

*Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – January 25, 2012*

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at Quincy High School. Present were: Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Mayor Thomas Koch, Mrs. Emily Lebo, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mr. Dave McCarthy, and Ms. Barbara Isola, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting

Vice-Chair Presiding

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There was a moment of silence in memory of Barbara McConaghy. Mrs. McConaghy was employed by the Quincy Public Schools for over 30 years, most recently at North Quincy High School.

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The Superintendent called the roll and all were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Messrs. Draicchio, Mullaney, Mulvey, Murphy, Keith Segalla; Mrs. Papile; Ms. Todd; Ward 5 City Councilor Hughes; Councilor-at-Large Gutro; and Ms. Allison Cox, President, QEA.

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mahoney, to approve the regular session minutes for January 11, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting  
Minutes Approved  
1/11/2012

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The Superintendent opened his remarks by introducing Mr. Kevin Doyle, Special Assistant to the National President of the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), David Holway. NAGE represents 50,000 members across the country and is a platinum-level business partner to the Quincy Public Schools. Mr. Doyle made a presentation of a check for \$10,000 to the Quincy Public Schools, representing the first of three annual installments to support the Professional Development Teacher Mentoring team.

After a brief recess, the Superintendent pointed out examples of the home-school connections created by some of the elementary school principals: monthly newsletters from Parker, Montclair, and Snug Harbor and curriculum newsletters

from Squantum and Wollaston. He invited the School Committee to attend the upcoming Special Olympics on February 10 in the Squantum School gymnasium and spoke of Montclair Guidance Counselor Bic Lam who was recognized by the Big Brother/Big Sister Association as Community Partner of the Year for all her efforts to support the program. The Superintendent congratulated the 58 teachers and support staff members who achieved professional status and were celebrated at the January 19<sup>th</sup> reception.

The Superintendent then spoke about Secretary of Education Paul Reville’s visit to the Atlantic Middle School in honor of “No Name-Calling Day.” Accompanied by the Superintendent, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Papile, and members of the legislative delegation including Representative Ayers and Senator Keenan, Secretary Reville was shown around the school by Principal Maureen MacNeil and Assistant Principal Dr. Adam Wolf. Secretary Reville visited several classrooms and met with the school’s Peer Leaders and watched them talk with the sixth grade classes about Rachel’s Challenge.

At the conclusion of the Superintendent’s Report, Ms. Isola opened the nominations for Secretary to the School Committee. Mr. McCarthy nominated Dr. Richard DeCristofaro and Mrs. Mahoney seconded the nomination. Mayor Koch motioned to close the nominations for Secretary to the School Committee and Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

Ms. Isola then opened the nominations for Clerk to the School Committee. Mrs. Lebo nominated Ms. Laura Owens and Mrs. Hubley seconded the nomination. Mayor Koch motioned to close the nominations for Clerk to the School Committee and Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

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Dick Leonard, a substitute teacher at Quincy High School spoke in support of creating a Community Service graduation requirement for both high schools and offered his assistance in collaborating on developing a policy.

Open Forum

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The next item on the agenda was the update on building projects, renovations, and construction from Mr. Murphy. During the last two weeks, 120 work orders were completed by all of the trades, including electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and painting. Mr. Murphy also recognized Mr. Draicchio and the Security and Transportation staffs and Mr. Kevin Segalla and the Custodial staff for all of their work keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes along with the Maintenance Department staff members.

Old Business

Building Projects Update

Mrs. Lebo inquired about loose stones in the North Quincy High School walkway. Mr. Murphy responded that this issue will be addressed in the spring. Mr. Bregoli

mentioned the difficulties regulating the heat at North Quincy High School and Mr. Murphy responded that there is a challenge with keeping the heat balanced in the building and the installation of a separate boiler for the gymnasium is being explored.

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Mrs. Mahoney reported that the next Central Building Committee meeting has been scheduled for Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. The value engineering process is close to completion and the site grading is underway.

New Central Middle School Project

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Mayor Koch moved approval for Quincy High School and North Quincy High School students to travel to Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai, China for April 13, 2012 through April 21, 2012. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of Country Travel

Mr. McCarthy requested that going forward, information about airlines accompany requests for approval for out of the country travel. Information for the trip to China will be provided to the School Committee when it is available in early March.

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The Superintendent introduced Quincy High School Principal Santoro, who in turn introduced the Quincy High School staff members involved in the Quincy High School Professional Learning Community TEAM: Mr. Bretsch, Ms. Conlon, Mr. Gendron, and Ms. Lundquist. Mr. Bretsch opened the presentation by giving an overview of Quincy High School's Professional Learning Community, an example of professional collaboration that is not common to schools. The teams are cross-functional teams with members from different disciplines; they connect and empower teachers to collectively improve their practice and their school. Ms. Lundquist spoke about the team process for brainstorming ideas for guest speakers and areas for skill development. The teams work together to acquire information and to discuss and reflect on what they've learned. Ms. Conlon spoke next about Collaborative Lesson Planning and how teachers work together to focus on parts of the curriculum that might present challenges for students. The lessons developed have both a cross-curricular and departmental focus and are shared throughout the high school.

New Business

QHS Professional Learning Community TEAM Presentation

Mr. Gendron then spoke about the four categories of completed team projects: Improving Communication (developed an internal QHS website to share information and resources); Parents and Community (developed a Parent Handbook, created online scheduling tool for Parent-Teacher Conferences); Instruction (created training documentation and resources for teachers); and Celebrate QHS! (developed recognition system for student achievement, created Facebook page, focused on increasing student participation at school events). Mr. Bretsch summarized the four years of community building at Quincy High School: the staff has worked together to build a powerful vehicle for ongoing teacher-driven school improvement and

professional development. The nineteen teachers serving as team leaders or facilitators have led to improved school culture and climate and created a sense of potential within the school. Mr. Bretsch thanked Principal Santoro for his support and promotion of the teams and Assistant Principal Murray for all her work in scheduling the team meetings.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. McCarthy complimented the team for their work on improving school climate. Mrs. Lebo also complimented the team on their work and the impact on students' education and test scores. Mrs. Mahoney was enthusiastic about the Parent-Teacher conference scheduling tool and suggested adding information about classroom location to help parents understand the potential distance between appointments.

The Superintendent ended the presentation by noting how tremendously impressive this piece of educational organization is. The teams' collaborative efforts extending the school into the students' homes has, and will in the future, make a difference in the lives of the students.

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After a brief recess, Ward 5 City Councilor Kirsten Hughes discussed the proposed upgrades to this privately-owned business adjacent to the site of the new Central Middle School. A neighborhood meeting was held on Monday, January 23, 2012 and over forty neighborhood residents attended to hear presentations by the business owner's attorney, project architect, and landscape architect. The proposal is to add a second story to the existing building, adding 22 guest rooms, as well as enclose the first story to change the building to a hotel with controlled access. The business owner is also seeking a partnership with a national chain. The proposal was positively received at the neighborhood meeting.

President's City  
Inn Presentation

Mr. McCarthy and Mrs. Mahoney asked for clarification about fencing (entire common property line will be fenced off) and privacy (the hotel will not have guest room windows on the school side; the school's auditorium and gymnasium will be closest to the hotel side of the property). Mr. Bregoli expressed concern about security; both Mayor Koch and Mrs. Lebo reiterated the information presented by the Quincy Police Department during the Central Middle School siting process. Ms. Isola agreed and noted that the neighborhood support for the plan was impressive at the recent meeting.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve Quincy High School's trip to Costa Rica April 13-April 21, 2012. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of Country  
Travel

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State travel of the North Quincy and Quincy High Schools Robotics Team to St. Louis, MO April 24-29, 2012. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of State  
Travel

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State travel of Quincy High School CTE Seniors to Mt. Sunapee, NH on March 2, 2012. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State travel of Central Middle School to New York City May 31-June 1, 2012. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State travel of North Quincy High School ROTC to Monticello, VA; Washington, D.C.; and Lexington/Concord April 27-May 1, 2012. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to approve the Overnight travel of Central Middle School to Camp Wing, Duxbury, MA June 12-June 15, 2012. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Overnight  
Travel

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Overnight travel of Broad Meadows Middle School to Camp Wing, Duxbury, MA June 6-June 8, 2012. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Ms. Isola announced that there would be a Special School Committee meeting held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 9:00 am in the Gillyooly Room on the first floor of the NAGE building. The School Committee and the Superintendent and Leadership Team will meet for organizational purposes, as well as to discuss goals for the School Committee as a whole and each individual Subcommittee.

Additional Business  
Special School  
Committee Meeting

Mr. McCarthy thanked Mr. Doyle and NAGE for their generous donation and three-year commitment to the Quincy Public Schools. He also said that he is planning to call a School Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting in February. Agenda topics will include remaining punchlist items for Quincy High School; electrical, and HVAC issues system-wide, including additional training for custodial staff.

Mrs. Mahoney announced that there would be a Special Education Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at Quincy High School at 7:00 pm.

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Mrs. Lebo mentioned that the Quincy High School Culinary Arts students recently had the opportunity to spend a Saturday working with other Boston-area culinary students and have their work judged by a panel of local celebrity chefs. After that event, she saw the Quincy and North Quincy High Schools' Robotics team working together on a project and wanted to mention both these wonderful opportunities for our students.

Communications

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Mr. Bregoli reported on the School Policy Subcommittee meeting, which was held on January 23, 2012. The Head Injury/ Concussion Policy, originally presented to the School Committee at the January 11, 2012 meeting was reviewed and several changes requested to the policy. Mrs. Kisielius revised the policy and it was distributed to School Committee members this evening. Ms. Isola requested that the Head Injury/ Concussion Policy be tabled until the February 8, 2012 School Committee meeting to give the members time to review the revised policy.

Reports of Special  
Committees

Mrs. Isola made a motion to approve the School Committee meeting dates for 2012-2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCarthy and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

Mr. Bregoli then reviewed the discussion of the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar. The calendar has been adjusted to accommodate both the State Primary Election on Thursday, September 6 and the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 6. Both days will be no school for students; on September 6, the professional staff will have an inservice day. The calendar has been distributed to principals, school system leadership, the Quincy Educators Association, Citywide Parents' Council, and Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education for comment. The vote on the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar was tabled until the February 8, 2012 School Committee Meeting to allow time for public comment.

Mr. Bregoli moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January 23, 2012 School Policy Subcommittee Meeting. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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On a motion by Mayor Koch, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, the School Committee adjourned at 8:55 p.m. for the evening. There was no executive session. The ayes have it.

Adjournment