

## QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025  
Quaboag Regional Middle High School Innovation Center

Present: Bryan Griffing, Philip Landine, Travis Mathieson, Jason Morgan, Greg Morse, Matthew Peloquin, Garrett Piermarini, Andrew Schwenker, Stephen Duff and Cindy Courtney-Clerk

Absent: Brittany Bousquet, Craig Burgess, Angela Menard and Megan Sears

Visitors: see attached

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chairman Andrew Schwenker

### I. **Administrative Reports:**

- A. Grade 6 Leadership Students-Ceres Martino, Evelyn Galarneau: The teachers won the Spirit Week volleyball game at WCES. WBES celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school with a random act of kindness chain and a 100 Ji Ji's scavenger hunt. The WCES Valentines Dance raised \$1000 to go towards the Maine trip.
- B. Student Advisory Council-Nora Pennington-Russell, Katelynn Swistak, Allison Duszlak: Seniors have been receiving college acceptances. They are having a Krispy Kremes fundraiser. The theme for prom is A Night in Hollywood. The Juniors had a Give Back Night fundraiser at Hardwick Crossing. 10<sup>th</sup> grade will be donating to the Casey Handfield Memorial Scholarship fund. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade received 40 orders for their Blind Date with a Book fundraiser. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade is having a popcorn fundraiser. The NAHS made Valentines cards to sell at lunch. The availability of guidance counselors and staff made Students feel supported after the loss of Principal Handfield. They made a memory poster for Principal Handfield's family. Cam Williams placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 600m with a time of 1 minute and 30 seconds at SWCL championship. Norah Schwenker broke the school record for the 200m with a time of 27.88 seconds. Girls Varsity Basketball will be playing in the State tournament tomorrow. The NHS Extra Life fundraiser was a huge success. The Polar Plunge is coming up.
- C. Project 351 Ambassador – Mr. Salvadore – Maxwell Sturges: Project 351 is a state program that started in 2011. It is a community service driven position. Students are chosen by the teachers. They look for students who are helpful, friendly and kind and this year chose Maxwell Sturges. Maxwell attended a meeting for the Spring services where they impacted 35,000 people with food and clothing insecurities. Maura Healey spoke at the State House. They are having another clothing drive to help clothing insecurity. Quality clothes will be collected for Cradles to Crayons. Maxwell plans to put collection bins at QRMHS, WBES and at church.
- D. Superintendent's Report-Stephen Duff:
  - a. MSBA Visit-Eric from MSBA visited on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Went to all 3 schools with Marc. He found the doors and windows at WBES to be the top priority, 2<sup>nd</sup> is the boiler and 3<sup>rd</sup> are the driveways and parking

lots. The Statement of Interest has been started for the doors and windows.

- b. Principal Handfield – Nominated for Administrator of the Year by the student council members and advisors. He is a finalist. A Memorial Scholarship has been set up by the Handfield family.
- c. Warren Selectmen Meeting – Discussed the budget process. Explained that Regional Agreements do not expire. We are working hard to keep the budget low.
- d. SWCEC Update - They are going to have a 1% increase in costs. They are building a gym using money from the capital improvement account
- e. HVAC Update – We were awarded \$304,000. Bid awarded to Fred Williams. Visited WCES on February 18<sup>th</sup>. He was impressed with the system installed last year. Marc would like the same system at QRMHS. We are waiting to hear back from Fred about the National Grid incentives.
- f. WCSA Roundtable Meeting with State Legislatures from Several Districts. They are facing the same issues we have been facing for years. The legislatures have five priorities. 1. 18% of students qualify for Special Education which accounts for 41% of the states budget. Would like the circuit breaker to be 100% funded. 2. Pipeline for Educators through DESE. 3. Find alternatives to Police interventions and suspensions. We do not have a lot of legal authority. 4. School District funding. 5. Retirement bill to offer MTRS retirement plus to teachers hired after 2011.
- g. Massachusetts Virtual School – Students have the right to apply to virtual schools Tecca and Greater Virtual School. No more than 2% of students can attend. School Committee can cap enrollment at 1%. Greg Morse disagreed with a 1% cap as we should provide families with all available options.

**A motion was made by M Peloquin and seconded by G Piermarin to cap the virtual school enrollment at 1%.**

VOTE: Yes-5, No-2 (G Morse, P Landine), Abstain-1 (T Mathieson)

## II. **Secretary's Report:**

- A. Review and approval of minutes:

**A motion was made by P Landine and seconded by B Griffing to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025.**

VOTE: Yes-6, No-0, Abstain-2 (G Piermarini, M Peloquin)

**A motion was made by B Griffing and seconded by M Peloquin to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025.**

VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-1 (G Piermarini)

**A motion was made by B Griffing and seconded by M Peloquin to accept the Executive Session Minutes of February 10, 2025.**

VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-1 (G Piermarini)

**III. Communications:**

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes January 27, 2025
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025
- C. Executive Session Minutes February 10, 2025
- D. ICE Access to Schools and Students Memorandum
- E. WCSA Roundtable Presentation
- F. Massachusetts Virtual School Report

**IV. Financial Business Matters:**

- A. FY 26 Budget Update-Budget subcommittee has met with all departments except for Special Education. Nicki met with Dr. Esposito and will present at next Tuesday's meeting. Teacher negotiations are ongoing.

**V. Unfinished Business:**

- A. Budget Subcommittee- Jason Morgan, Chair
  - a. Met a few times. Trying to keep the budget the same as last year with the exception of things that are out of our control. Some lines appeared to increase but were the result of moving improper lines to correct lines.
  - b. Next meeting – March 4, 2025
- B. Personnel Subcommittee – Phil Landine, Chair
  - a. Update-none
  - b. Next meeting – March 5, 2025
- C. Policy Subcommittee- Greg Morse, Chair
  - a. Update-none
  - b. Next meeting TBA
- D. Building Subcommittee- Andrew Schwenker
  - a. Update-none
  - b. Next meeting – March 10., 2025

**VI. New Business:**

- A. Student Council Hyannis Trip- The Student Council would like to attend the e-board trip on March 5-7. They will use the school van. Because it is an overnight trip, it requires School Committee approval.

**A motion was made by G Morse and seconded by G Piermarini to approve the Student Council trip to Hyannis.**

VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0, Unanimous

**VII. Public Hearing Period:**

**None**

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

**None**

**IX. Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by B Griffing and seconded by G Morse to adjourn the meeting.**

VOTE: Yes -8, No -0, Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Courtney*

Cindy Courtney, Clerk