

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Aug. 23, 2022, in West Brookfield, Town Hall

In attendance: David Dufresne, Chair; Rich Eichacker, Vice-Chair; Derick Veliz, Clerk; James Ferrera, Town Administrator; Karen Dusty, Administrative Assistant.

1. Call Meeting to order: 6:03 P.M.
2. Meeting with West Brookfield Select Board and the West Brookfield Advisory Committee to discuss the Quaboag Regional School District operations, finance, safety, and leadership. This meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 8/23 at 6:00pm and will be held in the lower meeting room of the West Brookfield Town Hall. Mr. Dufresne stated that we reached out to them to have a meeting a while ago for proceeding to have a forensic audit on Quaboag Regional School District. We want to do this because the school couldn't answer simple questions about where they were spending the money that was voted on from West Brookfield and Warren. Mr. Sickenberger, from West Brookfield Select Board, asked since the Superintendent and the financial secretary just left, do we still want to do this? Mr. Dufresne said absolutely. We want to make sure that the school is going to spend the money appropriately. It is the biggest part of both Town's budgets. Mr. Sickenberger asked, "Can we force the school to do an audit?" Mr. Ferrera said that there are a couple of ways to have this done. Hire someone to come in and do the audit or have the state come in and do an audit. To have the state come in, we would need 2/3 of a vote from both Select Boards and the School Committee. We are just starting the conversation with the boards. Mr. Ferrera stated the probably the first thing to do is write a letter to the school to let them know what we are looking to do.
Mr. Pierce stated that we just want to know what is going on and for them to be transparent. It costs us so much to keep the Town Hall running, so it hard to come up with more money each year for the school. Mr. Veliz stated that the most important thing is our kids and, with this merger that they are working on, what is best for our children. We all need to be on the same page. They are trying to get the North Brookfield merger to go through. Mr. Ferrera stated that he attended the last school committee meeting, and they were voting on moving forward. They will need the vote from the Boards. Mr. Veliz stated that there is a meeting on regionalization next Thursday September 1st.
Mr. Pierce said that it was his understanding that we needed to write a letter to the school about our intent so could Mr. Ferrera and Mrs. Acerra to work together on creating the letter. Mr. von Bleiken stated that we should have quarterly meetings with each other. All agreed, next time they will come to Warren. Mr. Dufresne made a motion to have a letter drafted up and send to the Superintendent from both West Brookfield and Warren. Mr. Eichacker 2nd AIF roll call vote Passed unanimously.
3. Adjourn Mr. Eichacker made a motion to adjourn 2nd Mr. Veliz AIF roll call vote Adjourn unanimously

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Dusty, Administrative Assistant


Richard Eichacker, Vice-Chair