

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – January 28, 2012

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Special Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A special meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 in the Gillooly Room of the NAGE building. Present were: Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Mayor Thomas Koch, Chair, Mrs. Emily Lebo, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, and Ms. Barbara Isola, Vice Chair.

Special
Meeting

Vice-Chair
Presiding

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The Superintendent called the roll and Mr. McCarthy was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Messrs. Draicchio, Mullaney, Mulvey, Murphy, Keith Segalla; Mrs. Papile; Ms. Todd; Mrs. Tracey Christello, representing the Citywide Parents' Council, and Ms. Linda Perry, representing the Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education.

Linda Perry expressed her appreciation that the School Committee members gave up their Saturday morning to have this meeting; she wanted it to be a matter of record that two members of the public attended the meeting.

Open Forum

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There was no Approval of Minutes, Superintendent's Report, or Old Business on the Agenda, so the Vice Chair moved directly to New Business and spoke about the purpose of the meeting: to formalize goals and hone in on what the School Committee would like to accomplish over the next year, both in the full School Committee and the individual Subcommittees. Mayor Koch spoke about the work that has already been done to review the meeting Agenda format in conjunction with the new Open Meeting law to ensure compliance. Ms. Isola then moved to suspend Robert's Rules to allow for a free discussion of the agenda items.

New Business

The first item discussed was the Regular Meeting Agenda. Open Forum is currently the third item on the agenda and begins at 7:15 pm. Ms. Isola reminded the School Committee members that they are free to suggest any changes to Open Forum as long as they meet the parameters of the Open Meeting law. After some discussion about the length of time Open Forum can take under certain circumstances, it was agreed that Open Forum will move to be second on the Agenda and that an individual speaker is limited to four minutes. Also, an individual speaker may not exchange their time or yield to others. The Chair or Vice Chair may suspend Open Forum with

a two-thirds vote of the School Committee. Dr. DeCristofaro reminded the School Committee members that there is usually a pattern of active public interest (for example, the spring budget season), and the Agenda can be planned accordingly to assume that a large amount of the meeting time may be dedicated to Open Forum.

Under Old Business, both the Building Projects and Central Middle School items will be moved to Subcommittees and reported to the full School Committee under Reports of Special Committees. Hearings will also be removed from the Agenda. For Additional Business, Mayor Koch suggested that any item to be voted on should be an Agenda item and not presented here. Mrs. Lebo asked for clarification as to whether this was the place to bring up suggestions for future Agenda items and all agreed. Dr. DeCristofaro suggested that Agenda items that come to the attention of the School Committee after the meeting has been posted can still be communicated and a Revised Agenda posted within the 48 hour window. Mrs. Mahoney noted that there may sometimes need to be discussion about whether items are Subcommittee or full School Committee Agenda items.

The next change discussed pertained to Subcommittees. On the Agenda, the item will now be called Reports of Subcommittees. On the last page of the Agenda, Business Pending will be changed to Subcommittee Items; each item will have a short description and a time frame for completion, when possible. Two Subcommittees have name changes: *School Facilities* will now be *School Facilities and Security; Health, Safety, and Security* will now be *Health, Transportation, and Safety*.

Dr. DeCristofaro then reviewed that this Subcommittee reorganization will allow for the Program Improvement review to be shared among the different Subcommittees rather than being concentrated in the Policy Subcommittee. This coordination will allow School Committee members to get to work more closely with the directors and coordinators on their issues. Mrs. Lebo mentioned that the New Educator Evaluations will be a cross-Subcommittee issue, involving both the Teaching and Learning and School Policy Subcommittees.

Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the Agenda changes as a whole. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mr. McCarthy was absent.

Mrs. Lebo suggested announcing the format changes at the February 8, 2012 School Committee meeting so the public is aware of the changes before they take effect at the March 7, 2012 School Committee Meeting.

Dr. DeCristofaro spoke about the District Improvement Plan and the Team Organization structure and the focus on working in a team, having common goals, and the team working together to that end. This School Committee meeting is the beginning of the process for planning, followed by implementation, re-evaluation, and the creation of new goals, perhaps in September, to coincide with the new

District Improvement
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school year. The teams have SMART goals, which are measurable, but this may not be universally applicable to School Committee goals. The School Committee falls under the first of the six Standards: Leadership, Governance, and Communication, but the Subcommittees will interact with principals, directors, and coordinators across the Standards. Going forward, the Subcommittees and their goals will be added to the Team Organization booklet.

The School Committee and Superintendent and Leadership Team members present then split up into Subcommittee groups to discuss their goals. When the group discussion resumed, each Subcommittee had additions and changes to their goals. In addition, Mrs. Lebo suggested changing the wording for the Quincy School Committee purpose statement to read: *The Quincy School Committee reviews and approves the Quincy Public Schools' budget and establishes policies and guidelines in order to ensure that all students have equitable opportunities to learn and succeed.* All School Committee members present agreed to this wording change.

District Improvement
Plan ~ School
Committee Connections

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There was no Additional Business, Communications, Hearings, Reports of Special Committees, or Executive Session.

On a motion by Mayor Koch, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, the Special School Committee Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The ayes have it.

Adjournment