

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – March 7, 2012

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 in the Temporary City Council Chambers in City Hall. Present were: Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Mayor Thomas Koch, 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 for the Smith, Opanesets, and Houlihan families, all of whom recently lost family members. In addition, Dr. DeCristofaro noted the recent passings of John Walsh, who taught foreign languages and was principal of North Quincy High School for a total of thirty-one years; Arthur Foster, a teacher in the Quincy Public Schools for 40 years; and Dr. Carol Lee Griffin, a thirty year veteran of Quincy Public Schools as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Assistant Superintendent.

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The Superintendent called the roll and Mrs. Lebo was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Messrs. Boss, Chella, Draicchio, Mullaney, Mulvey, Murphy, Keith Segalla, Taglieri; Mrs. Papile, Roberts; Ms. Maureen MacNeil, Riggs, Todd; Ms. Allison Cox, President, QEA, and Mrs. Tracey Christello, Citywide Parents' Council Representative.

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Mayor Koch made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, to approve the regular session minutes for February 8, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
2/8/2012

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

Open Forum

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The Superintendent opened his remarks by mentioning the upcoming Leadership in Action Conference on March 13 at Curry College. Fifty female sophomore and junior students from both high schools will be attending the all-day event, sponsored by the Women's Business Connection of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce. Recent Quincy Public Schools events include last week's

Superintendent's Report

well-attended high school information nights held on March 5, 2012 at North Quincy High School and March 6, 2012 at Quincy High School. 560 students registered for Kindergarten on the first day of registration on March 6. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges concluded their visit to Quincy High School on Wednesday, March 7. Special thanks to Ellen Murray, Assistant Principal and Frank Santoro, Principal for their leadership and all the hard work that led up to this visit. Lt. Governor Murray, a Career and Technical Education proponent also recently visited Quincy High School and toured the facility and classrooms.

Other items of note include Alex Pitkin of Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, architect for Quincy High School, recently received a citation from the National School Board Association for the school’s design and an invitation to have a display at the upcoming 2012 NSBA Exhibition of School Architecture on April 21 and 22, 2012 in Boston. For the recently concluded winter sports season, both the North Quincy High School boys’ hockey and basketball teams were league championships. Four teams had berths in the MIAA tournaments, including the two North Quincy High School boys’ hockey and basketball teams and the Quincy High School boys’ and girls’ basketball teams. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Athletic Director Jim Rendle, all of the coaches, and especially the student athletes.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by mentioning the elementary schools’ recent celebration of Dr. Suess’s birthday on March 2, 2012 and Read Across America. The Mayor, members of the School Committee, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, and members of the Quincy Retired Teachers Association read aloud to students at various elementary schools as part of the celebration.

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The Superintendent introduced Mrs. Maura Papile, Director of Student Support Services, who began with recognizing two important partners to the Quincy Public Schools: the Quincy Rotary Club and the Rural Lodge of Masons. She noted that building school culture is a goal for all schools in Quincy and that both the Rotary Club and the Rural Lodge of Masons have been supportive of these goals in many ways. The Quincy Rotary Club has made donations to bring the *Rachel’s Challenge* program to Grade 7 students across the city, contributed to the costs for the John Morello presentation, and provided funds to support curriculum initiatives at the middle school level. The Rural Lodge of Masons also contributed to the cost of the John Morello presentation, sponsored the Chris Herren presentations at both high schools, provided first aid bags and Epi-pens for each school, and helped children in need throughout the year, especially during the holiday season. Both the Quincy Rotary Club and the Rural Lodge of Masons were presented with certificates of appreciation from the Quincy School Committee.

New Business

Partnership Recognition

After a brief recess, Guidance Counselor Joseph Boss and four Grade 7 Peer Leaders from Broad Meadows Middle School shared some of the initiatives the school’s

Student Support

Services Presentation

students developed based on *Rachel’s Challenge*, including taking part in the five challenges: make a difference in your life, make other people feel like they belong, start your own chain reaction, treat other people how you want to be treated and treat people right. Guidance Counselor Lauren Riggs and four students from Atlantic Middle School told of how students at Atlantic are working on being kinder and more positive. They also spoke about the recent visit by the Secretary of Education Paul Reville on Blackout Bullying Day, January 25, 2012 who observed the peer leaders interacting with students during classroom discussions.

Mayor Koch thanked Mrs. Papile for her leadership and mentioned the Kiwanis’ Junior Hero Award presentations that were held last Saturday. Ms. Isola thanked the Quincy Rotary Club and the Rural Lodge of Masons for their many years of support and all the students who presented this evening, their parents, the school’s principals, administrators, and support staff. Dr. DeCristofaro concluded by complimenting the students present and all the middle school students for having this competition of caring and thanked the Student Support Services staff across all schools citywide.

After a brief recess, Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of North Quincy High School Juniors to Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI on April 27, 2012. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of State Travel

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Overnight Travel of Quincy High School to the Skills USA Conference in Marlboro, MA April 26 through April 28, 2012 and Quincy High School Youth in Government to Boston, MA for the State Conference March 29 through March 31, 2012. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Overnight Travel

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Mr. McCarthy asked Mr. Keith Segalla to speak about the recent incident involving a student from a high school in another city and Facebook. Quincy Public Schools received information from the Norfolk District Attorney’s Office that a local student had been “friended” on Facebook by someone pretending to be a student and after messages containing personal information had been exchanged, the student was then threatened with extortion. Reminders about social networking safe practices were shared with the middle and high school students citywide and posted on the Quincy Public Schools website.

Additional Business

Mr. McCarthy then spoke about an alert the Quincy Public Schools had received from the Massachusetts Health and Homeland Security agency about suspicious letters recently received in schools in Massachusetts. The alert was shared with school principals and administrators citywide.

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The report of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting of February 13, 2012 was tabled until the March 21, 2012 School Committee meeting due to Mrs. Lebo's absence.

Reports of Special
Committees

Mr. McCarthy reported on the School Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting that was held on February 15, 2012. Mr. Gary Cunniff and Mr. Walter MacDonald from the Public Buildings department were present at the meeting. For Quincy High School, the items discussed related to heating and air conditioning, remaining punchlist items, and new issues that may be covered by warranty. The Public Buildings Department will be assisting in pursuing these items with the manufacturers as the Gilbane contract is closed out. Mr. Cunniff reported on the status of the heating and electrical issues systemwide, noting that these are related to the Honeywell contract now in litigation. Once the litigation is settled, there is a priority list of issues to be resolved. For Coddington Hall, Mr. Cunniff reported that the design phase is underway by Wessling Architects. The houses on Saville Avenue are occupied by the School Maintenance and Public Building Departments until the renovations at Coddington Hall are complete. The outdoor lighting audit is ongoing, the negotiations with the Army Corps of Engineers about the demolition of old Quincy High School are also ongoing, and a follow up meeting is to be scheduled with Quincy College about the idea of renting the Coddington Hall parking lot.

School Facilities and
Security Subcommittee

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the School Facilities and Security Subcommittee Meeting minutes from the February 15, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bregoli and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Mahoney requested clarification for the timeline of the Coddington Hall renovation and whether the parking lot rental would conflict with the project. She also queried the length of the current lease for the QPS Administrative offices at the NAGE building; both are to be followed up on. Mrs. Mahoney asked whether the locations for additional cameras at schools had been determined and Mr. McCarthy replied that as part of the lighting audit, maps are being updated to note lighting and current camera locations to assist in finalizing these new camera placements.

Ms. Isola reported on the Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting that was held on February 27, 2012. Mr. Jim Mullaney reported that as of January 31, 2012 all accounts for Academics, Academic Support, and Non-Academic Support are in line with budget projections. Deficits and surpluses in individual line items balance out with a small net deficit. Potentials for variances are the Special Education Tuition and Transportation accounts. The next item on the agenda was a review of Revolving Accounts for School Lunches, Athletics, Transportation, and Building Rentals; School Lunches and Building Rental accounts have surpluses that will be used for planned upgrades and to cover possible deficits in utilities. Athletics and Transportation have small deficits that will be covered as well. Mrs. Isola then suggested moving the Professional Development Quarterly review to the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee. The last item discussed at the meeting was the expansion of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee to include all School Committee

Budget and Finance
Subcommittee

members. Mrs. Lebo made the motion, Mrs. Hubley seconded it, and on a roll call vote, it was approved 6-0. Mayor Koch was not present for the vote.

Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to approve the Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting minutes from the February 27, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCarthy and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

Mrs. Hubley reported on the Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee meeting that was held on March 6, 2012. The Subcommittee reviewed the two items that were in subcommittee (increasing breakfast program participation and the traffic intersection near North Quincy High School) and a motion was made to remove both of these items from the subcommittee. Suggested improvements to signage to establish a dropoff zone and limit parking at Quincy High School during morning dropoff were filed with the City Council for a vote at the March 12, 2012 meeting. Mid-Year Program Improvement Plan goal reviews were held for Food Services, Health Services, Student Support Services, and Transportation and all programs are on track towards accomplishing their 2011-2012 school year goals.

Health, Transportation,
and Safety Subcommittee

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to amend the Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee Meeting minutes from the March 6, 2012 meeting to add “breakfast” between “increasing” and “participation” in the second sentence of the third paragraph and to add “to go to Communications. The item will be voted on at the March 12, 2012 City Council Meeting.” in place of “there.” in the second to last sentence of the fourth paragraph, and to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCarthy and on a voice vote.

Mr. Bregoli requested the removal of two items from the School Policy Subcommittee: the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar and the School Committee Meetings for 2012-2013 as both these items have been completed. Mr. Bregoli also announced that there will be a School Policy Subcommittee meeting on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 4:30 pm in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the NAGE Building. Agenda items will include Substitute Teacher Interviews and Evaluations and the High School Community Service pilot.

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The School Committee noted the following teacher resignation:

Resignation

Jennifer Rosenthal

Teacher

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On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mayor Koch, the School Committee went into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. for Collective Bargaining. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent. The School Committee did not return to Open Session.

Adjournment