



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 10, 2021
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Emilly Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham (arrived 7:20)
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ABSENT

Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
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ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Sue Musnicki; Gregory Devine; Kristin Campione; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Janet Hicks; Colleen Mucha; Andrew Walsh; Christopher Carlson
Town Officials/Residents	Members not identifiable on Zoom

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

Nominations for Chair:

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

No other nominations were made.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to close nominations.

Motion passed unanimously.

Moved to vote on Chair.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brophy chaired the remainder of the meeting.

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

No other nominations were made.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to close nominations.

Motion passed unanimously.
Moved to vote on Vice Chair.
Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Allan nominated the following individuals and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion:
Dr. Muir as Parliamentarian; Ronald Christensen as Treasurer; Kathleen Bourcier as Assistant Treasurer and Jessica Bennett as Executive Secretary.
No other nominations were made.

Positions of Vice Chair, Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Executive Secretary were appointed by unanimous roll call vote.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 27, 2021 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that graduation had gone off beautifully. It was a gorgeous early summer evening, and the graduates and their families were happy to have graduation in person and on time this year.
Dr. Muir gave a brief overview of the Rural Schools Commission, Chapter 132, Section 22 of the Acts of 2019. Dr. Muir has been appointed to the Commission. The Commission will be studying and making recommendations concerning the long-term fiscal health of rural school districts that are facing or may face declining student enrollment.
Dr. Muir reported that the elevator at NBGS is not functioning and needs a new controller installed which is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$50,000. The district has a temporary occupancy permit for 90 days which began on May 5th. The town will need to put this on their Annual Town Meeting Warrant and then it will have to be sent out for bid.
The district is offering an "Acceleration Academy" for students the week of August 16th for students for whom the district is concerned about academic progression. Extended school year will take place for students with disabilities.
Step up day for the incoming 6th grade is taking place today. Transition time for grades 6 – 9 is being discussed for prior to school opening.
8th grade graduation will take place on Alumni Field on June 15th.
The Alternative Learning Program will graduate three students on June 16th. Three students from this program participated in the Senior graduation on June 4th.
- Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Dr. Allan to accept the report of the Superintendent.
Motion passed unanimously.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report
 - FY21 Budget Transfer Request – a 2/3 vote will be required
Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to authorize the transfer within Special Education, \$8,924 from 2110-3200 Instructional Support to 1450/2250 Admin/Building Technology & Support and to transfer \$97,109 from 4400/4450 Technology Infrastructure Maintenance & Support and transfer \$19,133 to 1450/2250

Admin/Building Technology & Support; \$72,556 to 2110-3200 Instructional Support; and \$5,420 to Special Education Instructional Support to 1450/2250.

Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 11.83: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes

○ FY21 Budget Transfer Request to close the year

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to authorize the Director of Administrative Services to make transfers necessary to close the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 11.83: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes

○ Authorization to Borrow in Anticipation of Funds FY22:

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Wolanin 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, 2021 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. Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 11.83: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll warrants 21, 22, 23, 24, & 25 and AP warrants 38A, 39A, 39B, 40A, 40FQ, 40 FO, 41A, 42A, 43B, 43FR, 43FO, 43FQ, 44A were approved by the warrant subcommittee.
- Food Service Update – The coming school year will provide free breakfast and lunch for all students. The requirements will remain the same as well as the restrictions on outside food. Reimbursement will be at a high summer rate.
From March, 2019 through June 7th, the food service department provided 518,000 meals to the community. The last full year of school the department provided 196,000 meals. The plan is for students to all be in the cafeterias for lunch for the coming school year with breakfast in the classroom. The Director has put together small grants to purchase a van which will be used to deliver meals from a satellite location.
- Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Allan to accept the report of the Director of Administrative Services.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- No report was given

d) Student Advisory Council

- Mrs. Musnicki reported that through a partnership with the town officials and Fidelity Bank, the Barre Library Association applied for a grant to create a flag garden. Ruggles Lane students walked down to

the Barre town common and planted two flags each. Fourth grade teacher Kellie Murphy sang the National Anthem. The Fire and Police led the students from Ruggles Lane to the common and, as they were walking back to RLS, people came out of their houses to wave to the children. It was the first time the entire school community was able to join together in over a year.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
 - Superintendent evaluation will be distributed in the next few weeks for completion by School Committee members
- b) Audit
 - No report was given
- c) Budget
 - Currently in the town meeting phase of approval. In meetings with the towns, the budget seems to have been well received.
- d) Central Office
 - No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
 - No report was given
- f) Plant and facilities
 - No report was given
- g) Policy & Review
 - No report was given
- h) Special Education
 - Subcommittee met and discussed preschools and their locations in each elementary school for the coming year. Also discussed the doubling of capacity of Behavior Support Personnel (BCBA).
- i) Technology
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Chairman Brophy and the remainder of the School Committee commemorated Sue Musnicki on her retirement after 50 years in the district. Mrs. Musnicki spent 48 years at the middle school and 2 years at Ruggles Lane.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion of Application for Virtual School Authorization and discussion of virtual learning options for 2021/2022 school year – a vote may be required. At our last meeting, a vote was taken to pursue the application for a Single District Virtual School. Quabbin was one of 13 schools who filed for this application. However, only resident students may attend, not school choice students. DESE is now providing a different opportunity for virtual learning which would allow school choice students to participate. This would look like our virtual learning that we had this past year and students would be enrolled in the district schools, not a separate virtual learning school. Dr. Muir is recommending that we no longer pursue the Single District Virtual School option and instead pursue a Student Learning Time Waiver (SLT).

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to discontinue the application process for a Single District Virtual School.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to authorize the Superintendent and administration to move forward with the letter of intent to pursue Student Learning Time Waiver.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to authorize the Superintendent to go forward without further School Committee approval if it is necessary.

Motion was defeated by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – no; Mr. Deschamps – no; Mr. Wolanin – no; Mr. Kelly – abstain; Mr. Sarabia – yes; Ms. Cartier – no; Mrs. Chamberlain –yes; Mr. Wigler – no; Mr. Nutter – no; Mr. Jean-Francois – no; Chairman Brophy – no.

- Definition of Equity – a vote may be required

Dr. Muir explained that a team of 22 individuals have been working on the definition of equity in the district. They have participated in a ten hour course with Dr. Kalise Wornum and have spent at least four hours working on the draft definition of equity which reads:

“Quabbin is committed to becoming an equitable school district. This means that:

We empower our greater school community to more deeply understand themselves and confidently share their views in the world; We reflect on, recognize, and celebrate the diversity in our greater school community by honoring cultures, experiences, and individuality in order for every member to feel valued and represented; We design classrooms, curriculum, and supports to ensure that all are included and every person thrives.”

Discussion ensued among the members in regard to the wording of the definition. Administration would like to embark on a new school year with an approved definition with the understanding that draft definition will evolve as a working definition as we move forward.

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Kelly to accept the draft definition of equity as written.

Motion passed by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan- yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps –yes; Mr. Wolanin – no; Mr. Kelly – yes; Mr. Sarabia –yes; Ms. Cartier –yes; Mrs. Chamberlain –yes; Mr. Wigler –yes; Mr. Nutter – no; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Brophy - yes

- Discussion of reinstatement of user fees – a vote may be required

At beginning of the pandemic the Committee had voted to waive School Choice bussing fee of \$100/family/year. Administration is recommending the School Choice bus user fee be reinstated. The Committee had also suspended athletic fees because, at the time, athletics were available on a very limited basis. Recommendation is to continue to suspend athletic fees because, at this time, we have no mechanism for identifying students who are eligible for no fees as free and reduced information is not being collected.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to reinstate the School Choice bus fee of \$100/family/year.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to continue the suspension of athletic fees for the 2021/2022 School year.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Request for approval of 8th grade trip to Washington, DC, April 2022 – a vote may be required

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the 8th grade trip to Washington, DC in April, 2022 with the usual provisos.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Discussion of bonding of principals and office managers/secretaries handling student activity funds – a vote may be required.

In October, the auditor recommended as part of best practices or guidelines that anyone handling funds be bonded. This would be the building principals, office managers/secretaries for a total of 12 people at

approximately \$100/person. At this time, Ms. Duval does not think it is necessary because the district has checks and balances.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- To discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to enter into executive session to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:42 p.m.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to move out of executive session and back to open session to vote on Administrative contracts.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Committee returned to open session at 9:58 p.m.

10. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024

Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Marsh to accept the contract of the Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Marsh to accept the contract of the Director of Administrative Services effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Marsh to accept the contract of the Director of Student Services effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary