



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 9, 2022
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Vice-Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Emily Cartier	Member, Hardwick
	Joanne Cormier	Member, Hubbardston
	Debra Chamberlain	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

Mark Brophy, Chair	Member, Barre
Robert Bergeron	Member, Hubbardston
Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Gregory Devine; Kristin Campione; Jill Peterson; Shelly St. George; Tricia Worthington; Colleen Mucha; Andrew Walsh; Christopher Carlson; Anne Doble; Joe Wyman;
Town Officials/Residents	Ellie Downer, Turley Publications; Other members not identifiable on Zoom

1. Vice-Chair Wolanin opened the meeting in the absence of Chairman Mark Brophy. The reorganizational portion of the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Nominations for Chair:

Mr. Wolanin nominated Mr. Brophy as Chair. Dr. Allan seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made.

Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Allan to close nominations.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Moved to vote on Chair.

Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Nominations for Vice Chair:

Mrs. Thompson nominated Deb Chamberlain as Vice Chair. Mr. Nutter seconded the nomination. Mr. Deschamps nominated Lee Wolanin as Vice Chair. Dr. Allan seconded the nomination. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote. Moved to vote on Vice Chair. Paper ballots were distributed and returned resulting in a tie. Paper ballots were distributed once again and again resulted in a tied vote. Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to table the vote for Vice Chair until the next full meeting of the Committee.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to nominate Dr. Muir as Parliamentarian. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to nominate Ronald Christensen as Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Nutter and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to nominate Kathleen Bourcier as Assistant Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to nominate Jessica Bennett as Executive Secretary. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 26, 2022 – Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the minutes of May 26, 2022. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 11-0-1 with Ms. Cartier abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Muir reported that graduation had gone off beautifully. It was a gorgeous early summer evening, and the 141 graduates and their families were happy to have graduation in person again this year. Two additional students will graduate on June 17th at 1:00 p.m. from our Alternative Learning Program. Eighth grade recognition night will take place on June 16th at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Mucha led a committee who came up with a program for grade 6 step up day which will take place tomorrow, June 10th. The 6th grade planning committee is currently working on ways to improve parent communication. A parent forum will be held at the end of the month for incoming 6th grade parents. Dr. Muir recognized Mr. Devine as he moves into his new role from MS/HS Principal. Mr. Devine will be working out of our building in New Braintree as the Guidance Director for External Partnerships. Dr. Muir spoke in regard to the new principal for the MS/HS, Purnima DeMorais. Ms. DeMorais is an experienced HS science teacher and served as a principal for HS, MS, and elementary. Ms. DeMorais will be starting with Quabbin on July 1, 2022.

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Director's Report
 - FY22 Budget Transfer Request – a 2/3 vote will be required

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Dr. Allan to transfer \$44,608 from Undesignated and Regular Education 4400/4450 Technology Infrastructure Maintenance & Support to instruction support to purchase Chromebook refresh using E-Rate Reimbursement funding and transfer \$50,000 from Special Education Tuition to Transportation to cover anticipated costs for May & June.

Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 11.92: 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. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes

- FY22 Budget Transfer Request to close the year

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Dr. Allan to authorize the Director of Administrative Services to make transfers necessary to close the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 11.92: 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. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes

- Authorization to Borrow in Anticipation of Funds FY23:

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Dr. Allan to authorize the Quabbin Regional School District Treasurer, acting under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71 § 16(g) as amended by Chapter 13, § 4 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given, for a period of less than one year, in accordance with G. L. Ch. 44 § 17.
Motion passed unanimously by a weighted roll call vote of 11.92: 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. Wigler – yes; Mrs. Thompson – yes; Mr. Nutter – yes

- Presentation of Warrants – Payroll warrants Bi Weekly 25, Weekly 48 & 49 and AP warrants 34 B2, 34 FO, 34FU, 34FR, 34 FQ, 35A, 35B were approved by the warrant subcommittee.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, President of the QRTA, spoke to the Committee about how difficult and challenging teaching has been over the past three years. The QRTA members have expressed their frustration as the lack of respect they receive from parents, students and society in general. So many teachers have spoken to Mr. Barringer and said that this is their hardest year. He normally answers retirement questions from four or five people, but this year he has already answered questions from about twenty to twenty-five.

Mr. Barringer wanted to publicly thank the teachers that are retiring this year: Patty Sayre; John Spooner; Elizabeth Beard-Blake; Clarissa Waite; Ted Newton; Virginia Blasczyk; Lisa Topper; Sue Piermarini.

Mr. Barringer also thanked Mr. Devine for his seven years of service as principal at the Middle-High school.

In addition, Mr. Barringer thanked the committee for their hard work on the budget and stated that in his opinion, the budget is very reasonable, however, the state continues to underfund public education.

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
 - FY23 Budget update – a 2/3 vote may be required – Dr. Muir reported that at town meeting in Hubbardston, the town put forward a number that was \$215,000 less than what the committee voted on. It's important that administrators, teachers, and parents attend and participate in town meeting, not matter which way they vote. Barre town meeting will take place on 6/14, New Braintree on 6/21, Hardwick on 6/25 and Oakham on 6/27. Dr. Muir also reported that Hubbardston Finance Committee Chair, Susan Rayne, read a statement that was unkind and disrespectful to the committee and the administration. She did not speak to the real problem which is lack of state funding.
- 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 District Configuration
 - No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on camera security system. Procurement and vote may be required. Director Duval put out a bid for the camera security system. A walk through with vendors was done to which six vendors attended. At the end, one vendor said they wouldn't bid. Only one bid came in by the time/date required at \$302,000. Currently negotiating on the contract. Our team will pull all the wires and our IT department will be involved as well. This will save thousands of dollars on the contract.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Mr. Deschamps reported that his granddaughter had attended the 7th grade field trip to Boston and that it was a wonderful trip and from what he was told, all the students had a great time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for approval of HES & OCS 5th grade out of state overnight trip to Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park, ME, May 2023 – Shelly St. George & Tricia Worthington – a vote will be required
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the 5th grade HES & OCS trip to Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park, ME in May 2023 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Request for approval of RLS 5th grade overnight trip to Nature’s Classroom to Yarmouthport, May, 2023 – Chris Carlson & Anne Doble – a vote will be required
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the RLS 5th grade trip to Nature’s Classroom in Yarmouthport in May, 2023 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Request for approval of HCS 5th grade overnight trip to Nature’s Classroom in Charlton, MA in November, 2022 – Jill Peterson – a vote will be required
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to approve the HCS 5th grade trip to Nature’s classroom in November 2022 with the usual provisos.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Request for authorization to join The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS-USA), a national purchasing cooperative – a vote will be required
Ms. Duval explained that joining this coop would help the district procure the best product at the lowest cost to the district.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Marsh to authorize joining The Interlocal Purchasing System.
Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- Request to approve a scholarship from the American Legion in Gilbertville
Ms. Duval explained that the district had received a phone call this afternoon letting us know that the American Legion in Gilbertville had been sold, and they would like to donate the profits to local non-profits, including setting up a scholarship for NJROTC students from New Braintree and Hardwick. The Legion will provide the district with a check and will meet with Mrs. Skerry to discuss the logistics of the scholarship.
Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to accept the donation from the Gilbertville American Legion to set up a scholarship fund for NJROTC students from New Braintree and Hardwick.
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. Deschamps to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary