



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 2021
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Robert Bergeron	Member, Hubbardston
	Emilly Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	Debra Chamberlain	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

Joanne Cormier	Member, Hubbardston
Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Kristin Campione; Gregory Devine; Anne Doble; Colleen Mucha; Joe Wyman; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Andrew Walsh; Kevin Clark; Keri Gould; Shannon Harris; Sue Rousseau; Elicia Bray; Lauren Sousa; Jane Cremins; Keri Gould; Stacey Skerry; Tricia Worthington (arrived 8:09)
Town Officials/Residents	Members not identifiable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. Mr. Brophy welcomed Robert Bergeron, newly appointed Hubbardston School Committee member.

Prior to the approval of the minutes from October 14th, Chairman Brophy moved two items of new business up in the agenda due to the fact that there is a change in weighted vote values.

- Review of federal census data impacting School Committee membership – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to remain at 15 total members of the School Committee (5 members Barre; 4 members Hubbardston; 3 members Hardwick; 2 members Oakham and 1 member New Braintree) per the federal census figures.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote

- Review of municipal census data impacting School Committee weighted vote values – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to changed weighted votes (Barre from 1.00 to 1.01; Hardwick from 0.95 to 0.90; Hubbardston from 1.09 to 1.08; New Braintree from 1.00 to 0.99; Oakham from 0.91 to 0.95) per the municipal census data.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 14, 2021 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2021. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 10-0-2 with Mr. Marsh and Mr. Bergeron abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir gave an update on the Rural Schools Commission which she serves on. The subcommittees have completed their work. The next step is to put all the recommendations into a full report with a formal release of the document in March.
- The Annual Inspection for the NJROTC took place today. Captain Alexis Walker from the Newport Naval Base was guest speaker. Dr. Muir commented that the cadets did a wonderful job in their presentation and are exemplary representatives of our school. Dr. Muir publicly thanked Captain Brennock and Lieutenant Frydel for their work with our students.
- The Rutland Vaccination Clinic will be holding a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for ages 5 – 11 in the district on Monday, November 22nd with second shots scheduled for December 13th. In analyzing the district vaccine data as well as the state data for our district, we are nowhere near the 80% vaccination rate required to make masking a school committee decision.
- Dr. Muir also reminded the committee that we need to begin thinking about planning for the Strategic Plan update which will be covered under Administrative Review
- New Positions in the QRSD – Dr. Muir introduced Lauren Sousa, Clinical Family Support Coordinator/District Social Worker Elementary and Jane Cremins, Clinical Coordinator, District Social Worker Secondary, and Family Support. Ms. Sousa's focus is on the elementary schools and Ms. Cremins is on the Middle/High School. Prior to this year, Ms. Cremins was the only social worker in the district. Having Ms. Sousa on board this year has been helpful due to an uptick in referrals. They provide a monthly newsletter with referrals and supports to all families in the district as well as a grief support group and a grandparents raising grandchildren support group.
- Although enrollment figures have not been certified, it appears that the district has an increase of 128 students overall with an increase in PK to 123 students and a decrease in out of district students. Definitive enrollment figures will be presented at the December meeting.

b) Director of Administrative Services –

- Presentation of Warrants - Ms. Duval made corrections to the warrants from August, September and October due to the fact that the distinction between weekly and biweekly was not made. They are as follows:
- Approved on 8/3: FY21: Payroll 26, 26.1, 27 and A/P 45A, 46A, 46B, 46S, 46FR, 46FU, 46 FQ, 46FO
FY22: Payroll, Biweekly 1, 2, 3 – Weekly 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and A/P 1A, 2A, 3A, 4B, 5A
Approved on 9/16: Payroll Biweekly 4, 5, 6 – Weekly 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and A/P 11A, 11B, 11FP, 11FQ, 12A
Approved on 10/14: Payroll Biweekly 7, 8 – Weekly 12, 13, 14, 15 and A/P 11A, 11B, 11FP, 11FQ, 12A
Approved on 11/18: Payroll Biweekly 9, 10 – Weekly 16, 17, 18, 19 and A/P 13A, 14B, 14FQ, 15A
- School Nutrition Update: Ms. Duval reported that our Food Service Director is starting to see supply chain issues with many orders on hold. Currently holding off on bidding on paper. All food and paper products are getting slow.

- c) Teacher Advisory Council – No report was given
- d) Student Advisory Council
 - Elementary - Teachers from Hardwick Elementary School, Elecia Bray, grade 4, and Susan Rousseau, grade 1, presented with their students Maggie Ward, Brynne Kelly, Sawyer Verham, and Hazel Larson. They took the committee through the steps they take from picking a topic to writing a story. The students shared their stories with the committee, and all the members were very impressed!
 - Secondary – Isabella Johnson and James Cofske presented on the various activities taking place at the Middle/High School including prom planning, and the end of fall sports and the start of winter sports.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- Superintendent Goals SY 2021-2022 – a vote will be required
 Dr. Muir presented her proposed goals including her professional practice goals for 2021-2022 to the Administrative Review Subcommittee this evening. Part of those goals include planning for the Strategic Plan. The current plan was approved in January of 2019, and expires in June of 2022. This plan spanned 18+months of a pandemic. We will spend this year in the update process that will bring us out 3 – 5 years.
 Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Dr. Allan to accept Superintendent Goals for the SY2021-2022 as proposed.
 Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

b) Audit

- Review and acceptance of FY21 Audit Report – Craig Peacock, Partner for the Auditing Firm of Powers & Sullivan reviewed the FY21 audit report, financial state and federal report. Mr. Peacock reported that Cheryl Duval and the financial team were audit ready. Mr. Peacock reported that the QRSD Business Office is one of the strongest that he works with, and they take pride in their work. They were able to provide answers and supporting documents within minutes of being asked. Any questions the team had during the audit were answered quickly and accurately. The results of the audit testing resulted in a “clean audit” or “no findings”, which is the highest level you can achieve. Mr. Peacock also indicated that there was nothing to report to consider a deficiency, no internal control issues, and the FY21 audit was very positive and consistent with previous years.
 The Committee publicly commended Director Duval and the financial team for the professionalism and exemplary job done through the audit process.
 Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to accept the FY21 Auditor’s report as written.
 Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

c) Budget

- No report was given

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- No report was given

f) Plant and facilities

- Tour of the MS/HS and Central Office is set up for November 30th

g) Policy & Review

- Civics Curriculum – Piloted project took place in 202-2021 school year. 2018 Frameworks requires project in grades 8 & 10. One goal through curriculum is to have students go into the community to get involved.
- MCAS Report – Joe Wyman reported on the latest MCAS results. In many areas, across most group of students, our performance was as good or slightly better than the state as a whole. ELA was more challenging for elementary than math or science. Need to review all data with teachers in all areas and look deeper into the results of the students with disabilities.

- Acceleration Academies Report – Acceleration Academy was held the week of August 16th. Programs were conducted for both elementary and M/H school students. Grant received for \$50,000 to conduct the Academy.
- Innovation Pathways Report – Mr. Wyman updated the members on the Innovation Pathways program and the direction it will take. Currently the alignment of courses for IP is in progress. At this time, 90 students are enrolled in the introduction classes.
- Update on Learning Support for COVID related absences – Discussion briefly ensued in regard to the different avenues that are being taken to support student learning during extended absences with Google classroom assignments as well as paper assignments.

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) Technology

- No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Dr. Allan commended the NJROTC program on an exemplary inspection.
- Mr. Brophy reported that some members attended the MASC/MASS conference, and reported that it is useful to see what is going on in other schools in the state, but really were not many new things to learn.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Formation of AdHoc Subcommittee to study school district configuration to maximize student outcomes and operational efficiency – A vote may be required
This subcommittee would look at space and configuration of all of the buildings in the district. The subcommittee would consist of one member from each town. It was stated that specific parameters should be set up for efficiency.
Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Dr. Allan to form an adhoc subcommittee to student school district configuration to maximize student outcomes and operational efficiency.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Review of federal census data impacting School Committee membership – moved up in the agenda
- Review of municipal census data impacting School Committee weighted vote values – moved up in the agenda

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary