

QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2025
Quaboag Regional Middle High School Media Center

Present: Craig Burgess, Philip Landine, Travis Mathieson, Angela Menard, Jason Morgan, Greg Morse, Matthew Peloquin, Andrew Schwenker, Megan Sears (late), Stephen Duff and Cindy Courtney-Clerk

Absent: Garrett Piermarini

Visitors: See attached

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM by Chairman Andrew Schwenker. Andrew Schwenker thanked Bryan Griffing for his years of service. Andrew will not be running for Chair as this is his last year on the Committee. Stephen Duff thanked him for leaving the Committee better than he found it and asked for nominations. Andrew nominated Greg Morse for the position of Chairman.

Roll Call Vote: G Morse – Aye, P Landine – Aye, C Burgess – Aye, A Schwenker – Aye, J Morgan – Aye, M Peloquin – Aye, T Mathieson – Aye, A Menard – Aye

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0, unanimous

Phil Landine nominated Andrew Schwenker for position of Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote: G Morse – Aye, P Landine – Aye, C Burgess – Aye, A Schwenker – Aye, J Morgan – Aye, M Peloquin – Aye, T Mathieson – Aye, A Menard – Aye

VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0, unanimous

*

Administrative Reports:

- Grade 6 Leadership Students – Brooklyn Choquette and Danika Bridges: WCES Data Fair project asked, “does gender impact odds of getting baskets?” Mr. Howe’s class played Math Baseball using stats from the back of baseball card to create charts and build player lists. WBES had a STEAM night and took part in the Memorial Day Parade including the reading of the Gettysburg Address. 6th graders from both schools attended Step Up Day at Quaboag and met the 7th grade teachers.
- Student Advisory Council – Allison Duszlak, Katelyn Swistak, Nora Pennington-Russell: Seniors last day was May 23rd. The Junior prom was May 16th and had a Great Gatsby theme. 10th grade noticed more class involvement this year. 9th grade will be making class selections. 7th & 8th grade had an information night about the Washington DC trip happening in March of 2026. Abigail Jolin won the 18 Under 18 award. Mrs. Beauregard’s class attended a goat yoga class. GSA students attended Youth Pride in Boston.
- Outdoor Track Recognition – Brandon Nichols-Hogan: Camden Williams, Logan Springs, Jacob Cacace and Shyloh Peter won a combined total of 7 medals. Their relay time is less than a second away from the school record. They will attend the State division at Tufts on June 1st.
- Tennis Team Recognition – tabled until next meeting
- MICCA Recognition – James Joinville: Falon Rice, Joshua Leaming, Abigail Jolin and Madison Schrier competed at state MICCA competition. Abigail and Falon won gold and received perfect scores. Josh won silver and Madison won gold. Abigail was nominated by the judges to perform at the Gold Medal Showcase on May 17th in Hopkinton. Abigail was also an 18 Under 18 recipient.

- Superintendent's Report

- o Program of Studies SY 2025 – 2026: There are two proposed changes. Computer Applications will now be Digital Citizenship. Graduation competency determinations, to replace MCAS requirements, will be passing Biology I and Algebra I, Algebra II or a Geometry course.

A motion was made by A Schwenker and seconded by P Landine to accept the Program of Studies as written.

VOTE: 9 – 0 - 0, unanimous

- o IVAQ Project: Same system as that at WCES. \$130,000 in incentives. Work will start June 23rd and be finished by the first day of school.
- o MASC Day on the Hill – May 6, 2025: Attended with Andrew Schwenker. Talked with Representative Smola and others. Discussed the House and Senate budget. Advocated for rural aid. Lunch was provided by Vocational School students. Great day of collaboration.
- o CLEE Grant: Leadership grant secured by Madeline Smola. Will look at school learning plans to make sure we are all on the same page with leadership. Meetings take place outside of School hours.
- o Community Compact Grant – Tyler Tech Cloud: Applied for \$161,000 and received \$46,000 which will be used to upgrade to the cloud. We will start to migrate to the cloud at the end of summer and then add Time and Attendance.
- o Senate Chapter 70 Committee: Creating a review committee which will be in place by June 26th to look at the formula that has not changed since 1992. They will try to create a formula that is more equitable for districts west of 495.
- o West Brookfield Capital Planning Meeting: Received an email from David Brown, the West Brookfield Capital Planning Committee Chairperson. He would like to meet with Stephen Duff, Marc Astrella and Nicki Goncalves to discuss Capital Improvement Plans. Would be important to have him attend a building subcommittee meeting to discuss capital improvement projects.
- o Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation Grant: Offering a no ties grant of \$2500. We need to submit an application outlining how we would use the grant for Nursing supplies.
- o COPS Grant Opportunity: A grant up to \$500,000 with a 25% match to address safety concerns. One concern is our lack of interoffice and police communication because we are on different channels with no patch. Peter Gobi will quote us to put a patch in. We would like fobs at Quaboag. We would like alarms on doors that are propped open.
- o Intuit Hour of Finance Challenge – Jean DiRico: April is Financial Literacy month. As part of this free challenge, students practiced budgeting and investing. They picked careers, created a monthly budget, invested 20%, created an emergency fund and managed debt. Quaboag was a State winner Nationwide. We will be getting a trophy.

*

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of:

1. Regular Meeting Minutes April 28, 2025
2. Executive Session Minutes April 28, 2025
3. Regular Meeting Minutes April 15, 2025

A motion was made by A Schwenker and seconded by C Burgess to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 28, 2025.

VOTE: 8 – 0 - 1, Abstain - A Menard

A motion was made by A Schwenker and seconded by T Mathieson to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of April 28, 2025.

VOTE: 8 - 0 - 1, Abstain – A Menard

A motion was made by P Landine and seconded by C Burgess to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 15, 2025.

VOTE: 7 –0 - 2, Abstain - A Schwenker, M Sears

*

Communications:

- Regular Meeting Minutes April 28, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes April 28, 2025
- Regular Meeting Minutes April 15, 2025
- Intuit Hour of Finance Challenge Email

*

Financial Business Matters:

- * Food Service Substitute Pay – Stephen Duff: Missy Mansfield is having trouble hiring subs. The current rate is \$14.75. She would like to increase it to \$15.00.

A motion was made by M Peloquin and seconded by M Sears to increase the Food Service Substitute pay to \$15.00 per hour.

VOTE: 9-0-0, unanimous

- * Senate vs House Budget – Nicki Goncalves: We are waiting to hear about the approval of the Senate budget. Between Chapter 70 and Charter tuition we do have some modest increases. We are hoping to get towns to last year's above minimum contribution. Expect to hear from the state within the next day or so.

*

Unfinished Business:

- A. **Budget Subcommittee:** A Schwenker – Met on May 12, 2025.
Discussed budget, IVAC and food services.
Next meeting will be June 9, 2025 at 6:30pm
- B. **Personnel Subcommittee:** P Landine – none.
Next meeting will be June 16, 2025.
- C. **Policy Subcommittee:** G Morse - none, next meeting tbd.
- D. **School Building Subcommittee:** A Schwenker – Met on May 12, 2025. Discussed the concession stand at Quaboag which will be funded with \$100,000 earmark from Representative Smola, tennis courts are deteriorating, Booster Club donated \$6000 for sand.

Next meeting June 9, 2025 at 6:00pm

*

New Business:

- A. North Brookfield Tuition Agreement Update - Stephen Duff: The North Brookfield Finance Board and Selectboard have had discussions regarding paying tuition for grades 7-12. They missed the deadline to implement this for FY26. The North Brookfield School Committee voted to start a task force. They will reach out to us to discuss plans for FY27.
- B. Superintendent Discussion – Andrew Schwenker: The committee would like to recognize the efforts and extra work Superintendent Duff has done in the absence of a principal. He has gone above and beyond and deserves a one-time stipend.

A motion was made by M Sears and seconded by A Menard to approve a one-time stipend for Superintendent Duff in the amount of \$5000.

VOTE: 9 - 0 - 0, unanimous

*

Public Hearing Period:

Kristi Kenyon stated valuing students equals valuing educators. We are struggling to keep educators in the Middle School level. We need competitive salaries. An investment in our teachers equals an investment in our students. Charlene Vallee said giving Superintendent Duff a bonus is an insult to the staff. He is not the only one who gives 100%. Everyone goes above and beyond.

*

Legal Matters:

A motion was made by G Morse and seconded by A Schwenker to go into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21, to discuss the Principal update to include School Committee members, Stephen Duff and Cindy Courtney, to reconvene in open session for adjournment.

VOTE: 9-0-0, unanimous

Roll Call Vote: G Morse - Aye, P Landine – Aye, M Sears – Aye, C Burgess – Aye, A Schwenker – Aye, J Morgan – Aye, M Peloquin – Aye, T Mathieson – Aye, A Menard - Aye

Closed for Executive Session at 8:01 PM.

Reconvene in Open Session at 8:45 PM

A motion was made by A Schwenker and seconded by P Landine to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 9-0-0, unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Courtney
Cindy Courtney, Clerk