



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, February 10, 2022
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Robert Bergeron	Member, Hubbardston
	Emilly Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	Joanne Cormier	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	Jenna Garvey	Member, Hardwick
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree (arrived 6:50)
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ABSENT

Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
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; Andrew Walsh; Chris Carlson; Keri Dubois-Gould; Kim Staiti; Cassandra Heno; Christy Minton; Rebecca Vincent
Town Officials/Residents	Ellie Downer; Dan Galante; others not recognizable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Mr. Brophy informed the gathering that in light of the DESE announcement yesterday, there will be a meeting specific to masking next Thursday, February 17, 2022. Due to Open Meeting Law, there will be no discussion of masking this evening.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 12, 2022 – Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2022. Motion passed by a roll call vote: Mr. Marsh – abstain; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Ms. Cormier – yes; Mr. Bergeron – abstain; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Chairman Brophy - yes

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools
 - Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir presented an overview of the number of cases of COVID in the district since September 1st. As of today, there have been 751 student cases and 119 staff cases since the beginning of the school year. This represents an increase over the past month of 285 students and 49 staff members. Dr. Muir also shared the vaccination status of our staff and students.
 - New Positions in the QRSD – Dr. Muir introduced Christy Minton who joined the district as a Library Media Specialist at the Middle-High School. Ms. Minton gave an overview of her work in the library at the MS/HS and the services she provides. She also demonstrated the various platforms used in the library for eBooks and audiobooks as well as the Library website. Ms. Minton gave an overview of her plans for additional programs going forward such as a Makerspace area, Breakout EDU and a recording studio.
- b) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants – Payroll, Biweekly 15, 16 – Weekly 29, 30, 31, 32 and Accounts Payable 19A, 22A, 22B, 23B, 23FQ and 24A
- c) Teacher Advisory Council – No report was given
- d) Student Advisory Council
 - MS/HS – James Cofske and Isabella Johnson, both seniors at the M/H school reviewed the college application process and the use of the Common App. They also demonstrated the Naviance program which students utilize for their four years of high school with college searches, letters of recommendation and keeping track of their activities.
 - Elementary - Parker Bailey and Grace Lantiegne, grade 4 students at HCS, joined Rebecca Vincent, Elementary STEM teacher for a demonstration of Mystery Science and showed the gathering the cartoons they had made utilizing drawings and paper.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
 - No report was given
- b) Audit
 - No report was given
- c) Budget
 - Mr. Wigler reported that an initial budget subcommittee meeting was held on January 20th. The budget consisted of primarily expenditures. Revenue and aid from the Governor's budget was not available at that time. FY21 budget increase was .5%; FY22 1.7%, and it may be difficult in keeping with our priorities to keep these percentages low. Mr. Wigler reviewed the increases in the proposed FY23 budget of \$37,678,420 which represents an increase of \$2,088,446 or 5.9%. Mr. Wigler emphasized that this is a preliminary number.
- 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 – Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to place Policy AF Public Participation at School Committee Meetings on the table for a 30 day review. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 12-0-1 as follows: Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – abstain; Ms. Cormier – yes; Mr. Bergeron – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes.

- QRSD STEM – PLTW update – Ms. Mucha gave a detailed description of Project Lead the Way which offers modules for K – 12 pathways in engineering, computer science and biomedical science. In Middle School, students work on Design and Modeling. Students worked in design teams to create an Ankle Foot Orthosis for a child with cerebral palsy. The students learned about CP and its causes and symptom. Working in teams of four, the students work together to design, build, test and modify their prototype while documenting their work in their Engineering Notebooks. Grade 6 will be developing and app creator in their pathway to computer science. The district will be launching a K-5 program which will help with building our STEM Curriculum.
- Curriculum Review Cycle- The district has developed a curriculum process which will help the district with a procedure for the systematic ongoing evaluation of curriculum, instruction, and assessment across all content areas.

h) Special Education

- No report was given

i) Technology

- No report was given

j) AdHoc School Configuration

- Mr. Wolanin gave a summary of the information collected from the focus groups for students, parents and staff in grades 5, 6 & 7. He reviewed the pros and cons that were presented to the subcommittee members at these focus groups. Mr. Nutter, Ms. Chamberlain, and Ms. Cartier expressed their agreement in moving the 6th grade permanently to the middle school. Mrs. Thompson spoke to the maturity level of the students and stated that she is not in agreement.
- Motion made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Deschamps as follows:
That the configuration of the Quabbin Middle School, historically consisting of the seventh and eighth grades, be expanded to include the integration of the sixth grade, which is currently housed in the middle/high school building and has been for the last 2 years; thus creating a three grade Middle School. As part of this motion the Ad Hoc subcommittee includes the following recommendations:
 - Special attention be paid to establish an enhanced level of communication and outreach between teachers/administrators & parents of the sixth grade students.
 - A strong effort be made to create a sixth grade gym schedule to include use of the middle/high school gym facilities on par with the seventh and eighth grades.
 - It is paramount that the 6-9 grade Middle School be its own entity in a cultural, social, academic, athletic and geographic sense (i.e. within the middle/high school building) as much as possible. This all being done within the concept that from pre-K through post grad, we are all Quabbin.
- Motion passed by a roll call vote of 11-1-0: Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Ms. Cormier – yes; Mr. Bergeron – abstain; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Chairman Brophy - yes

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Introduction of School Resource Officer Anthony Simo – Officer Simo introduced himself to the committee and gave them a brief background. Office Simo is looking forward to working with the students and wants to be helpful to them and have them be comfortable with him.

- Introduction of SEPAC Chair – Morgan Brinker introduced herself as the Chair of the SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council). Ms. Brinker has been chair since 2015. She provided a brief description of events that take place at their monthly meetings.
- School Committee Equity Workshop Series dates and update - Dr. Muir reminded the committee about the upcoming workshop and the dates that they are being held – February 24th, March 24th, and March 31st.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Mr. Nutter to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary