



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 10, 2022
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
	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
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

ABSENT

Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
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ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Gregory Devine; Anne Doble; Colleen Mucha; Joe Wyman; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Andrew Walsh; Chris Carlson;
Town Officials/Residents	Dan Galante, Hubbardston Selectboard; Cory Bombredi, Barre FinCom; Stephen Dollinger, Oakham FinCom; Ellie Downer, Turley Publications; other parents/residents not recognizable on Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Mr. Brophy informed the gathering that the order of the meeting would be as follows – report by the Budget Subcommittee with a recommendation to the full committee. The full committee will then vote on a number to bring to Public Hearing. Immediately following the vote, Ms. Duval will present the FY23 Public Budget Hearing. At the completion of the hearing, the committee will take a slight break and then proceed with the School Committee agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 10, 2022 – Motion made by Mr. Deschamps and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2022. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 13-0-1 with Dr. Allan abstaining.

- February 17, 2022 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2022. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Superintendent of Schools
 - Superintendent's Report
 - 2021-2022 School Year Update
 - COVID Update – Dr. Muir reported that since our last report, there have been 11 staff members and 36 students who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- b) Director of Administrative Services
 - Presentation of Warrants – Payroll, Biweekly 17,18 – Weekly 33-36 and Accounts Payable 25A, 25B, 26B, 26FQ, 26FO, 27A, 27B
- 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
 - Mr. Wigler reported that the Budget Subcommittee meeting was held on March 1st. At that meeting, Ms. Duval presented a budget that was reduced from the preliminary budget by \$411,344.47 or 1.1% decrease from the preliminary budget which represents a budget figure of \$37,267,077.18 or an increase of 4.7% over last year's budget.
 Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the FY23 budget figure of \$37,267,077.18, representing a 4.7% increase over last year's budget.
 Motion passed by a roll call weighted vote of 13.11 (13-1-0): Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – no; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Ms. Cormier - yes; Mr. Bergeron – yes; Mr. Wigler -yes; Mrs. Thompson -yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes.
 - Ms. Duval provided a brief introduction and informed the audience that the purpose of the public hearing is to give everyone an opportunity to provide input to relative to the proposed FY23 budget. Ms. Duval briefly reviewed the District's mission, core values and goals included in the Strategic Plan. Ms. Duval reviewed a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation relative to the preliminary FY23 budget. During the presentation, the Committee answered questions and concerns from town officials in attendance.
- 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
 - No report was given
- 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 parents and staff in grades K & 1 at the Oakham Center School. Both parents and staff spoke very strongly in keeping the students together.
- A three part motion was made by Mr. Wolanin and seconded by Dr. Allan as follows:
 1. To allow the Superintendent to house the Kindergarten and First Grades classes of the Oakham/New Braintree school within the same building (currently Oakham Center School), as the rest of the Oakham/New Braintree elementary grade classes, in accordance with Section IX, Para A4, found on pp 9 – 10 of the QRSD Regional Agreement dated August 21, 2014. The purpose of this motion is to place all of the elementary school students of Oakham/New Braintree grades K – 5 in the same building.
 2. Allow the Superintendent to place the Oakham/New Braintree preschool students into New Braintree Grade School, in accordance with Section I, P.2 of the QRSD Regional Agreement.
 3. Allow the Superintendent to place the Quabbin High School post-graduate program into the New Braintree Grade School, in accordance with Section IV, Paragraph A, of the QRSD Lease Agreement with New Braintree dated July 1, 2005 and in Section IX, Paragraph A4 on page 9 & 10 of the QRSD Regional Agreement.

Mr. Wolanin reviewed the background of the decision to make this motion and gave a brief summary of the Collins Center recommendation of closing schools due to excess building space for the number of district students, as well as the process that was undertaken at one time to close the New Braintree Grade School.

Mrs. Thompson informed the Committee that the Selectmen of New Braintree are questioning the language of the Regional agreement. She also stated that the Selectboard was told the students would be coming back to the building, and now they are starting to mistrust the information. Dr. Muir stated that at one of the last meetings she attended with the New Braintree Selectboard, she discussed looking at alternative uses for the building in order to keep it as a school, and they were in agreement. Mrs. Chamberlain feels we should reach out for legal advice to assure we are not violating the Regional Agreement. Dr. Allan stated that he feels this is a perfect way to handle the situation, and educating the students is the goal. This alternative would support the town in keeping the building running as a school. Mr. Bergeron expressed concern of having post grad students in the same building as pre-k students. Dr. Campione explained that this would be a perfect opportunity for the post grad students to leave the high school they have graduated from and have their own space in a totally separate building where they would have the room and opportunity to work on many different skills.

Roll call vote was taken on the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 14-0-1 with Mrs. Thompson abstaining. Dr. Allan – yes; 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 – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – abstain; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Kelly questioned the number of concussions that occur during the sports season. Mr. Miville will attend the next meeting.
- Mr. Deschamps informed the Committee that he had attended a Gardner vs. Ashburnham/Westminster hockey game. Quabbin is in a co-op for hockey with Gardner and some of our players are starters for the team.
- Discussion also ensued that the committee will once again welcome visitors to our meetings

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval – French Cultural Exchange Program for the 2022-2023 school year with Lycee St. Joseph in Avignon, France – Elizabeth Beard Blake
This was tabled until April due to the fact that the teachers chaperoning this trip were unable to attend the meeting this evening.
- Request for approval of change to 2021-2022 School Calendar - Dr. Muir is requesting a change to the current school year calendar with a scheduled early release on June 8th be moved to June 1st due to a conflict with professional development.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to move the June 8, 2022 early release day to June 1, 2022.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Approval of 2022-2023 School Year Calendar – Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Wolanin to approve the calendar for School Year 2022-2023.
Motion passed by a roll vote of 13-2-0 with Dr. Allan & Mrs. Chamberlain voting no as follows:
Dr. Allan – no; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Wolanin – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – no; Ms. Cormier – yes; Mr. Bergeron – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes.

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 9:58 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary