



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 9, 2021
Educational Support Center**

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre (arrived 6:37 p.m.)
	Robert Bergeron	Member, Hubbardston
	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 (arrived 6:43 p.m.)
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ABSENT

Emilly Cartier	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; Gregory Devine; Anne Doble; Colleen Mucha; Joe Wyman; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Chris Carlson; Andrew Walsh; Kevin Clark; Kelly Weiderman; Melissa Desautels; Stephanie Morrissette
Town Officials/Residents	Stephen Holland; Jordan Orcutt; Ellie Downer; Jenna Garvey; Other members not identifiable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. A moment of silence was held for Quabbin alum, Curtis Bolger, son of Brent & Paula Bolger, who was killed in a car accident on Sunday. Brent is a teacher at the high school and Paula is a principal in the Gardner School District.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 18, 2021 – Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Marsh to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2021. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that elementary parent/teacher conferences were held yesterday during our early release day. MS/HS faculty and staff participated in professional development.
- Weather related cancellations – There is no word yet from the Commissioner on whether or not districts will be able to use a remote platform when we have a weather related cancellation. At this time, there will be full snow days until we hear differently. There is no remote learning at this time.
- Covid cases in the district – Since 9/1/22, there have been 138 students diagnosed with COVID-19 and 20 staff members. In the entire 2021-2022 school year, there were 61 students and 17 staff members diagnosed. Our in school transmission rate is extremely low. The vast majority of cases is coming from the outside. Vaccination rates – The district has not mandated that staff notify the district when they have been vaccinated. The current vaccination rates are not as high as we would like to see.
- The test and stay program is working well. Only those parents who have consented for their students are able to participate.
- New Positions in the QRSD – Dr. Muir introduced Melissa Desautels and Stephanie Morrisette, BCBA's for the district. The Behavior Interventionists have been hired to provide direct support for students in need at all four elementary schools and the middle/high school. The Behavior Interventionists also conduct functional behavior assessments, maintain behavior plans, respond to student emergencies, provide modeling, support and feedback on an ongoing basis. They also provide parent training and parent consultation, conduct home observations and evaluations when needed.
- School Enrollment Comparisons – Dr. Muir presented a list to committee members comparing district enrollment by grade from the 20/21 school year to the 21/22 school year. Overall, there is an increase of 123 students from the last school year.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll, Biweekly 11, 12 – Weekly 20, 21, 22, 23 and Accounts Payable 16A, 17B, 17FQ, 18A
- School Nutrition Update: Food insecurity seems to be increasing. More students are taking advantage of universal free lunch and breakfast. At this time, the department is seeing the same staffing shortages that many other industries are seeing.

c) Teacher Advisory Council – No report was given

d) Student Advisory Council – No report was given

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- No report was given. Preliminary meetings will begin around the first week of February

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 took place on November 30th. Tour started in the Central Office where the group had a discussion about revising the facility usage policy. No decisions were made. The group then toured central office and inspected the floor area that needs repair. The tour then proceeded to the Middle/High School where they toured the hallways, auditorium, media center, gyms,

and basements. In generally, the facility is in good shape. They will tour the elementary schools sometime in January or February.

- Mr. Kelly commented that he feels very grateful to be part of this district.

g) Policy & Review

- Becky Harvey & Theresa Boucher – Technology Integration Specialists for the district gave a presentation on the use of Google Classroom at the middle/high school as well as the elementary level. They also spoke about the use of blended learning in the classrooms.
- Class Size Comparisons - A list of classes with under 15 students per trimester as presented to the Policy and Review/Reform Subcommittee. Many courses with low enrollment are singletons that only run once per year. Scheduling does their best not to run courses with lower than 15 students unless not running the course will adversely affect a program or if a particular group of students will be adversely affected by not running the class.

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) Technology

- No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Appointment of Adhoc Subcommittee members to study school district configuration to maximize student outcomes and operational efficiency. One member from each town was appointed to serve on the subcommittee. The members appointed were: Debra Chamberlain, Hubbardston; Peggy Thompson, New Braintree; Walter Nutter, Oakham; Emilly Cartier, Hardwick; Lee Wolanin, Barre (Chair).

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jessica Evers of Oakham expressed her concern at the lack of mask breaks in the middle school. Mr. Devine, Principal of the Middle/High School agreed to look into this.
- Jordan Orcutt of Barre questioned why her emails in regard to the mask mandate have gone unanswered. Dr. Muir stated that she has responded to numerous emails in that regard to Ms. Orcutt. Ms. Orcutt also questioned why Dr. Muir was seen in photos at an indoor convention without a mask on. Ms. Orcutt stated that she would be paying a visit to Dr. Muir.
- Stephen Holland of Barre expressed his gratitude that QYBL is able to utilized the buildings this year for their basketball season.

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Marsh stated that a citizen had expressed their concern over outside organizations using the building and complying with COVID protocols. It was explained that the signor's are responsible for making sure masks are worn and protocols are followed.
- Mr. Brophy stated that he was at the same conference as Dr. Muir, and explained that masks were worn, however, during meals and photos, masks were removed.
- Mr. Brophy discussed the possibility of holding some School Committee Workshops in regard to effective governance, understanding subcommittee roles and alignment of our Mission and Vision.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- None

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary