

## QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2025  
Quaboag Regional Middle High School Media Center

Present: Philip Landine, Christine Luszcz, Jason Morgan, Greg Morse, Matthew Peloquin, Andrew Schwenker (by phone), Megan Sears (by phone), Stephen Duff and Cindy Courtney-Clerk

Absent: Craig Burgess, Travis Mathieson, Angela Menard, Garrett Piermarini,

Visitors: John Diorio, Nicole Goncalves, Jennifer Lilley, Eugene Rich, Kirsten Esposito and Raymond Kopacko-resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM by Chairman Greg Morse

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### **Administrative Reports:**

- **Introduction of QRMHS Principal Diorio and WBES Principal Lilley – Stephen Duff:** John came to us from North Brookfield. Jen worked as a music teacher in Northbridge and Principal at Dudley Charlton Elementary. They were both selected by a committee.
- **2025 - 2026 QRMHS Handbook – Principal Diorio:** Changes include updating names and calendars. AP exam cost has increased from \$93 to \$99. Suggested changes to the attendance policy are meant to help avoid CRAs and be better able to work with families. The new wording would be “after 18 days” not “5 days per quarter”. Letters will be sent after 5, 8 and 10 absences and will ask “how can we support you?” Credit loss due to absence will be changed to “may lose credit” not “will”. When a student has 6 unexcused absences in a semester in a class, or 12 for a yearlong class, the teacher should reach out to the principal. At 9 or 18 absences, it will go before the Attendance Review Committee made of staff and the Assistant Principal. Students will go with their families to explain why they were absent. The goal is to work with the families to set up a plan. Losing credit is the last resort. Social Probation is a new section. Excessive absences or tardiness will result in a loss of privileges for two weeks. If they meet set goals they will be off probation. Office detention due to tardiness has been changed from 2 per quarter to 3. Cell phones are not allowed in the Middle School during class, passing or bathroom. They can be used during lunch but not for recording.

**A motion was made by M Peloquin and seconded by P Landine to approve the 2025-2026 QRMHS Handbook as amended.**

PL – Aye, CL – Aye, GM – Aye, JM – Aye, MP – Aye, MS - Aye

VOTE: 6 - 0, unanimous

- **2025 - 2026 Elementary Handbook – Principal Lilley and Principal Rich:** Changes include dates, pages, names and correcting grammar. The food security section was changed to make the food pantry listing more consistent. For classroom use of PG-13 videos, parents and guardians will be informed and additional pieces will be put in place for those who opt out. Under expectations, extra-curricular activities are an extension of the classroom and same expectations will apply. Vapes were added to prohibited items. Cell phones are to stay in backpack.

**A motion was made by P Landine and seconded by C Luszcz to approve the 2025 – 2026 Elementary Handbook as amended**

VOTE: 5 - 0, unanimous

Abstain

- **Superintendent's Report**

- \* New Teacher Orientation and next School Committee Meeting: Orientation happened today. New mentor program will provide 50 hours of mentoring for the first year for any staff member without PTS and 25 hours for staff members with PTS in another district. New staff members will be invited to the September 22<sup>nd</sup> School Committee Meeting for dinner and introductions.
- \* WCES Parent Meet and Greet: Principal Rich will host a block party this week for WCES families.
- \* QRMHS Parent Meet and Greet: Principal Diorio held a meet and greet last week prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation.
- \* Envisions Math Curriculum: The Envisions Math will align the elementary schools' curriculum. It is a K-8 program which will prevent gaps and be more equitable for students. Honors opportunities will still be available.
- \* Ferry Beach Request: The Maine trip will take place 10/14 - 10/17/25. It is an out of state trip and requires School Committee approval

**A motion was made by J Morgan and seconded by M Peloquin to approve the 2025 Ferry Beach trip.**

VOTE: 5 - 0, unanimous                      Abstain

- \* Europe Trip (2027) Preliminary Proposal: A trip committee was formed and decided on a two year cycle for trips. They are looking for preliminary approval for a possible trip to Europe in April of 2027. The trip will include visits to Spain and Portugal.

**A motion was made by J Morgan and seconded by M Peloquin to approve the preliminary proposal for a 2027 Europe trip.**

VOTE: 5 - 0, unanimous                      Abstain

- \* SWCEC Representative: Services Southern Worcester County and provides lower cost for out of district services.

**A motion was made by M Peloquin and seconded by P Landine to appoint Superintendent Duff as the SWCEC representative.**

VOTE: 5 - 0, unanimous                      Abstain

- \* Meetings with West Brookfield and Warren Town Officials: Will continue this year. It is important to keep communication open. Nicole Goncalves has reached out to attend Finance Committee Meetings.
- \* Free Breakfast and Lunch: Governor Healey passed additional funding. Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students.
- \* Special Education Progress Report: Our audit came back with no findings

- \* Food Service Equipment Update: WBES needs a new server line, oven, shelving washer and dryer. WCES will purchase a washer and dryer. Food service has a reimbursement budget. It will not cost the towns any money to replace the equipment.
- \* MSBA Update – Doors and Windows WBES: Had the initial screening for doors and windows at WBES on 8/14/25. Will reconvene and notify us with a decision at the end of October if we are selected for the second round. It looks promising.
- \* Regional Transportation Revolving Account: Both towns are on board. Reimbursement funds in excess will go into a revolving account to offset transportation expenses.
- \* U.S. News - Report Best Schools: Nominated again as a Silver School. Ranked #10 in Worcester County and in the top 10% in the country.
- \* Stadium Light Upgrades: The auditorium lighting is done. Cost for the stadium lighting is \$60,000. The upgrade will eliminate blind spots and will include putting lights on the back of the poles. Talked about potentially putting lights on the tennis courts. Would be additional \$20,000. Spoke with Jim Ferreira and Ray Kopacko. Could put it as an article at a special fall meeting. Will reach out to Russ to see if West Brookfield would need to contribute as well.
- \* Seventh Grade Orientation: Happened last Tuesday with a full house. There are 97 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 118 8<sup>th</sup> graders this year. Enrollment is up.
- \* Concession Stand Update: The inspection is scheduled for tomorrow. Then finish plumbing and electric followed by the siding and then the septic. Connections for security cameras are in place.
- \* Baystate Donation: Baystate Hospital donated backpacks and school supplies.

\* **Secretary's Report:**  
**Minutes of June 16, 2025**

**A motion was made by P Landine and seconded by M Peloquin to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 16, 2025.**

VOTE: 4 - 0, unanimous Abstain - J Morgan

**IV. Communications:**

- A. Europe Trip Information**
- B. Quaboag Progress Report US News**
- C. New Teacher Day and Professional Development Schedule**

- D. DESE Special Education Progress Report
- E. Religious Opt Out Form
- F. Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2025
- G. QRMHS Student Handbook
- H. WBES / WCES Student Handbook
- I. Special Education Transportation Contract
- J. District Learning Plan
- K. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) - chosen again for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

\* **Financial-Business Matters:**

- N/A

\* **Unfinished Business:**

- Budget Subcommittee- Jason Morgan, Chair
  - a. Update: none
  - b. Next Meeting - September 15, 2025
- Personnel Subcommittee – Phil Landine, Chair
  - a. Update: none
  - b. Next meetings September 25, 2025
- Policy Subcommittee- Greg Morse
  - a. Update: none
  - b. Next meeting September 17, 2025
- Building Subcommittee- Greg Morse
  - a. Update: none
  - b. Next Meeting - September 15, 2025

\* **New Business:**

- MSBA Meeting with West Brookfield – Nicole Goncalves: Reviewed the next steps including understanding where financing is coming from. West Brookfield is feeling their challenges which may affect this. MSBA wants to make sure we have the difference for funding the projects. Nicole is expecting to receive 50-65% funding. Will select projects in October. Once chosen, the next step is schematics and funding.

\* **Public Hearing Period:**

- Opportunity for visitors to make statements and/or ask questions (20 minutes).

Phil Landine asked about the status of the Drivers Ed program. Nicole said we need to make changes to the curriculum and submit. Then they will come out and inspect everything.

(Session limited to 20 minutes. Speakers are permitted a maximum of 3 minutes each to present material. Topics for discussion must be limited to those items listed on the School Committee Agenda. Improper conduct and/or remarks will not be permitted. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs, but in public session, the Committee will not hear personal complaints against school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Administrative channels are generally the proper means of disposing of legitimate complaints involving staff members. Written comments, longer than 3 minutes, may be presented to the Committee before or after the meeting for the review and consideration of the Committee.)

\* **Legal Matters:** Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A, Sec. 21

N/A

\* **Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by M Peloquin and seconded by P Landine to adjourn the meeting.**

VOTE: 5 - 0, unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Courtney*

Cindy Courtney, Clerk