

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – March 9, 2011

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 in the F.W. Parker Elementary School. Present were: Mr. Dave McCarthy, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg, Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Mrs. Emily Lebo, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, and Mayor Thomas P. Koch, Chairman.

Regular Mtg.

Chairman
Presiding

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The Superintendent called the roll and all members were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Mrs. Tefta Burrelli, Clerk; Messrs. Mulvey, Mullaney, Draicchio, and Mulvey. Ms. Roberts, Tenaglia, Hughes and Todd. Ms. Allison Cox, QEA President, Tracey Christello, Citywide and Meaghan Peterson, QHS Student Representative. The members observed a moment of silence for former school employees, Paul Stanton and Gordene Everett.

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On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Isola, the Committee approved the regular session minutes for February 9, 2011. The ayes have it.

Reg. Meeting Mins.
Approved 2/9/2011

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Principal Maryanne Palmer welcomed everyone to the Parker Elementary School. She thanked her staff for the work they do there every day. The fifth grade chorus, under the direction of Ken Walsh, entertained the members with songs. Ms. Palmer said that the Parker learning community is like a family in the neighborhood. All students walk to school together with their families. The students are taught to give back to the community by doing community service projects. One of their partners, Big Sisters, has volunteers who come to the school and become a mentor to one of their female students. North Quincy student volunteers come to Parker afternoons to volunteer in the 21st Century Community Learning Ctr. Program. Tonight, North Quincy student volunteers Tim Tran and Devin Killeleah were present and recognized for their leadership in this volunteer project.

Principal Welcome

For the last four years QARI has closely partnered with the Quincy Pubic Schools to assess the needs of immigrant students and their families. They focus on supporting the school system in integrating students and their families. They also developed supplemental services including after school mentoring at Quincy High School. They offer a three hour in-school orientation for all new students

QARI
Staff Recognition
John Brothers

and their parents, support for the school registration of new immigrant students, and assist with translation of school documents, interpreter services for parent teacher meetings. Mr. John Brothers, QARI, was present to receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the School Committee.

The Superintendent thanked Jim Rendle, coaches and students for a fine winter sports season.

Supts. Report

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As no one wished to be heard at the Open Forum, the Committee went on with the business at hand.

Open Forum

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The Maintenance Department was very busy over the school vacation week. At the elementary schools, the electrician installed a new all-call system at Parker School, security cameras at Squantum and a new outside security light system at Montclair. Carpenters repaired ceilings at Central and Lincoln Hancock. They repaired desks at Squantum, the walls in the girls' bathroom at Sterling, window and door repairs at North Quincy High, Central, Atlantic, Marshall and Wollaston. Many heating and plumbing calls were addressed at Merrymount, Wollaston, Montclair, Bernazzani, Atherton Hough, Snug Harbor, and Marshall. Floor tiles were repaired at Beechwood Knoll and Wollaston, painting at Beechwood Knoll, and several areas at North Quincy and Atherton Hough. Moves and deliveries were made at Sterling, Point Webster, North Quincy, and Lincoln Hancock.

Bldg. Update

Mrs. Bragg thanked Mr. Murphy for installing the all-call system at Parker School and replacing the tiles at the Wollaston School.

Mr. McCarthy inquired about the money appropriated to try and fix the heat at the Lincoln Hancock Pool. Mr. Murphy said that money was appropriated, but there is no problem with the temperature of the pool. They will use some of that money to put hot water storage tanks at Broad Meadows. Mr. McCarthy also inquired about the furniture at the old Quincy High School. Mr. Murphy has been looking at utilizing the chairs in the auditorium at other schools. However, the chairs have to fit the slope in those auditoriums. It is contingent upon the height of the front legs and the back legs. Everything has been disconnected and will be moved next week out of the cafeteria and kitchen. He has met with Joanne Morrissey and some of the equipment will go to other schools. The Superintended added that doors, chairs, locks, everything has been scrapped. The building has been stripped.

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The Quincy High School Building Committee met on February 11. They had a presentation from Wheatstone regarding the two wells from underground

Quincy High School
Mrs. Dwyer reports

oil tanks put there in the 70s. There is still 1/8” of oil coming out of the ground. Wheatstone thought by now the oil would have stopped. The DEP understands that this could go on forever. They came up with a long range plan over the next five years. All existing wells except for two will be closed and Wheatstone will go in on a quarterly basis and take the oil off.

There were 12 elbows pipes that were faulty. All 12 of those were supposed to be replaced. Mrs. Dwyer will get an update for the next meeting. Also, we will have an update on the punch list next week.

They did ask Gilbane to come to our next March meeting to get an update about anything going on at the school. There will be one more walk through. Tishman is still on board and Gilbane guarantees their work and is not going anywhere.

Gary Cunniff scheduled the placement of the solar panels on the high school roof as soon as the weather gets better.

Mr. McCarthy asked if there were any other leaks at Quincy High School since February vacation. The Superintendent said there was only one small issue. During the next school vacation, all these elbows will be changed.

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The Superintendent said he is looking at the next School Committee meeting for a presentation on the schematic design for the new Central Middle School. Ai3 is still finishing the schematic design, the project scope and budget. A meeting is scheduled with the MSBA on Monday.

Central Middle School
Supts. Reports

With regard to scheduling public meetings, Mrs. Bragg asked that they work with the ward councilors and the subcommittee of the Central Building Committee. The Superintendent will work on a calendar for these meetings. He will tie in the scope work on the ENC site for the next meeting.

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Ms. Beth Hallett greeted the Committee in Italian. As of October, 2010, Quincy has 1,102 ELL students. ELL students are those whose first language is one other than English and are in need of services to learn English. There are 593 Former Limited English Proficient (FLEP) students who no longer receive services in English.

ELL Program

The mission is to provide all ELL students appropriate English language instruction to achieve essential interpersonal skills and academic language and to become viable members of their schools and community.

All non English speaking families register their children at the Central Registration Office. They are given Diagonistic tests. After that, grade level and an ELL program plan is determined. Beginners receive 2.5 hrs. of English language instruction every day, intermediate students receive 1 hour per day, and advanced to transition students receive .5 hrs. a day.

The ELL staff consists of 28 ELL teachers, 5 ELL Tutors, 11 ELL Para-professionals, and 2 ELL Student Support Counselors and 1 Team Administrator. The funding for ELL services come from the Quincy Public Schools Budget, and grant funding – Title III, Title IID, 21st. CCLC Grant, Academic Support, and District School and Accountability Center Grant.

Students are assessed through the Massachusetts English proficiency Assessment (MEPA Reading/Writing Massachusetts English Language Assessment – ORAL (MELO-O) many factors contribute to the decision to move a student who is ready for mainstream classes out of the program. When a student has exited, he/she is classified as Former LEP (FLEP) for two years.

There are 1,102 students in the system that receive ELL services. Two percent of our budget or\$1.89million is spent on ELL services.

Mrs. Lebo asked why there isn't ELL services at North Quincy High. The Superintendent replied that we have to look at a balancing off our demographics in the City. They still adhere to a desegregation that would look at all numbers and see there should be a balance. This was initiated by way of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mrs. Lebo thought the program is spectacular but would like to talk to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and see what their feeling is today.

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On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee accepted the gift of \$2,000 from Mr. Daniel Quirk towards new automotive tools and equipment for the Automotive Technology program. The ayes have it.

Gifts: CTE

On a motion by Mrs. Lebo, seconded by Ms. Isola, the Committee accepted a year's supply (\$2,880) of EpiPens for the school system from the Rural Lodge of Masons. The ayes have it.

To Health Office

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Mrs. Bragg inquired about the questions given to the Committee by Mr. Chris Chetwyn about the pile of dirt at Faxon Field. The Mayor said there is no issue at Faxon Field. This item will be on the next agenda.

Additional Business

Mr. McCarthy inquired about the status of the traffic at North Quincy High School. Mayor Koch said it is a state project – Mass DOT. It is not progressing as quickly as he would like. The Lt. Governor had met with Mayor Koch and said he will look into this.

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On a motion by Mrs. Dwyer, seconded by Ms. Isola, the Committee approved a trip for Quincy High students to attend the Massachusetts Youth and Government Model Government Conference on March 24-26, 2011. The ayes have it.

QHS to Boston
Overnight

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The Budget Subcommittee met on February 16 to review the Pre-K and Kindergarten Programs. Mrs. Edith Hughes and her staff gave a presentation on the program. A lot of questions were raised regarding Full Day Kindergarten. The members asked Mr. Mullaney to come back at the next Budget Subcommittee with answers. On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee approved the Budget Subcommittee minutes for February 16. The ayes have it.

Budget Subcommittee
Mtgs.
Mrs. Mahoney reports

The Budget Subcommittee met again on March 8 to discuss the Academic Programs/Full Day Kindergarten. Mr. Mullaney presented the requested information from the previous meeting. He had charts showing the free and reduced incomes. As of October 2010 there were 44% of Quincy families on free and reduced lunches. As of January 27, there are 45.4% on free and reduced lunches. A large population of free and reduced lunch families would impact the funding sources. If we charged tuition, we would lose the \$261,000 grant. There would be savings in the first and second year but we would lose our foundation money. We could lose \$.5 million in the 2012 year. They discussed tuitions at \$4,000 down to \$1,500. Collecting 56% of the money needed just to sustain the program is questionable.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lebo, to leave the free full day Kindergarten in tact for 2011-2012. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0. MRS. BRAGG voted PRESENT.

Free Full Day K
Approved

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The Committee thanked the schools for inviting them to Read Across America. They also thanked North Quincy for inviting them to the dedication of the North Quincy High Auditorium to Peter Chrisom.

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On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee adjourned for the evening at 9:20 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0. There was no executive session.

Adjournment