



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Tuesday, August 3, 2021
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Emily Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston (arrived 8:24)
	Joanne Cormier	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ABSENT

Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Capt. Dan Brennock; Kristin Campione; Christopher Carlson; Gregory Devine; Anne Doble; Janet Hicks; Colleen Mucha; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Andrew Walsh; Tricia Worthington; Kevin Clark; Keri Gould; Evan Barringer
Town Officials/Residents	Jordan Orcutt; Stephen Dollinger; Sara Bissonnette; Doug Cormier; Rhianna Burke; Other members not identifiable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 10, 2021 – Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2021. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 8-0-2 with Ms. Cormier and Mrs. Thompson abstaining. Mrs. Chamberlain was not present for the vote of the minutes.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir introduced Anne Doble, new Co-Principal at Ruggles Lane School. Dr. Muir also introduced Kevin Clark who joined the district as Assistant Plant & Facilities Manager in May. He is working with Clare Barnes as she transitions into retirement.
- Currently filling a lot of open positions. One of the Strategic Plan Goals is to increase communication and engagement with the community. The district's Academic Coordinator for Innovation Pathways will fill this position on a part time basis. She will work with students for internship opportunities in the fall as well, and will help with a unified communication plan.
- The Rural Schools Commission met at the beginning of July. Decision made to split work into subcommittees with members sitting on one of three subcommittees. Dr. Muir was put onto three subcommittees – Special Education, School Finance & Regionalization and Shared Services. Consideration is being made to include schools with declining enrollment. Legislation is currently pending to extend the deadline for the committee to December 2022.
- Summer programming was discussed. Beginning of summer a MS summer program was held with academics woven in. This also gave MS students a social opportunity. Acceleration Academy will be held week of August 16th. This is a full day program based on academics from the past year. MS program will be for rising 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10th grades with 15 in each grade. Elementary program will be for rising K – 5 students. This will give students a jump start to school based on previous academic performance. The District received a \$50,000 grant for Acceleration Academy. Students with disabilities are in the ESY (Extended School Year) Program at RLS for elementary students and secondary at the high school. Program runs from July 5 to August 13. Masks have been encouraged but not required. There have been 0 cases of COVID thus far.
- Update on 2021-2022 School Year – In June, administration requested committee approval for the administration to approve options to offer remote learning for families that may need or want remote for the fall. Letter was received on July 23rd that Quabbin was not approved for this option. Dr. Muir requested a meeting with Ruth Hirsch and Allison Bagg at DESE to help understand why this was not an option. Dr. Muir and Ms. Mucha met with the, as well as Jacqueline Ganser, Lead for Virtual Learning at DESE. They were basically told that there was a very, very high bar to be met to be approved. Four districts applied and only Cambridge was approved. DESE was hesitant to give specific feedback. If the district applies in the future, we will be more proactive as to where we were successful and where we need to be more successful. At this time, we are unable to offer remote learning to students. Parents might be able to apply for a medical waiver for tutoring under the Home Hospital Tutoring Program.
- The district is expanding their relationships with the CAPS Program. They may be renting space in the Middle/High School with two programs.
- The district originally planned on a more "normal" school year with no masks and no distancing. Last Friday, July 30th, DESE released new recommendations. Dr. Muir presented a brief summary of the new recommendations from DESE and the and federal mandate of all students and staff to wear masks on busses. The presentation included information on pooled testing, Test & Stay program, and contact tracing. More information and guidance is necessary before the administration comes to the School Committee with a complete and comprehensive plan for return to school. This would be presented to the School Committee for consideration later in August.
Mr. Kelly questioned how many staff members were vaccinated and the option of running a clinic. Ms. Cormier agreed and suggested a survey to that effect.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report – Ms. Duval presented three end of year reports to the committee. She reported that the Auditor's will be in on August 9th and will report out in October.
- Food Service Update – Summer feeding started on July 8th. This is available to any children aged 0 – 18. Distribution takes place at the M/H School and Hardwick. The district is also providing door to door service instead of a mobile site.
- Presentation of Warrants

- FY21 – Payroll warrants 26, 26.1, & 27 and AP warrants 45A, 46A, 46B, 46S, 46FR, 46FU, 46FQ, 46FO
 - FY22 – Payroll warrants 1, 2 & 3 and AP warrants 1A, 2A, 3A, 4B, 5A
- c) Teacher Advisory Council – Evan Barringer, QRTA President, expressed his concern that over the next three weeks, lots of decisions will have to be made and many teachers have anxiety about the coming year.
- d) Student Advisory Council – no report was given

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- Mr. Wolanin gave a summary of the results of Dr. Muir’s annual review. Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Kelly to vote an overall level of performance for Superintendent Muir for the 2021 school year as exemplary as identified and defined in Appendix C, End of Cycle Summative Evaluation Report of the Superintendent of School Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- No report was given

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- No report was given

f) Plant and facilities

- Mr. Clark gave the report on behalf of the subcommittee. The roof project at Hubbardston is about half way complete and running mostly on schedule. Project should be at or below budget. The chiller tower project the MS/HS is set to begin on Monday, August 9th and should take about two weeks. The sewer road man hole repairs have been completed. Fire alarm upgrades has been completed at the MS/HS. The New Braintree insulation project was completed, however, it was discovered that there were code issues with the reduction in sprinkler coverage due to the new insulation. This was a Green Communities Grant project that the town of New Braintree had been awarded. The company who performed the work will be in on Friday, 8/5 to review the strategy for rectifying the problem. The New Braintree elevator controller replacement project was awarded to Worcester Elevator. Currently waiting for an expected delivery of the controller and work to be completed. The initial schedule suggested about a 6 week timeline of receiving equipment and completing the project. The Town of Hubbardston is in the bid process for an elevator controller replacement at this time. Summer cleaning is going well with the shortage of staffing that we have. Normally have about 5 more summer custodians than we have this year. Dugout fencing on the HS baseball field is scheduled to be installed next week for player safety. Teachers rooms are currently being put back together to their pre-Covid configurations. Having an issue with Hubbardston boilers clogging up from the fuel which required the boilers be taken off line and then cleaned to get up and running again. The oil tank has been professionally cleaned and the oil in the tank has been removed from the tank. Tank testing has been done for leaks and a sample of the oil in the tank set to a lab to determine the percentage of biodiesel in the fuel. According to the contract with Peterson Oil, the biodiesel content cannot exceed 10%. Lab results indicate 23.4% A meeting with the oil company is in the process of being arranged. It was discovered that there is a possible collapse in the pipe in the pond behind Quabbin. Running natural siphons over the dam wall to lower the height of the pond to get to the inlet to determine the next steps with the engineer. There is no issue with the integrity of the dam and overflow spillway is functioning as it should. Ruggles Lane parking lot project was supposed to start in April. The town had a number on their warrant which was approved, but the bid came in five times higher. This will go back to town meeting in the spring.

- g) Policy & Review
 - No report was given
- h) Special Education
 - No report was given
- i) Technology
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Masking of students was brought to the committee by Jordan Orcutt and Stephen Dollinger who expressed their concerns with masking during the school day. It was explained that the district relies on the advice and expertise from the Boards of Health, our school physician, as well as DPH, DESE and the CDC, and those with expertise in epidemiology. The committee will consider local context and will look at infection rates, cases, etc. in the community.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of NJROTC 2021-2022 Calendar – a vote will be required
Captain Daniel Brennock reviewed the various activities and out of state field trips planned for the upcoming school year. All trips will be contingent on current COVID regulations.
Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the NJROTC Activity Calendar with the usual provisos and coverage for out of state travel.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Reinstatement of Student Parking Fees – a vote will be required
At the May meeting of the committee, fees were reinstated for school choice bussing. However, the reinstate of student parking fees was not brought to the committee.
Motion made Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Kelly to reinstate the student parking fee of \$40 for the coming school year.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- At the request of a retired employee, approval to establish and accept donations for a scholarship in their name.
Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Kelly to establish and accept donations for a scholarship in the name of a retired employee at their family's request.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary