



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
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
	Jenna Garvey	Member, Hardwick
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham (arrived 6:47 p.m.)
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre (arrived 7:07 p.m.)
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ABSENT

Robert Bergeron	Member, Hubbardston
-----------------	---------------------

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Kristin Campione; Anne Doble; Colleen Mucha; Joe Wyman; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Andrew Walsh; Jillian Madden; Janet Hicks
Town Officials/Residents	Ellie Downer; others not recognizable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Mr. Brophy welcomed and introduced new Committee member, Jenna Garvey who was appointed for the vacancy in Hardwick.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - December 9, 2021 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2021. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – abstain; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Ms. Cormier – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Chairman Brophy - yes
3. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 - a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Muir reported that the district had received masks and test kits for staff for the first day back after break. We were fortunate that very few staff members tested positive on that day.
- Dr. Muir presented and overview of the number of cases of COVID in the district since September 1st. As of today, there have been 465 student cases and 73 staff cases since the beginning of the school year. Numbers have certainly been on the rise and has made it extremely challenging for the administration, faculty, and nursing staff. Our nursing staff is dealing with COVID testing as well as their regular duties as a school nurse. Dr. Muir also shared the vaccination status of our staff and students. At this time, the district is no where near the 80% threshold of mask removal.
- New Positions in the QRSD – Dr. Muir introduced Jillian Madden who is a .5 Grade 6 Intervention Specialist and a .5 Middle-High Reading Specialist. Ms. Madden was originally a grade 6 teacher in Hardwick. Ms. Madden gave an overview of her position in the district and the many ways it serves our students in grades 6 – 9, as well as on a consultant basis with grades 10 - 12.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll, Biweekly 13, 14 – Weekly 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and Accounts Payable 19A, 20B, 20FR, 20FP, 20FQ and 21A

c) Teacher Advisory Council – No report was given

d) Student Advisory Council –

- Toni Brown, Music Department Academic Coordinator was joined by Lennon Morin, grade 12, Sabrina Downs, grade 7, Lola Howard, grade 7 and Sierra Lambert, grade 7 who spoke to the committee about hosting composer Brian Balmages. Mr. Balmages has worked with the students at the middle high school as well as elementary students. He has worked with the students in composing music and teaching students to “be” with the music, not just “see” the music. This was a wonderful opportunity for our instrumental students.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Administrative Review

- No report was given

b) Audit

- No report was given

c) Budget

- Subcommittee Meeting to be held Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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

- Policy AF – Public Participation at School Committee Meetings – Reviewed the recommendations from our lawyer. However, it was decided that more discussion was needed before bringing the revisions to the full committee.
- Approval of additions to Academic Guide 2022 – 2023: Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to recommend the approval of additions to the Academic Guide for 2022 -2023. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) Technology

- No report was given

j) AdHoc School Configuration

- The subcommittee had their first meeting and discussed the goals of the subcommittee. Their first order of business was researching the permanent move of grade 6 students to the middle school. The subcommittee met yesterday with grade 5, 6 & 7 students and met today with grade 5, 6 & 7 teachers.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Dr. Allan attended a recent basketball game where there was a conflict with one of our players and a player on the other team. Dr. Allan was very impressed with the manner in which the administration and coaching staff handled the conflict.
- Dr. Allan also attended the Alumni Band Concert and commented that at least 8 to 10 of the musicians attending were alumni who have made a career in music.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- School Committee Workshop – Saturday, January 29, 2022 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This workshop will cover the responsibilities, roles and governance of the school committee. There will be additional training sessions within the next few months on educational equity.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining and Unrepresented Union Personnel
- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to enter into executive session at 7:30 p.m. The committee will return to open session to adjourn the meeting.
- The committee returned to open session at 8:28 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary