000. As of today, those grant awards have not yet been announced.

- Ms. Duval also reviewed the FY21 3rd quarter financial reports for the General Fund Budget, Grants and Revolving Accounts.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Mr. Barringer commented that the more you seen on the news in other districts, makes him all the more proud to represent the QRTA.

d) Student Advisory Council

- Elementary Representatives - Moira Powers and Kaylee Correia, both spoke about being 5th graders at HCS during COVID. They both hope for a better 6th grade year. Both girls commented that it is difficult to hear teachers and classmates with masks on. They also commented on the fact that there is no recess, only mask breaks. They are hoping to bring back Student Council and Student Government and hope to include work on social injustice and the BLM movement.
- Middle/High School Representative - Landen Stradzas is a sophomore at QRHS and is a member of Student Council and Student Government. He commented that he and his classmates are enjoying being back for full in person learning. He did comment that it is hard to get back to actually writing again, not just using a keyboard. Student Government is currently surveying students as to their feelings on Sprit Week and just a general check in. Landen is a full IB Diploma Candidate which will be best for his goals after high school. He feels that AP & IB are similar, but, for him, IB will be his best educational track as he wishes to pursue a degree in psychology at UCLA.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- There has been no meeting since the Public Budget Hearing. Dr. Muir & Ms. Duval reported that they had originally been planning the budget with the learning model we were using, but that has since changed. Students can now be closer together. There should be additional grant revenue for Quabbin. Communities will be receiving revenue as well. Once the state budget is released on April 14th, there may be more answers. There is currently a proposal for additional aid in the form of a reserve fund to address decline in enrollment due to COVID, but we are unaware of the allocation at this time. Assessments are due to the towns on April 30th, therefore a meeting on April 27th will be necessary for a budget vote.

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- The Committee will be going into executive session this evening for discuss the last contract group.

f) Plant and facilities

- No report was given

g) Policy & Review

- No report was given

h) Special Education

- Next meeting May 7, 2021

i) Technology

- No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mrs. Thompson reported that students wrote thank you notes to all of the bus drivers this week, and expressed her appreciation.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- School Choice 2021-2022: Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to recommend that, in accordance with the state law requiring all schools to be open for school choice, the Quabbin Regional School District accept school choice students for the 2021-2022 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 by a roll call vote.
- Q-Drug Free Communities Grant – Nekr Jenkins, Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group (Q-Drug), reported that the district and the Q-Drug Task Force had worked collaboratively last year on a Drug Free Communities Grant. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in the award of the grant, but did receive feedback from the CDC as to where we may have been lacking. Ms. Jenkins is seeking approval from the Committee to collaborate with the district once again in the hope of receiving this five year grant.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a partnership of the district with the Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group (Q-Drug) Task Force to apply for a five year Drug Free Communities Grant.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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 Dr. Allan to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The committee returned to open session at 8:05 p.m.

10. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH POSSIBLE VOTE

- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to ratify the summary of agreement to the successive contract for the Quabbin Regional School District Paraprofessionals Association for the period of 7/1/20 – 6/30/23.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelley to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary