

QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS – October 4, 2006

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were: Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mr. Kevin Mulvey, Mr. Dave McCarthy, Mr. James Timmins, Ms. Linda Stice, Mayor Phelan and Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Vice Chairman.

Regular Meeting

Vice Chairman Presiding

The Superintendent called the roll and all members were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary, and Mrs. Tefta Burrelli, Clerk; Dr. Mariano. Messrs. O'Brien, Ryan, Walsh, McPhee, Kevin Segalla, and Mr. Mullaney; Ms. Todd, Hughes, Powell, and Roberts. There was a moment of silence for those students and staff who have been killed at schools the past week.

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On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Mahoney, the Committee approved the regular session minutes for September 20, 2006 with an addition. Mr. McCarthy had asked for a presentation on CORI/SORI . The ayes have it.

Reg. Minutes Approved
9/6/2006

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Ken McPhee reported on the safety and security procedures for the schools. The members received a schedule of drills. These are done twice a year. Members are welcome to come and observe. There is also open communication between the MBTA Police and the Quincy Police Dept. Every building is being checked for specific door closures and monitors. Mr. McPhee is working to make sure every teacher in every classroom has a way to communicate to the principal's office. Ms. Stice inquired about locks on all classroom doors. Mr. McPhee said not all classrooms have locks, but he will check with Mr. Ryan. At this time, during a lockdown, students are being hid in various spots. Ms. Stice asked for a report back on locks for classroom doors. Mr. McCarthy asked him to look at some way to secure the classrooms and to take a look at building egresses. Parents have been kept informed via notices.

Safety Concerns

At Mr. McPhee's Round Table Discussions, police are giving training to all deans which will trickle down to teachers.

Mayor Phelan said he has spoken with Chief Crowley who is developing a

task force. When the schools are unoccupied, officers will go through each school so they are familiar with the buildings and the layout. We will have officers that are trained for any incidents that may occur..

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The Mayor hosted for the third year the Literacy Matters Event at the Granite Links Golf Club and Pavilion. This event raised over \$250,000 for early intervention. The funding continues to make a significant difference in tutoring, early intervention, and curriculum materials. Thanks went to the Mayor as well as the hundreds of friends and staff of the Quincy Public Schools for their dedication and support.

Supts. Report

The Committee received the FY07 Quincy Public Schools Budget Books from Mr. Mullaney. A Budget Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Quarterly Budget Report.

The members will receive the School Improvement Schedule via email. The Superintendent asked that members make an effort to attend as many meetings as possible.

Ms. Powell informed the members that the Masons are donating \$14,500 for Automatic External Defibrillator Units which will place one AED unit in every building and \$2,000 to provide Epi Pens for every building.

The members received a Partnership Events Poster. This poster also went to schools as well as our partners at their businesses. The Partnership will again be sponsoring the Teacher Mini Grant reception on October 17 at the Tirrell Room from 3:00-5:00 p.m. We have received 172 grant applications.

At Mr. McCarthy's request regarding CORI/SORI, Mr. Walsh told the Committee that his office does CORIs for professional employees, prior to employment; all current employees once every three years. All teachers and teacher aides have been checked; volunteers and interns, student teachers, chaperones, all have CORI checks, and any private transportation company that our students use. We submit around 100 each month. The process takes two weeks. With regard to the SORI, Mr. Walsh said that the CORI is a more comprehensive rendering. Mr. Mulvey asked if the information included national information. Mr. Walsh said by law all that is needed is a CORI check in Massachusetts. If there is a question on someone and we knew they came from another state, he would call and request an out of state CORI. Mr. Mulvey was concerned that any individual can leave a state to start a new life. Whatever information they provide from their own state, we should check and make sure it is complete. Mr. Walsh said he takes many things into account--the age of the offender, how many intervening years. Mr. Timmins brought up the issue of outside contractors. Mr. Walsh said we do

CORI/SORI
Report

not do CORIs on contractors. He didn't know if we had the legal authority to do that.

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On June 21 this School Committee approved the gymnasium at Atherton Hough to be named in honor of Jim "Red" Riley, custodian there for many years. The dedication of the gym will be on Sunday, October 22. More details will follow.

Atlantic, Central, and Sterling Middle schools were recognized within Standard and Poor's Educational Publication *School Matters* for their outstanding results in Reading and Math Proficiency over two years of MCAS results. Eleven schools in Massachusetts were recognized.

Schools Recognized

Members received current class size information for elementary, middle and high school classes.

Class Size

At the elementary K-3 where our guidelines range from 23-26, over 80% of our classes are under 20, 100 % are 24 students or below. The full day kindergarten numbers are also outstanding. There is always two adults in each kindergarten class. At grades 4-5 where the guidelines are 24-28, 91% of our classrooms are at 24 or below and 67% are under 20. We do have five elementary classes at 25. We have worked with principals to ease the class size situation for students and teachers.

Our middle schools class size guidelines are 24-28. We currently have 86% of our classroom situations at 24 or below. At the high school level, we have 670 sections with under 20 students and 300 sections or 28% under 25 students or less. Actually, 91% of our high school classes are under 25 students. The total enrollment for the Quincy Public Schools is 8,969 students.

Mr. Timmins inquired about Atlantic and Central which jump out because of the high numbers. He asked for a breakdown school by school. When you look at the feeder schools, they're over 300. He asked whether these numbers are affecting class size. The Superintendent said these are the two schools with the higher numbers, but we are within the guidelines. He will get back to Mr. Timmins on that.

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We received very good grant news from Commissioner Driscoll with regard to an after school grant Keith Segella authored. This after school grant will continue to help provide our students K-12 with quality programs beyond the school day. We were one of four communities that received the highest amount awarded--\$32,948.

The Committee received a draft copy of a portion of the professional development plan. This includes a more detailed preschool, kindergarten, and elementary offerings.

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At the Open Forum, Mr. Dave Campbell, 1071 So. Artery Apt. 202, Quincy 02169, said “in July he mailed a letter and documents to the Committee. Two senior employees of the Quincy Public Schools should be punished. I ask only justice. Thank you.”

Open Forum

On October 2, Mr. Bradley, Citywide, met with Mr. Dennis McNulty, Division of Traffic, and Ken McPhee. They are reviewing the student drop offs at North Quincy High for safety. Mr. Bradley said it was very productive and extends their appreciation. They plan to meet again tomorrow morning to better understand the safety concerns. They will present some plans and proposals to the Committee at the next meeting.

With regard to the recent school shootings, Mr. Paul Phillips reminded everyone that children are safer at school than they are at home. He was very happy with the good news about Standard and Poor’s in the Ledger. However, that same school might have the AYP difficulty. it is very hard for a lay person to understand these things. Also, it has been 34 days the QEA has not had a contract with the City and they would like to have one.

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Mr. Joe Canavan reported that they are in the final stages of reconstructing the locker rooms at the Stadium. Additional lighting at Central has begun. Contractors are completing the boiler checks and they will give their recommendations to Mr. Canavan. He will report back to the Committee. The oil tank at Wollaston will be relined.

Buildings Update

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On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Timmins, the Committee removed the resolves for Central and Sterling off the table. The ayes have it

Having convened in an open meeting on September 20, 2006, the School Committee of Quincy in accordance with its charter and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated September 20, 2006 for the **Reay E. Sterling Middle School** located at 444 Granite Street, Quincy, Massachusetts. Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mulvey, to authorize the Superintendent to submit the Statement of Interest form dated September 20, 2006 to the MSBA. On a roll call vote, the motion

Statement of Interest
for Sterling approved

passed unanimously 7-0.

Having convened in an open meeting on September 20, 2006, the School Committee of Quincy in accordance with its charter and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated September 20, 2006 for **Central Middle School** located at 444 Granite Street, Quincy, Massachusetts. Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Timmins, to authorize the Superintendent to submit the Statement of Interest form dated September 20, 2006 to the MSBA. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Statement of Interest
for Central approved

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On a motion by Ms. Stice, seconded by Mr. Mulvey, the Committee approved the trip to Paris, France by the North Quincy High School Foreign Language Department from April 9, 2007-April 22, 2007. They ayes have it.

Out of Country
NQHS to France

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On a motion by Ms. Stice, seconded by Mr. Mulvey, the Committee approved the Broad Meadows student trip to New Rochelle, New York from October 18, 2006 to October 19, 2006. The ayes have it.

Out of State
BM to New York

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Middle School Principals Laura Bogan, James McGuire, Earl Metzler, Larry Taglieri and Acting Principal Steve Sylvia were present to share with the Committee the new Program of Studies for middle schools. Math, Science ELA, Social Studies, all core subjects, are now expanded to 55 minutes per day per subject. Developmental Reading, Foreign Language, reading in all schools for two years, foreign language in all schools for one year. Non core subjects Art, Music, Phys Ed., Health, Tech Ed, Media will meet once per cycle for 55 minutes. The foreign language curriculum across all middle schools contains sufficient rigor to allow middle school students who successfully complete one year of foreign language to be considered for placement at level 2 of that language in high school.

Middle School POS

By the end of the eighth grade, all students should be exactly in the same spot. When they go into high school, they will all be able to choose Spanish or French.

Mrs. Bogan said students needed to be grouped heterogeneously in their neighborhood school as we are preparing them for life. Ms. Stice said she agreed with Mrs. Bogan for heterogeneous grouping in schools.

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On a motion by Mr. Mulvey, seconded by Mr. Timmins, the Committee accepted a gift of Harcourt Trophies reading materials, Grades K-5. The total value exceeds \$20,000. The ayes have it.

Gift Harcourt Trophies
for Grades K-5

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The Committee appointed Mrs. Anne Mahoney as the official voting delegate to the MASC meeting this October.

Anne Mahoney
MASC Meeting

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Ms. Stice passed out copies of a MASC suggested Superintendent's evaluation. This is a suggested tool. An evaluation should be done every year. The Committee put this into the Policy Subcommittee.

Supt's. Evaluation

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Mr. McCarthy asked that Judy Todd do a presentation at the November 1 School Committee meeting on the new Special Ed staff members and what their responsibilities are.

SPED Presentation

Mrs. Mahoney reported on a meeting held for the track. She wants to make sure the Committee is kept informed since people ask the Committee questions. She asked if there was a commission to select a site. The Mayor answered not to his recollection. Mrs. Mahoney mentioned the Quincy Ave site, the DPW and Squantum Point Park. If other recommendations were made why are we going to Pageant Field.

Track Discussion

The Mayor said that the Quincy Ave site is contaminated and he will not go there. But, to the Mayor's knowledge that site was never recommended for a track.

Mr. Timmins said he was at that same meeting. He heard the Solicitor say that if the track went on Faxon Field, the Committee would have some jurisdiction, but if it goes on Pageant Field, the Committee does not have any jurisdiction. There is a presumption that it should be the School Committee's concern.

The Mayor said there has to be a process to determine the location of the track. The City Council has to vote on the funding and the Park Board. The first step was to have a public hearing and present the facts. We should evaluate the comments and re present it. The bond for the high school was to pay for the track facility. The cost to put the track on Faxon Field would cost three times as much and also permits would be needed.

The Mayor stressed that Quincy doesn't have the land for it to be near the high school. The Mayor's personal opinion is that we have a wonderful opportunity to have a premier track facility at Pageant Field. We are going to ask the architects to go back and look at that site and go to City Council and present to them and then the Park Department. He will keep the School Committee informed.

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Mr. Mulvey recognized the passing of Esther Nazola who taught fifth grade at the Daniel Webster School. Condolences to her family.

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There will be a Special Ed. Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parker Suite. Parents are encouraged to attend. They will outline IEPs, changes in the structure in the system, and the way things are addressed.

SPED Subcommittee

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The Committee noted the following resignations:

Resignations

Rita Manning Aneesa Nichols
Marie Will
Elsa Zanolli

Paraprofessionals

Lunch Attendant

The Committee noted the following leaves of absence.

Leaves of Absence

Katerine Ell Stephanie Fortuna
Mollie Good
Jennifer Kiely-Sullivan
Lee Ann Maki

Teachers

Guidance
Literacy Specialist

The Committee noted the following appointments:

Appointments

Michael DeMarco Athenia Elie
Elizabeth Kelly Amy Kotsonis
Meredith Mahoney
Job Alexandre Kerry Breshnahan
Eileen Joyce Rodney Osias
Tammy Commesso Loredana Flynn
Jean Keough Shirley Kwok
William Murray Eileen Richardson
Kathleen Romonholi Jennifer Smylth
Christine Galvin Scott Lawrence
Scott McGinn Diane O'Connor

Teachers

CDL Bus Drivers

Lunch Attendants

Paraprofessionals

Claire Poles
Katherine Rashid
Nikoleta Shala

Betty Ann Pomarico
Joyce Romeri
Shannon Thompson

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On a motion by Mr. Timmins, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0. The Committee did not come back to open session.

Adjourn to Executive
Session