



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 28, 2022
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Robert Bergeron	Member, Hubbardston
	Emilly Cartier	Member, Hardwick (remote)
	Debra Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	Joanne Cormier	Member, Hubbardston
	David Deschamps	Member, Barre
	Jenna Garvey	Member, Hardwick
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham (arrived 6:36 p.m. - remote)
	Ned Kelly	Member, Hardwick
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree (remote)
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

***Please note that Mr. Jean-Francois had connectivity issues and was not available for some votes

ABSENT

Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
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ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Anne Doble; Colleen Mucha; Joe Wyman; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Andrew Walsh; Chris Carlson; Meg Cloutier; Janet Hicks; Kristin Campione; Shannon Harris; Alicia Frost; Nick Cammuso
Town Officials/Residents	Ellie Downer, Turley Publications; other parents/residents not recognizable on Zoom

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 10, 2022 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of March 10, 2022. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that the two trips that went out during April vacation – to the Galapagos Islands and the NJROTC to Iceland, were very successful and both groups were appreciative that the School Committee had approved the trips.
Dr. Muir also reported on the School Choice Open House which was held on April 26th. This was very well attended by approximately 35 potential middle-high school school choice students and their families.
- 2021-2022 School Year Update
 - COVID Update – Dr. Muir reported that since our last report, there have been 19 staff members and 70 students who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Mark Miville, Athletic Director – Update on winter and spring sports.
Mr. Miville shared concussion data with the Committee and the program used to get a baseline on an athlete and then use that baseline throughout the season if needed. Students are able to be tested on the spot by the Athletic Trainer. Winter sports brought fans back into the stands. The fact that there are no longer fees for athletics has increased the number of students participating in sports. The winter season had 198 athletes. Middle school spring sports started today. The spring season has approximately 325 athletes competing from 20 towns. For the first time we have Unified Track & Field which have 10 athletes and 8 student partners. Coaches for the team are Rich Zalneraitis and Erika Callahan
- New Positions in the QRSD
 - School Adjustment Counselors – Stacy Canfield; Nick Cammuso, Shannon Harris provided an overview of the services they provide to students within the district. They provide individual counseling; group counseling; consultations with teachers, administrators, guidance, parents and service providers; as well as classroom lessons, explosive behavior management, screening for suicidality as well as working with special education on the process of SSST, 504s and IEPs.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll, Biweekly 19 through 22, Weekly 37 through 43 and Accounts Payable 28A, 28B, 29A, 29FQ, 29FO, 30A, 30B & 31A

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 has not met since the public hearing. Barre and Hubbardston Finance Committees have expressed their concern in regard to the high assessment.

d) Central Office

- No report was given

e) Collective Bargaining

- No report was given

f) Plant and facilities

- Mr. Nutter reported that the subcommittee had visited all of the elementary schools in the district. All of the schools are in great shape with all systems working well. All buildings are clean and well lit. The schools are converting to LED lighting. Most repairs that are needed are done in house.
At Oakham Center School, the sidewalk to the right of the main entrance is lower than the driveway and needs a drain. The roof near the side of the main entrance is a bad design and presents an issue with ice

build up below. The back wall of the building, which is stucco, has water infiltration into the wall which may need a major repair or rebuild.

New Braintree Grade School roof will need replacing down the road and the server that runs the security system needs replacement.

Hardwick Elementary School needs work on the roof and the window seals need replacement.

Ruggles Lane School needs a generator. Originally the town had allotted \$50,000, but the bid was much higher. There is water infiltration on the back side of the building due to a steam pipe rusting out.

Hubbardston Elementary School has a section of their parking lot behind the dumpster that needs repair and the district has been discussing this with the town. Repairs are needed to the gym floor due to a water leak when the new roof was being constructed. The cost of this repair would be paid for by the roofing contractor.

g) Policy & Review

- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to remove Policy AF Public Participation at School Committee Meetings from the table.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote. (Mr. Jean-Francois unavailable due to connectivity issues)

h) Special Education

- The subcommittee met on April 13th and spent the bulk of the meeting with the District Social Workers Lauren Sousa and Jane Cremins and outlining the five areas where families need the most support. The subcommittee brainstormed about solutions to these problems. The Social Workers currently have 160 families on their caseloads. The subcommittee also discussed plans for the MS Autism Program as well as the post grad program for the coming school year.

i) Technology

- A subcommittee meeting will be held prior to the next School Committee meeting.

j) AdHoc School Configuration

- A three part motion was made by Mr. Nutter and seconded by Mr. Kelly 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.

Roll call vote was taken on the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 12-1-0. Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Ms. Cormier – yes; Mr. Bergeron – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes. (Mr. Jean- Francois unavailable due to connectivity issues)

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- FY23 Budget changes due to House Ways & Means Budget release and other budget adjustments: Ms. Duval reported that the district saw an \$89,165 jump in revenue for FY23. She reminded the gathering that in FY20 & FY21, the district put \$1,000,000 toward assessments due to excess funds from COVID.

This was able to help keep the assessments lower for the towns, but the district is unable to do that for the coming fiscal year. Ms. Duval did state that approximately \$203,000 to \$204,000 from savings will assist with lowering the budget figure. Ms. Duval reviewed other increases and decreases for the FY23 budget figure.

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Mr. Marsh to adopt an FY23 budget figure #3 of \$37,033,087.58 with a deduction of \$233,988 which represents a 4.05% increase from FY22 budget. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote: Dr. Allan – yes; Mr. Marsh – yes; Mr. Deschamps – yes; Mr. Kelly – yes; Ms. Garvey – yes; Ms. Cartier – yes; Mrs. Chamberlain – yes; Ms. Cormier – yes; Mr. Bergeron – yes; Mr. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – no; Mr. Nutter – yes; Mr. Jean-Francois – yes; Chairman Brophy – yes. (Mr. Jean- Francois unavailable due to connectivity issues)

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Dr. Allan presented a copy of the Barre Gazette which had a full page feature of Quabbin alum as well as a lengthy article on the Quabbin Seniors Baseball Clinic which was a Capstone project.
- Ms. Garvey questioned why our Safety Plans are not on our website. It was explained that Safety Plans are confidential due to the sensitive nature of the information contained within.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval – College Fair Field Trip to Franklin Pierce College in Rindge NH on May 23, 2022. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to approve the College Fair Field trip with the usual provisos. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Request for approval – Grade 8 trip to Washington, DC in April 2023. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the 8th grade Washington, DC trip in spring 2023. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Request for approval – French Cultural Exchange Program for the 2022-2023 school year with Lycee St. Joseph in Avignon, France – Alicia Frost. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the French Cultural Exchange trip with the usual provisos. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Request for approval to proceed with bid solicitation for a security camera system at the Middle High School and Central Office that may result in a contract for hardware, software, installation and maintenance awarded for a period longer than three years. Discussion ensued in regard to the need for a new security camera system which includes addition cameras. At this time, the current system is older and failing. The district can no longer buy cameras that help utilize the system, and the pictures are very fuzzy. A newer system uses central intelligence and can be cloud base or data base housed at the high school. The bid would be put on the state bid list. Motion made by Mr. Kelly to authorize administration to proceed with bid solicitations for a security camera system at the Middle-High School and Central Office that may result in a contract for hardware, software, installation and maintenance awarded for a period of longer than three years. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- School Choice 2022-2023 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to recommend that, in accordance with state law requiring all schools to be open for school choice, the Quabbin Regional School District accept school choice students for the 2022-2023 academic year in grade levels where space is available. The administration will be cautious not to accept a number of choice students that would adversely affect District finances. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Discussion of broadcasting of School Committee meetings will be brought to the Technology Subcommittee.

- Request for approval of change to 2022-2023 School Calendar. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a change in two early release days in the 2022-2023 calendar due to MCAS testing with Wednesday, November 16, 2022 moving to Wednesday, November 2nd and Wednesday, March 15, 2023 moving to Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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 8:58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary