

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – November 9, 2011

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at North Quincy High School. Present were: Mayor Thomas Koch, Chairman, Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg, Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mrs. Emily Lebo, Mr. Dave McCarthy, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting
Chairman Presiding

Mayor Koch introduced North Quincy High School Principal Earl Metzler, who welcomed the School Committee to North Quincy High School and introduced the Air Force Junior ROTC, who presented the flags and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The North Quincy High School Select Choir, under the direction of Mr. Tim Carew, sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America.” Mr. Metzler then spoke of the school’s tradition of academic achievement and culture of knowledge, character, and service. He introduced Air Force Junior ROTC Instructor Colonel Greene who presented the Silver Valor Award to ROTC Cadet Deming Yang for his actions in performing the Heimlich Maneuver saving a friend from choking on food last May.

There was a moment of silence for veterans, service people on active duty, and Mr. Paul Todd, father of Director of Special Education Judith Todd.

The Superintendent called the roll and all were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Messrs. Draicchio, Metzler, Mullaney, Mulvey, Murphy, Keith Segalla, Sullivan, Timmins, Welch; Mrs. Roberts, Papile, Powers; Ms. Todd; Ms. Allison Cox, President, QEA, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, School Committee Member-elect, and Mrs. Tracey Christello, representing the Citywide Parents’ Council.

The Chairman made a motion to take the Open Forum item on the agenda out of order.

Lori Hagborg, parent of two Quincy Public School students, spoke about the plans for the new Central Middle School and concerns about the Music and Band practice facilities. Ms. Hagborg suggested both a Music classroom and Band/Chorus practice space.

Open Forum

Mrs. Tracey Christello, representative for the Citywide Parents' Council, spoke in favor of the Faxon Field track site and expressed concern about the amount of the School Committee time spent debating non-academic issues.

Mr. Daniel Totten, Quincy homeowner and taxpayer, requested that the School Committee put politics aside and vote for the track without further delay. He would also like to see the School Committee focus on raising performance and achievement levels for all students.

Ms. Nicole Deane reiterated the importance of the track to the children of Quincy.

Student Lauren Petrie, Middle School track team and Quincy Track Club member, encouraged the School Committee to vote for the Faxon Field track site.

Mr. Kirk Bond, World-Class Special Olympian and Assistant Coach to the Quincy Track Club spoke in favor of the Faxon Field track site.

Ms. Mary Grace Montado, parent of two Quincy Track Club members, requested that the School Committee members think of their constituents when casting their votes on the Faxon Field.

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Mrs. Bragg made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, to approve the regular session minutes for October 19, 2011. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
10/19/2011

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The Superintendent opened his remarks by noting some recent and upcoming events, including American Education Week, which will be celebrated at the December 14 School Committee meeting; the recent receipt of a Security Grant from Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey's office; both High School Girls Volleyball teams are in the sectional semifinals; the upcoming Thanksgiving High School football game is 79th annual; the Fall Gathering will be held on Thursday, November 17th to benefit four local food pantries. Looking ahead to December, 'Tis the Season, December 6th at 7:30 pm; Lego Robotics competition at NQHS on Saturday, December 3; Rachel's Challenge presentations at Quincy High School on December 5 and 6 for QHS students and all QPS Grade 7 students, plus a parent night, all sponsored by Masons and Quincy Lodge of Elks. 205 QPS high school students received John and Abigail Adams Scholarships for free tuition at a college or university within the Massachusetts State system.

Superintendent's
Report

The Superintendent also pointed out the Wollaston Elementary School monthly newsletter and Snug Harbor Community School curriculum newsletter, copies of which were included in the School Committee packets. He spoke of another recent donation by the Quincy Lodge of Elks, dictionaries for all 670+ Grade 3 students. Finally, Dr. DeCristofaro suggested changing the start time of the December 14 School Committee

meeting; the time change will allow for a reception to honor Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg and Mrs. Elaine Dwyer for their years of School Committee service following the meeting.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to change the start time for the December 14, 2011 School Committee meeting to 6:00 pm. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Change in start time for December 14, 2011 School Committee Meeting.

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The Mayor requested taking the next item out of order and moving to the discussion the Faxon Field Track plan, item D under Old Business. He noted that the department heads from the city's Parks and Recreation departments, and staff from Woodward & Curran and Gale Associates were all present to answer any questions the School Committee members might have.

Old Business
Faxon Field Track Site

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approve building the track at Faxon Field. Ms. Isola seconded the motion.

Mr. McCarthy requested that City Solicitor Timmins explain why the previous vote on the track issue did not need to be rescinded. Mr. Timmins said that since the vote was taken in July 2008 by a previous School Committee, and new members have joined the School Committee in the interim, the vote did not need to be rescinded. A newly convened body is entitled to take up any matter for consideration and is not bound by the vote of a previously convened body. Mr. McCarthy also asked for clarification that the planned capital improvements to address the neighborhood flooding concerns would be completed with or without the track project and Mr. Timmins confirmed that they would be.

Mrs. Bragg stated that she had researched the issue as it relates to Robert's Rules of Order and she agrees with the City Solicitor's recommendation. Mrs. Bragg reiterated that in her opinion, the presentation at the October 19, 2011 meeting was substantially different than the previous presentation in May 2008.

Ms. Isola concurred with Mrs. Bragg and Mr. Timmins, referring to Section 38 of Robert's Rules of Order and that, given the changes in circumstances over time, including the recent court decision, the vote of July 2008 did not need to be rescinded.

Mrs. Bragg spoke to the motion on the table, noting that the city has presented a very comprehensive plan for addressing the neighborhood flooding plan and summarized the details of the areas to be addressed. Mrs. Bragg reviewed the previous concerns about safety and parking and how they have been addressed in the plan and finally, that the children of Quincy deserve to have the track and we need to move forward on this.

Mrs. Dwyer reiterated that she and all School Committee members want a track for the children of Quincy and that the process, while being complicated and taking longer than anyone would have wished, has ensured that everything will be done to address the many concerns around the project.

Ms. Isola spoke again on the emotions of the issue and keeping the focus on how actions will impact the school system's students. After listening to the track plan presentation and capital improvement plan information, she feels confident that Faxon Field is a viable location.

Mr. McCarthy addressed two more questions to Mr. Timmins about the equalization pipe and hydrological studies. Mr. Timmins confirmed that the equalization pipe is part of the capital improvement plan and not subject to DEP approval and that in addition to the 2001 Camp, Dresser, McKee hydrological study, Gale Associates performed a study.

Mrs. Lebo thanked all of the School Committee members for their thoughtful questions; the city, Woodward & Curran, and Gale Associates for their presentations; and Mr. Chris Chetwynd for meeting with her as well. Mrs. Lebo envisions the track as part of an "Emerald Bracelet" of parks in the city of Quincy, stretching from Merrymount Park and Veteran's Stadium through Black's Creek to Quincy High School and the Faxon Field area.

Mrs. Mahoney asked for clarification about the July 2008 vote being strictly on the track issue and did not address the neighborhood flooding concerns. Mr. Timmins answered that the July 2008 vote was taken very early in the process and the city was aware of the Broad Street tide gate and equalization pipe issues, but the capital improvement planning was not yet developed. The School Committee will vote only on the potential siting of the track on Faxon Field and not the Capital Improvement plan, which was passed by the City Council in June.

Mrs. Mahoney also asked Mr. Shea from Woodward & Curran questions about the wetlands and drainage capacity, especially during tides when the flood gates would have to be closed. Mr. Shea responded that all of the repairs, optimization, and enhancements to the drainage system will increase the capacity to both store and move water out of the impacted neighborhood.

Mrs. Mahoney then spoke to the issue of the recent court case and continuing concerns of neighborhood residents. Mr. Timmins requested that these residents contact him with any concerns they might still have.

Mr. Christopher Chetwynd approached the Open Forum microphone, but was denied his request to address the School Committee.

The School Committee then took a roll call vote on the motion on the table to allow a track to be built on Faxon Field. The motion carried by a vote of 4-3. Mrs. Bragg, Ms. Isola, Mayor Koch, and Mrs. Lebo voted YES. Mrs. Dwyer, Mrs. Mahoney, and Mr. McCarthy voted NO.

Faxon Field
Track Vote

After a brief recess, the School Committee returned to the order of the agenda and heard the update on building projects, renovations, and construction from Mr. Murphy. Mr. Murphy thanked the carpentry department for installing a new roof and exterior paneling on the Repair Building at the Bus Yard at a significant cost savings. Electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, and repairs were completed at multiple school locations, including Bernazzani, Squantum, Lincoln-Hancock, Wollaston, Montclair, Central, Sterling, Broad Meadows.

Building Projects
Update

Mr. McCarthy inquired about a ventilation issue at Squantum and Mr. Murphy said it is on the list for the electricians. Mr. McCarthy mentioned the issue of security of the new Central Middle School site. Dr. DeCristofaro answered that the Owner's Project Manager, Tishman Construction is responsible for securing the site daily. Mr. McCarthy requested that the Quincy Police Department be asked to check the site each day to be sure it is secured.

Mrs. Dwyer asked about the roofing projects and whether the Lincoln-Hancock classroom area has been completed and to whom the question should be directed. Mayor Koch responded that the four Public Buildings department staff members are managing different parts of the Capital Improvement plan and the 52 city-owned buildings and setting and updating priorities.

Mrs. Bragg welcomed back Mr. Murphy and mentioned several issues raised during the recent Elementary School Improvement Plan presentations relating to intercoms at Parker and Merrymount. Mr. Murphy responded that the issues have been evaluated and the repairs will be addressed during the December school vacation.

Mrs. Bragg also complimented the many maintenance issues and improvements completed by the Maintenance department and the number of Elementary School principals who mentioned this during their School Improvement Plan presentations.

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Mrs. Dwyer noted that the Quincy High School front landscaping has been replaced, per the warranty. She also mentioned that the reconciliation of expenses for the Quincy High School project from March 2011 to date has not yet been received. This was requested at the October 5, 2011 School Committee meeting and from the Public Buildings department. Mrs. Dwyer suggested that Quincy High School be removed from the Agenda going forward.

Quincy High School

Dr. DeCristofaro mentioned that an outstanding water issue has been addressed and Mrs. Dwyer recommended adding more skateboarding leaves to deter the damage to the property.

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Mrs. Bragg said that the October 17 Central Building Committee meeting was not well-attended and a quorum was not met, so the meeting was held for informational

New Central Middle
School Project

purposes only. Draft meeting minutes have been circulated to all School Committee members.

Eight general contractors are currently having their qualifications reviewed and subcontractor bids are due November 17, 2011. Abatement of the former St. Ann’s School is underway. Documents were due to the School Building Authority by October 31 and submitted. An agenda item for the next meeting will be that value engineering of items that will affect the school’s learning environment should be discussed at Central Building Committee meetings and at School Committee. The next meeting is Monday, December 12, 2011 at 4:15 in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the NAGE building.

Mrs. Bragg mentioned that she has requested to stay on the Central Building Committee after she leaves the School Committee at the end of the year and the request has been granted by Mayor Koch. Mrs. Bragg and Dr. DeCristofaro also mentioned the New Central Building Project Update shared with the Mayor, City Council, and School Committee and posted on the Quincy Public Schools and City of Quincy website. This update will be posted monthly to keep the public apprised of the progress of the new Central Middle School project.

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The Mayor requested taking the next agenda item out of order.

New Business

Mr. Sullivan from the Manager of Energy, Waste, Recycling for the city Department of Public Works spoke on the process of getting Quincy designated as a Green of Community by the state. One the five criteria for acceptance is to adopt a policy of purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles, which the city has done and is now requesting that the School Committee do as well.

Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy

Mrs. Bragg explained that since the deadline for the application is November 17, the School Committee’s usual process of first reviewing a policy change in a Policy Subcommittee meeting will be bypassed.

Mrs. Bragg then made a two-part motion for approval:

In an effort to reduce the Quincy Public School’s fuel consumption and energy costs, the Quincy School Committee hereby adopts a policy to purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles to meet this goal. These are vehicles that are commercially available and practical.

The Quincy Public Schools shall develop a plan to replace all non-exempt vehicles with fuel-efficient vehicles that meet, at a minimum, the fuel-efficiency ratings contained in the most recent guidance for Criteria 4 published by the MA Department of Energy Resources’ Green Communities Division. The fuel-efficiency ratings contained therein are based on the most recently published US Environmental Protection Agency combined city and highway MPG ratings for vehicles. Said plan shall outline the process by which the Quincy Public Schools will replace vehicles, set goals for when the existing fleet will be replaced, and review said plan on an annual basis.

If this motion passes, the Superintendent is authorized to draft a letter stating that this policy has been adopted.

After clarifying that buses are exempt from this policy, Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0. Mrs. Bragg, Mrs. Dwyer, Ms. Isola, Mrs. Lebo, Mrs. Mahoney, Mr. McCarthy, and Mayor Koch all voted YES.

Fuel-Efficient Vehicle
Policy Vote

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The Mayor then returned to the Agenda order for the next item.

Mrs. Bragg reviewed the October 11 School Policy Subcommittee meeting, where the Safety and Security and Athletic Department Program Improvement Plans were presented.

Program Improvement
Plans

Mr. Draicchio presented the Safety and Security Program Improvement Plan and noted that Quincy Public Schools is a very safe school system. The Security Round Table meets monthly and includes representatives from the Quincy Police Department, the Quincy Fire Department, the Norfolk County District Attorney’s office, the Norfolk County Sheriff, MBTA Police Department, Quincy Probation, Quincy District Court, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Youth Services. Safety and Security’s goals for 2011-12 are: The District has emergency procedures for the protection of staff and students in emergency situations. These procedures will be consistently reinforced during the 2011-2012 school year. (1) The Quincy Public Schools Safety and Security Round Table Team will produce an updated copy of our Emergency Procedures. This draft copy will be in the form of a “Flip Chart” and will be available for all Quincy Public Schools by September 2012. (2) *Safety First*, a Quincy Public Schools newsletter, will be published in the Fall, Winter and Spring of the 2011-2012 school year. (3) The Quincy Public Schools Safety and Security Roundtable Team will continue monthly meetings to discuss issues that may impact our students and staff. (4) Professional Development will be provided to security staff during each high school release day to enhance their knowledge and professionalism. The focus of the professional development will be report writing, emergency phone call protocols, and ID screening. (5) Increase security video surveillance by adding additional cameras to 5 middle/elementary schools during the 2011-2012 school year. (6) Emergency Safety Drills will be conducted at all Quincy Public Schools twice a year during the Fall of 2011 and the Spring of 2012.

Mr. Jim Rendle presented the Athletic Department Program Improvement Plan. The Quincy Public Schools Athletic department consists of 111 programs (25 middle school programs, 86 high school program); coaches work with 449 high school and 251 middle school athletes. The mission of the Athletics program is to provide learning experiences which contribute to physical, mental, social and emotional growth. Many the Athletic

Department’s goals for this year are a continuation of last year’s goals: (1) Continue to work with coaches in order to monitor the School Committee Policy of “no tolerance” in regard to hazing, harassment and bullying to ensure compliance during the 2011-2012 school year. (2) Continue to work in collaboration with High School Deans to monitor students who may be at-risk or who have attendance/disciplinary issues during the 2011-2012 school year. (3) Continue to train and certify QPS coaches in CPR/AED use; training will be completed by March 2012. Currently 50% are certified and 30% eligible for recertification. (4) To increase the amount of athletic events that our student athletes will have the opportunity to participate in the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Jim Mullaney presented the Athletic Department budget, including information about the revolving account.

Mr. Mullaney also presented budget information for the nine previously approved Program Improvement Plans. At the subcommittee’s request, Mr. Mullaney will add grants and revolving account information and a summary of the total program costs (budget plus grants and revolving account information).

The subcommittee then discussed graduation requirements, with Quincy High School Principal Frank Santoro and North Quincy High School Principal Earl Metzler, and Assistant Principal Rob Shaw joining the meeting. Since the full impact of the changing Common Core Standards is still not known, especially for Math, the discussion was tabled until more information is available. Adding a community service requirement was also discussed and will be explored further at the November 30 School Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Bragg motioned to approve the Safety and Security Program Improvement Plan, the Athletic Department Program Improvement Plan, and the October 11 School Policy Subcommittee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCarthy. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Bragg then reviewed the Elementary School Improvement Plans, presented by each school’s principals at School Policy Subcommittee meetings on October 25 and November 2. She spoke of how many of last year’s goals were met and that some schools chose to retain goals but refocus their efforts through new action steps. The elementary schools each have three goals, most have ELA and Math MCAS goals, plus a school climate goal. The principals reviewed the curriculum initiatives and professional development they are utilizing, including Keys to Literacy, *Trophies*, *Study Island*, Lexia, *Cornerstones*, Walk to Read, Walk to Math, *Go Math!*, John Collins Writing program, 4-Square Writing, *6 + 1 Traits of Writing*, and Literacy Circles.

Elementary School
Improvement Plans

Many principals commented on the major progress on their last year’s maintenance issues. Thank you to Kevin Murphy, Kevin Segalla, and the Custodial and Maintenance staff. New maintenance issues have been referred to the Facilities Subcommittee, including traffic issues.

Each principal provided information about their school’s population: total number of students, SPED (including citywide programs), ELL, and free/reduced lunch. Mrs. Roberts also provided the subcommittee members with additional information. Some of the highlights included hearing about Atherton Hough’s Centennial Celebration, Squantum, Beechwood Knoll, and Snug Harbor being commended by DESE for their performance on MCAS, the Marshall School’s 27 different languages, Montclair’s Mix-It Up Anti-Bullying Activities, Bernazzani’s CPI scores being the highest in the school’s history, Lincoln-Hancock’s plan to increase parent involvement, Merrymount dissecting the Common Core Standards, Parker’s grade-level collaboration time for teachers and Project Wisdom Character traits, and Wollaston’s advances in classroom technology.

Mrs. Bragg made a motion to approve the Elementary School Improvement Plans for Atherton Hough, Beechwood Knoll, Bernazzani, Lincoln-Hancock, Clifford Marshall, Merrymount, Montclair, Parker, Snug Harbor, Squantum, and Wollaston and the minutes of the October 25, 2011 and November 2, 2011 School Policy Subcommittee meetings. Mrs. Dwyer seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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The next item on the agenda was a review of the resolutions to be voted on at the General Assembly of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees on November 11, 2011. Ms. Isola and Mrs. Lebo are both attending the conference and Mrs. Lebo is the official delegate for the Quincy School Committee. There are five resolutions and Mrs. Lebo made a motion on each resolution:

Massachusetts
 Association of School
 Committee Conference
 Resolutions

On Resolution 1, which relates to access for all Grade 8 students to information about vocational and technical education programs Mrs. Lebo motioned to support this resolution.

On Resolution 2, which relates to Chapter 70 funding and the increased demands related to the new educator evaluation regulations, Mrs. Lebo motioned to support the resolution, subject to clarification of increased funding.

On Resolution 3, which relates to Charter School Funding and changes to the funding mechanism so these schools are funded directly by the state and not out of Chapter 70 funds, Mrs. Lebo motioned to support this resolution.

On Resolution 4, Mrs. Lebo is not sure whether this resolution will go forward since the state of Massachusetts is in the process of requesting a waiver from NCLB. If the resolution does go forward, Mrs. Lebo motioned to support this resolution.

On Resolution 5, the state legislature would institute by statute a review process for the new educator evaluation regulations to ensure that DESE is not imposing additional

mandates that carry unreimbursed costs to local districts. Mrs. Lebo motioned to support this resolution.

Ms. Isola seconded the motions and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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The next item on the agenda was Out of State Travel.

Out of State
Travel

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Out of State travel of the Atlantic Middle School to New York City on June 7-8, 2012 and the North Quincy High School hockey team to Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire on December 2, 2012. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Bragg spoke of the anti-bullying presentation hosted by Quincy After School Childcare on November 4, 2011 and how it complemented and reinforced the Quincy Public Schools anti-bullying policy and initiatives.

Additional Business

Ms. Isola supported Mrs. Lebo’s idea of creating a Teaching and Learning Subcommittee, which she proposed at an earlier School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Dwyer removed two items from the School Facilities Subcommittee: Conservation (referred February 8, 2006) and T rack (referred April 9, 2008).

Ms. Isola removed Faxon Field (referred October 27, 2008) from the School Rules, Post Audit, and Oversight Subcommittee.

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Mrs. Lebo reviewed the Special Education Subcommittee meeting held on October 26, 2011. There was not a quorum of School Committee members at the meeting, so it was held for informational purposes only. Special Education Director Judy Todd reviewed recent changes in 504 plans, and the new tracking program for IEP Implementation, Easy Track. She also presented the Special Education Program Improvement plan, the goals for which were reviewed at the October 5, 2011 School Committee meeting.

Reports of Special
Committees

Mrs. Jill Gichui presented QPAC’s goals and action steps for 2011-2012: Increase participation in QPAC by (1) increasing the visibility of QPAC in the schools and community, (2) improving communication between QPAC and members, and (3) improving the services provided through the Resource Center. Advise the district on special education policies, procedures, and programs by (1) evaluating information provided to substitutes regarding students with disabilities, (2) reviewing QPS transition-related procedures, and (3) developing a parent’s guide to special education.

The final presentation of the meeting was by Special Education Team Administrator Donna Cunningham, who spoke on Social Skills programming across the Quincy Public Schools.

Mrs. Lebo motioned to accept the meeting notes for the October 26, 2011 Special Education Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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The School Committee noted the following Civil Service retirements:

Jessie Gangi

Marianne Svagdis

Retirements

Head Cashier
Food Service Office

Full-Day Kindergarten
Paraprofessional

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The mayor acknowledge that School Committee member-elect Mrs. Kathryn Hubley was in attendance for the School Committee meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Lebo, seconded by Mrs. Bragg, the Committee adjourned at 9:35 p.m. for the evening. There was no executive session. The ayes have it.

Adjournment