



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 16, 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
	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**

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	Kristin Campione; Christopher Carlson; Gregory Devine; Anne Doble; Janet Hicks; Colleen Mucha; Joe Wyman; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Andrew Walsh; Tricia Worthington; Kevin Clark; Evan Barringer
Town Officials/Residents	Jordan Orcutt; Brandon Girard; Colleen Groner; Liv O'Connor, Marissa O'Connor; Maribel Larange; Doug Cormier; Brian Czabaj; Andrea O'Connor Other members not identifiable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- August 3, 2021 – Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2021. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 11-0-1 with Mr. Deschamps abstaining.
- August 18, 2021 – Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2021. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 11-0-1 with Mr. Deschamps abstaining.

### 3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

#### a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that the district had a successful school opening. The school year began on August 30<sup>th</sup> with two full days of professional development for staff. On the first day, we celebrated ten 20 year employees and five 30 year employees, and welcomed 43 new employees. Students and staff are very happy to be back to school. A virtual open house was held for grades 6, 7, and 8.  
Dr. Muir held three virtual meetings for parents to discuss school opening, and all three had very low participation.
- Currently collecting vaccination data for staff. At this time, we have 144 staff members who have sent a copy of their vaccination card. Some staff members did not think they had to send a copy due to having the vaccination done here in the spring. The vaccination rate for students is unknown at this time. Information shared by Aaron Langlois, Oakham BOH, showed the following rates: Barre – 40% age 12 – 15 & 54% age 16 – 19; Hardwick – 27% age 12 – 15 & 26% age 16 – 19; Hubbardston – 42% age 12 – 15 & 52% age 16 – 19; Oakham – 61% age 12 – 15 and 53% age 16 – 19. No information was available for New Braintree due to their low residence.
- The district sent out a survey to families and staff inquiring about the interest in a COVID-19 initial vaccination, a booster shot and a seasonal flu vaccine. 105 people responded that they need the initial COVID-19 vaccine, 584 need a booster, and 645 need the seasonal flu vaccine.
- Dr. Muir provided information on the pooled testing program, test and stay testing program, and symptomatic testing. The district is currently working with DESE who will assign a Project Coordinator to help with testing.
- Dr. Muir introduced Joseph Wyman, Assistant Director of Teaching, Learning and Support. Mr. Wyman will be focusing on the secondary level and working on Innovation Pathway program.
- Dr. Muir also discussed the options students have if they are home as close contacts. At this time, there are no virtual opportunities per DESE regulations.

#### b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report – Ms. Duval reported that the FY21 Audit report may be delayed due to Worcester Regional Retirement has yet to report actuarial data as it pertains to the QRSD. This data is an important part of the fiscal audit report, and therefore the final audit report and the auditor's exit conference with the school committee may be delayed until the November meeting.
- Food Service Update – For the entire school year, the USDA is fully reimbursing school meals. All students are entitled to one breakfast and one lunch. The USDA also waived the new sodium target for this year, but all other nutritional standards remain. We are seeing a steady increase in meals across the district. The MHS served the most meals so far to date with 136 breakfasts and 580 lunches. Challenges are facing the department with schools requiring more staffing and a lack of interest in substitute positions, as well as food and paper shortages.
- Presentation of Warrants
  - Payroll warrants 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and AP warrants 6A, 7B, 7BV, 7FQ, 7FP, 8A, 9A, 10B were approved by the warrant subcommittee

c) Teacher Advisory Council – Evan Barringer, QRTA President, reported that the year was off to as good a start as expected. He expressed his concern the staff is feeling more anxiety this year than last because no one knows where the virus is going and larger classes are without distancing.

d) Student Advisory Council – Madison Whitney & Ava Frost, both seniors at the M/H reported that the year was off to a good start and everyone is happy to be back and in person. Masks have not been an issue with students with the exception of a very limited group of students. Link Crew orientation for freshmen went very well this year and the freshmen seemed excited to participate. NJROTC orientation provided a good introduction to the incoming NJROTC freshmen cadets. Fall sports are back in full swing with full schedules compared to last year.

### 4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
  - No report was given
- 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
  - Subcommittee met on Tuesday and discussed the Capital Plan and projects. The roof project at Hubbardston is on target to be completed around October 15<sup>th</sup>. The New Braintree elevator controller replacement project is getting ready to start up. The company has the part for the elevator and have another large job they are finishing up before starting work at NBGS. The insulation project is wrapping up, just waiting for the engineering's design review. Dr. Muir publicly thanked Mr. Chenevert, Fire Chief Letendre and the other town officials for their involvement in this project. They worked hard to move this project along as quickly as possible and supporting the requests for air quality testing. The collaboration between the town and the district is much appreciated and was most helpful. The district is currently looking at a timeline for moving students back into the building.
- g) Policy & Review
  - First meeting October 4, 2021
- h) Special Education
  - No report was given
- i) Technology
  - No report was given

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Concerns were raised by parents about the change for children and the social emotional impact on moving them back over to New Braintree. PK, K, & Grade 1 parents met with Dr. Muir, Mrs. Worthington, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Nutter. Thirteen parents representing 13 PK, K & 1 students who also expressed the concerns that were made this evening. Parents are concerned that a move from a school where they are comfortable to a new school would be impactful. Concerns were also raised that we are still in a pandemic and splitting the school community would be an issue with COVID. Mrs. Chamberlain stated that she feels the sooner the children go back to NBGS, the better it will be all around. According to the Regional Agreement, they should go back there. Mrs. Thompson expressed her concerns that this should be made to be a positive experience for the children and show that positivity when discussing the situation. Dr. Muir assured the parents that the children are very safe at NBGS and she would never send them back if she felt they were not in any way.

## **7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

- Mr. Nutter referred to an article about the city of Rehobeth. The Rehobeth Board of Selectmen claims that the contract the school district entered into with Trane was hidden from them by the Dighton-Rehobeth School Committee. Mr. Nutter was happy that the QRSD had not entered into a partnership with Trane when it was discussed a few years ago.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- None

**9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Marsh to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett  
School Committee Secretary