

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – May 2, 2012

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at the Temporary City Council Chambers in Quincy City Hall. 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 Absalom Ochieng, a student at Quincy High School; Alyse Kenney, retired secretary at North Quincy High School; Grace Cunningham, cafeteria employee at Quincy High School; and Robert Lewis, a Science teacher at Central Middle School for 34 years.

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The Superintendent called the roll and all members were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Messrs. Cordero, Draicchio, McGuire, Mullaney, Mulvey, Murphy, Santoro, Keith Segalla, Taglieri, Tandy, Timmins; Ms. Barrett, Ms. Busey, Ms. Ingraham, Ms. Kabakov, Ms. Kane, Ms. MacNeil, Mrs. Papile, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. Schneller, Ms. Todd; Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association; and Mrs. Tracey Christello, Citywide Parents' Council Representative.

Mayor Koch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bregoli, to approve the regular session minutes for April 4, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
4/4/2012

Mrs. Mahoney made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, to approve the Executive Session minutes for April 4, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session
Minutes Approved
4/4/2012

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Mr. Aidan McMorrow, student at Quincy High School, proposed allowing student athletes to fill their Physical Education requirements by playing a team sport in all three seasons rather than attending Physical Education classes, with their parents' permission and maintenance of appropriate grade point average.

Open Forum

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The Superintendent opened his remarks by introducing Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts who spoke about the Foreign Language Poster, Essay, and Public Service Announcement Contest for Middle and High School students. The theme was “Language Learning in the 21st Century: Everyone, Every Day, Everywhere.” Mrs. Roberts introduced the High School Department heads Aliza Schneller from North Quincy High School and Edie Kabakov from Quincy High School. Ms. Kabakov introduced the Foreign Language teachers from both high schools and the Essay Contest winners: Annie Liang (1st place), Boriana Tzvetkova (2nd place) from North Quincy High School and Denissa Touma (1st place) and Lindsay Schrier (2nd place) from Quincy High School. After the first-place winners read their essays, Ms. Schneller introduced Kasey Shen from North Quincy High School, creator of the winning Public Service Announcement, which was shown for the School Committee. Next, Broad Meadows Spanish teacher Alicia Kane introduced the members of the Middle School Foreign Language team present: Ricardo Cordero, Brian Tandy, Jill Busey, Kendall Ingraham. Mr. Cordero then introduced the Middle School Poster Contest winners: Katryna Veasy, Atlantic; Carmen Huang and Jia Xin Wang, Broad Meadows; Elizabeth Huynh, Julie Nguyen, Central; Ridha Khawar, Point Webster; Tiffany Pham and Stephanie Zeng from Sterling.

Superintendent’s Report

After a brief recess for the School Committee members to greet the contest winners and teachers, the Superintendent continued with his report. Announcements of upcoming events included Quincy High School graduation on Monday, June 4 and North Quincy High School on Tuesday, June 5; Cleaner Greener on Saturday, May 5; and the 15th Annual Community Service Learning Breakfast on Friday, May 4. In celebration of Department of Public Works week, fifth grade students and their art teachers from each of the elementary schools created banners that are hanging on Hancock Street outside City Hall. Eleven schools were also awarded Beautification Grants by the Department of Public Works. Squantum School held their Multicultural Fair on April 25; the Superintendent thanked the school’s staff for their work on the event. The HYPER Robotics team recently competed in St. Louis against over 400 teams from across the United States and Canada. The Superintendent also introduced the Summer Scene brochure highlighting the enrichment programs available to students at all grades. For spring athletics, over 400 students are participating on thirty-three varsity, junior varsity, and freshmen teams and over 400 middle school students are competing in the track program.

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion that the Quincy School Committee withdraws from the obligation to enroll non-resident students in the Quincy Public Schools for the 2012-2013 academic year for the following reasons: (1) Continued projected enrollment conditions at the elementary and middle schools based on current and projected enrollments; (2) Policy of the Quincy School Committee to adhere to class size guidelines. Mayor Koch inquired about whether there were many requests

New Business

School Choice

for enrollment from outside Quincy and whether surrounding cities and towns have accepted this policy. Superintendent DeCristofaro clarified that a few requests are received each year and that most of the neighboring towns do not participate in School Choice. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

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Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts presented next on District Improvement Plan components the District Improvement Timeline and Professional Development Plan. The goal of the Quincy Public Schools Professional Development Plan, as directed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is to support the implementation of the state curriculum frameworks through standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment practice. Professional Development is a career-long process in which educators fine-tune their teaching and instructional practices to enhance the ability of the educator to improve student learning. The three intents of effective professional development are to expand the educators' knowledge of subject matter, increase the teachers' knowledge of standards-based curriculum; and to analyze and reduce the gap between the goals for student achievement and students' actual progress. Elements of an effective Professional Development Plan include focus on clearly defined goals and priorities, activities that are coordinated across the district, aligns resources with district academic goals, establishes a positive culture of collegiality in a team-based climate (no isolation), and allows for the evaluation of the courses and activities at the conclusion.

District Improvement
Plan: Timeline and
Professional Development
Plan

As each Professional Development course or activity is considered, it must meet criteria: align with district and school improvement goals, encourage teams of teachers working together, focus on content knowledge, provide support throughout the school year, include follow-up activities in the classroom, and align with curriculum frameworks. It is also important is to directly connect Professional Development to students and utilize in-class observation. Types of Professional Development include on-site (building-based, by content -- vertical teams and/or grade levels); system-wide and contractual (Assessment Days); outside of school time (after school, weekends, summer). After each Professional Development activity is completed, feedback forms are reviewed by Mrs. Roberts and Superintendent's Leadership Team members so that any needed adjustments can be made to meet the participants' needs. In the past school year, over 1,500 participants have taken part in the courses and activities offered, with many educators taking more than one. In the next school year, Professional Development will be focused on the Common Core State Standards transition and new Assessments. Mrs. Roberts thanked the many people who write grant proposals, including Mary Fredrickson, Maura Papile, Judy Todd, Edie Hughes, Keith Segalla, Beth Hallett and many teachers and principals. Mrs. Roberts concluded by noting that Quincy Public Schools is proud of the Professional Development offered to the staff. By continually reflecting on and

assessing the offerings to meet the needs of the staff, this positively reflects on our classroom instruction.

Mrs. Lebo asked about whether Professional Development products are shared across school sites. Mrs. Roberts talked about Staff Academy as the vehicle for sharing lesson plans, and Mr. Segalla and the Educational Technology team will add this to their ongoing website enhancements. Mrs. Lebo asked about the new high school Assessments and whether they were going to be course-specific or integrated; Mrs. Roberts said that the PARCC group still has not made a decision. Mrs. Lebo also asked about the new Educator Evaluation regulations and Professional Development for this transition. Mrs. Roberts has invited all administrators to a workshop sponsored by the South Shore Educational Collaborative. DESE is also vetting companies who will provide Professional Development on this topic.

Mr. McCarthy thanked Mrs. Roberts and complimented the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee for keeping up with all of the changes. He complimented Mrs. Roberts and her predecessors' efforts in growing Professional Development over his years on School Committee. Mrs. Roberts thanked the QEA, teachers, and administrators for their collaboration in developing the Professional Development plan. Dr. DeCristofaro noted that this was an example of how these collaborative efforts serve the best interests of the children in the school system.

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Mr. McCarthy spoke about the April 26 Vietnam Veterans Day services that were held recently to re-dedicate several squares and the Marina Bay clock tower memorial. Mr. McCarthy particularly noted the Merrymount School students who took part in the George Underwood Memorial re-dedication. Each grade sang a patriotic song and one student played the saxophone. Mr. McCarthy also commended the Mayor for 25th anniversary recognition booklet commemorating the forty-eight Quincy casualties of the Vietnam conflict.

Additional Business

Mrs. Mahoney complimented Mr. Aidan McMorrow, the Quincy High School student who presented at Open Forum, and made a motion to put his suggestion about exempting three-season student athletes from the Physical Education requirement into Policy Subcommittee for consideration. The motion was seconded by Mayor Koch and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Lebo commented on the positive coverage of Quincy Public Schools in the press in recent days, citing the *Patriot Ledger* stories about the Fashion Technology and Teen Mothers programs and the Superintendent's mother Mrs. Betty DeCristofaro's recent award as Citizen of the Year by the *Quincy Sun*.

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Mrs. Mahoney spoke briefly of the Central Building Committee's last meeting on Monday, April 9, 2012. She then asked City Solicitor Jim Timmins to address the

Reports of Special
Committees

School Committee on the recent challenge to the City’s Responsible Employer Ordinance (REO) by the Merit Alliance. Merit Alliance filed and was granted an injunction, so no action could be taken with the subcontractor and general contractor bids until the judge made her decision. The City negotiated to temporarily suspend the terms of the REO until the court case is resolved in the fall and on Friday, April 27, all contractors were notified that they could resubmit their bids. This delay will impact the project completion from the initial schedule, but the new Central Middle School is still on schedule to open for the start of school in September 2013.

Central Building
Committee

Mr. McCarthy asked for a projection for best case scenario for construction to begin on the school. Mr. Timmins estimated early June. Mrs. Mahoney asked for clarification about whether there were any parts of the REO still in force. Mr. Timmins said that all five sections of the original REO had been suspended for this project; the REO is on the City’s books and it may need to be amended by the City Council, but this will not happen until the litigation is completed. Mrs. Mahoney asked about using Project Labor Agreements (PLA), which Mr. Timmins felt was not a viable option. City Solicitor Timmins is hopeful that the City will succeed in court based on the need for a trained apprentice program because of the impact on future public projects. Mrs. Lebo asked about including co-op positions for Quincy High School Career and Technical Education students on construction projects.

Mayor Koch concluded by thanking City Solicitor Timmins for his update and clarifying this very confusing issue. He reiterated the City’s commitment to the REO’s apprentice program and the residency requirement. He clarified that there is no effect on the Quincy Center project, the union agreement with CityWorks is a private agreement.

Mr. McCarthy asked whether the issue with the Winfield Elm tree has been resolved; City Solicitor Timmins stated as there are no wetlands implications here, there is no legal issue. Mayor Koch mentioned that he is meeting with interested parties about the tree in the near future, but given the issues about the site grading, it will not be feasible to work out retaining this tree and it is cost-prohibitive to consider moving it. The Mayor reiterated that the recent delay for the REO court case will not substantially delay the opening of the new Central Middle School.

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Mr. McCarthy summarized the April 11, 2012 Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting regarding the proposed School Maintenance department merger with the Public Building Department. The meeting was attended by Maintenance department union leadership. The Mayor opened the meeting by noting that the Public Building Department staff already spends the majority of its time on the Quincy Public Schools, either on new construction or the capital improvement projects. He cited the Parks Department assumption of the maintenance of school grounds and the current collaboration between Quincy Public Schools and the City Information Technology Departments as positive examples of interdepartment collaboration. The Mayor

Facilities and Security
Subcommittee

reiterated that as the Chair of the School Committee, Quincy Public Schools is his priority. The total number of buildings to be maintained by the new department will be fifty-two (eighteen of which are schools). The Maintenance department union leadership are satisfied with the proposed new structure; their main concern is the Adopt a Project policy. Mr. Murphy stated his interest in retaining the current work order management system; he is concerned about electrical work, as there is currently a backlog in this area. Mayor Koch clarified that while the number of buildings the Maintenance Department is responsible for is doubling, the square footage of the school buildings far outweighs the square footage of the majority of the city buildings. The next Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting is Tuesday, May 15. Mr. McCarthy has requested that Mr. Murphy present on the current work order system, the number of items in process, and summer projects.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2012 Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to move Adopt a Project to Policy Subcommittee for review. Mayor Koch seconded motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCarthy then summarized the Thursday, April 19, 2012 Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting which focused on the renovation of Coddington Hall into administrative offices for the Quincy Public Schools and several City of Quincy departments, including Planning and Information Technology. At the meeting, there was a presentation by Wessling Architects, the same presentation that was done for the City Council earlier in April. Wessling Architects has approached the renovation plan for Coddington Hall from a historic perspective; the plan is to modernize the facility while retaining historic details. The building has no structural issues, and bearing walls will be retained within the building. Mechanical systems (electrical, HVAC, plumbing) will all be replaced, along with the windows.

The basement level will house the City and School Information Technology Departments, along with storage and shared conference spaces. The first floor will house Custodial, Transportation and Security, Athletics, Business, Personnel, and public spaces including a large conference room and the School Committee meeting room. The second floor will have the Special Education, Curriculum, Student Support and Health Services departments, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent's offices. The third floor will be home to the City's Planning Department.

For the building's exterior, work will be done to restore the slate roof, replace the copper gutters and downspouts, and repoint brick where needed. The building's landscaping will be redone to blend with neighboring structures and signage added. In terms of parking, the lot can hold 98 cars and will be secured access. Other possibilities for parking in garage or at Quincy High School will be explored for overflow and visitor parking.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve minutes for the April 19, 2012 Facilities and Security Subcommittee Meeting and asked whether the School Committee needs to vote to move the project forward? Mayor Koch replied that this would be advantageous.

On the motion, Mrs. Mahoney expressed concern about the dedicated School Committee meeting room. Mrs. Mahoney asked to be on the record that she does not agree with the need for this public space, given the space available at Quincy High School and the new Central Middle School. She asked that the meeting minutes be amended to replace the second page, first paragraph, fifth sentence with the following: Mrs. Mahoney expressed concern about the overall cost for the project, the value of the dedicated School Committee room (and the funding source for the attendant Audio/Visual equipment needed), and whether there was space for growth within the floor plan.

Ms. Isola reminded the School Committee that the floor plans presented were not final and her understanding is that what School Committee would vote on is the concept of moving the Quincy Public Schools administrative offices to a renovated Coddington Hall.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 19, 2012 Facilities and Security Subcommittee as amended. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mayor Koch reviewed the process for selecting Coddington Hall as a candidate for renovation. He stressed the accessibility of this location as opposed to the current location, noted the positives of having dedicated School Committee space, and mentioned that the Comcast account can be utilized to pay for equipment. The bond is before City Council for approval; if plans are finalized in June, bids can be solicited and contracts executed over the summer, with a goal to begin construction in Fall 2012.

Mr. McCarthy asked about the Saville Avenue houses; Mayor Koch clarified that the Public Building department would remain there for the time being and that the houses may be used for other departments at a later date. Mrs. Mahoney asked if a vote may have already happened to move into the Coddington Hall building last spring; she feels that \$9.8 million is excessive for this renovation and that this is difficult to agree to given the cuts Quincy Public Schools has faced in recent years. Mr. McCarthy disagrees that a vote was already taken and stated that since the building needs a complete renovation, the city will have to address the issue whether it is the home of Quincy Public Schools administrative offices or not. Mayor Koch stressed that the costs of the renovations are largely for the envelope of the building: windows, roof, brickwork, utilities, Americans with Disability Act compliance; this is a historic structure that allows for Community Preservation funds to be utilized. This is money

borrowed through long-term debt service; declining to move to Coddington Hall would not add \$9.8 million to the Quincy Public Schools budget.

Mr. McCarthy then made a motion to approve the concept of Coddington Hall being renovated to serve as the administrative offices for the Quincy Public Schools and Superintendent of Schools. The motion was seconded by Mayor Koch and on a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Mahoney voted NO.

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Mr. Bregoli then reviewed the April 30, 2012 Policy Subcommittee meeting, held to discuss the proposed Community Service pilot. Following the last Policy meeting on March 19, Mr. Bregoli and Dr. DeCristofaro met with the two High School principals and the class presidents from grades 9 through 12 to discuss Community Service. The student leaders were enthusiastic and made suggestions. Many clubs and organizations are already doing community service. A Community Service directory and guide will need to be developed, as well as finalizing the Community Service Reporting form, revising the School Committee policy booklet and adding the information to the POS books for both High Schools.

Policy Subcommittee

Drafts of a Community Service overview, the School Committee Policy change, and the student record form were shared with the Subcommittee. Dr. DeCristofaro spoke about the management and recording of Community Service hours being the key issue – who will clear the problems and approve projects that are outside the scope of what is pre-approved. There was a discussion about whether Community Service hours could count for multiple purposes, i.e., both towards the graduation requirement and for ROTC. Mr. Mulvey reiterated the contents of the memo he sent to the School Committee on April 4, outlining his review of relevant recent cases and his opinion that there are no legal issues involved in implementing this policy. Dr. DeCristofaro stressed that we have to guarantee that we give enough support to the staff as they implement this. Quincy Public Schools is a larger school system than many of the other school systems who have already implemented Community Service.

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2012 Policy Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCarthy expressed concern about the work needed to develop the list of pre-approved agencies and the simultaneous rollout of all four grades. Mrs. Lebo expressed support for Community Service in general, but is opposed to adding this as a graduation requirement, given the changing standards related to Common Core State Standards. Mr. Bregoli said that from the meetings at the high schools, it appears that most students are already doing some form of Community Service and this is formalizing what is already done. Dr. DeCristofaro said there may be a way to compromise on what students receive credit for; he suggested giving credit for in-school activities. Mayor Koch has concerns about mandating Community Service

and it potentially affecting students' ability to graduate. Ms. Isola feels that we need to set high standards for all of our students, but wants this to succeed. Dr. DeCristofaro offered to revisit the Community Service overview and other documents. Mrs. Lebo suggested School Committee members send their thoughts to Mr. Bregoli and Dr. DeCristofaro.

Mr. Bregoli announced that an additional Policy meeting will be held prior to the June 13, 2012 School Committee meeting to discuss Conflict of Interest and High School Field Trip Policies.

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The School Committee noted the following retirements	:	Retirements
Linda Billikas		Assistant Principals
William Bloomer		
Wayne Wirick		Attendance Officer
Janice Erler		Coordinators
Edith Hughes		
Jane Cotter		Guidance Counselors
Albert Moscaritolo		
Kathleen Sawkiewicz		
Christine Desaulniers		Media Specialist
Nancy Brennan		Teachers
Helen Dooner		
Michael Dowd		
Kathleen Meade		
Carol Ryan		

The School Committee noted the following resignation:		Resignation
Paige VanGombos		Teacher

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<u>On a motion by Mayor Koch, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, the School Committee adjourned at 9:45 p.m. for the evening. There was no Executive Session. The ayes have it.</u>		Adjournment
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