

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – October 21, 2009

- - -

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall. Present were Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Mr. Nicholas Puleo, Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg, Mr. Ron Mariano and Mr. Dave McCarthy, Vice Chairman.

Regular Meeting

Vice Chairman Presiding

- - -

The Superintendent called the roll and Mayor Koch was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Mrs. Tefta Burrelli, Clerk; Messrs. Mullaney, Murphy, O'Brien, Draicchio, Segalla, Ms. Roberts, Tenaglia, and Hughes. Ms. Tracey Christello, Citywide and Paul Phillips, QEA. Donna Niosi and Daruis Varmahmoodi, Quincy High Student Representatives.

- - -

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. Puleo, the Committee approved the regular session minutes as amended for October 7, 2009. The ayes have it.

Reg. Session Mins.
Approved 10/7/2009

- - -

The members received a booklet announcing all of the 65 professional staff that received Teacher Mini-Grants sponsored by the Quincy School Community Partnership. The Quincy Foundation for Educational Excellence group did an outstanding job at screening and selecting the very best grants. Thanks went to Mr. Keith Segalla, Janice Erler, Mr. Mullaney, and principals for a fine event.

Supts. Report

Our newest partner and Board of Directors from Stop Shop will be rescheduled for the November meeting.

The Superintendent will share with Mayor Koch and Vice Chairman McCarthy representatives for the Opportunities and Challenges Initiatives. We are just about at 100%. The Superintendent will share with the School Committee by the end of the week. The next steps in beginning the process will be discussed at the first meeting.

Congratulations to 176 of our students who have qualified to receive a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship--a free scholarship at a state college or university.

- - -

As there was no one who wished to speak at the Open Forum, the Committee went on with the business at hand.

Open Forum

- - -

Mr. Kevin Murphy reported that carpenters are still working at the Stadium. They have completed re-roofing the concession stand, replaced ceiling tiles at Beechwood and Snug Harbor, repaired and secured several doors at various schools, completed a fresh air circulation fan at Montclair. Maintenance is working on emergency exit signs at all schools. Plumbers repaired the heating system at Veterans Stadium for locker rooms. They are checking to make sure all school heating systems are working. A new scoreboard was installed at Lincoln Hancock, new floor tile repairs at Marshall and the Early Childhood Ctr. Painters are working on the common area at North Quincy High.

Bldg. Update

- - -

Mrs. Dwyer gave a hand out regarding Phase 4 of the new Quincy High School. It is the last part of the project. This is where the old building came right up against the new building. Originally, we could have a temporary hallway between the old and new buildings, but once the school was finished, we had to separate the two buildings. In 2002, we were required to rip down part of the old Quincy High School building, right around the elevator to create a 60' buffer. We asked the School Buildings Authority if we could first use the old building and that was a "no." Then we asked if the buildings could be connected, and that was a "no." They insisted on a 60' buffer. When we created the buffer zone, the land sloped down so much, there was a drainage problem, windows were exposed, and it destroyed the back of the building.

QHS Bldg. Committee
Mrs. Dwyer reports

We had to build the 60' buffer zone. Then after the new administration took over, the 60' buffer requirement went away. We redesigned that area of Quincy High School. We did get a credit of \$997,137, but from that credit, we had to redesign that and other issues – façade, etc.

New SMMA design	\$49,500,
Misc. charges	110,000
Five items that aren't done yet,	
Change to façade	35,000
A gated area	40,000
Repairing doors and	103,000
Old boiler room stairs	
Misc. items	50,000

The new credit is \$609,637. This phase will not be done until next August or

September.

- - -

Mrs. Mahoney reported that the Superintendent is working with the MSBA on the enrollment projection and will have a report at the next meeting.

Central Bldg. Committee
Mrs. Mahoney reports

The MSBA has said that the Committee does not have to revote. We have to do a refreshing that involves Sterling. Most things have not changed. This Committee has already voted.

Supts Reports

- - -

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, the Committee moved approval of the Physical Restraint of Students Policy File 10.9.3. On a roll call vote, the motion Passed 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent.

Physical Restraint Policy
Policy File 10.9.3

- - -

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, the Committee approved the Observation of Special Education Programs Policy File: 11.10.1. On a roll a call vote, the motion Passed 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent. Mrs. Bragg read #9 of the Policy –
“Should the observer choose to submit his/her report of the observation to the TEAM, the observer will be asked to submit it 10 days in advance of any TEAM meeting. This is particularly important if the report is going to be used to determine eligibility, develop an IEP or consider placement. The TEAM will convene within 10 days of receipt of the written report.”

Observation of SPED
Programs Policy 11.10.1

- - -

Ms. Maura Tanaglia gave a presentation of Anti Bullying programs in the schools. Children who engage in bullying behavior are at risk of dropping out of school, 60% of students that have been identified as bullies will have an experience with the criminal justice system. Quincy’s hope is to help children build social networks and get involved in school activities, especially those students that may be at risk of being a target of bullying. Quincy has implemented classroom lessons that teach mutual respect and conflict resolution skills as preventive intervention to address bullying on a school wide level.

Anti Bullying Programs

She gave an overview of the programs system wide. “Steps to Respect” has been purchased for elementary and middle schools. She urged parents to contact classroom teacher, guidance counselor or school principal with concerns. Work with the school to resolve the situation and monitor child’s cell phone and computer regularly.

Maura Shaughnessy spoke to the anti bullying programs in the elementary schools, and Brian Sasso spoke to the anti-bullying programs in the middle schools. At the high schools level they speak about internet safety programs, what is harassment, and dating safely.

There will be a Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (M.A.R.C.) presentation for Quincy parents city wide on November 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Central Middle School.

Also, parents can access information on bullying through NetSmartz , a web based resource through the Quincy Public Schools website.

Mr. McCarthy asked that a presentation be done on what they are doing at both high schools at a future date.

- - -

Mr. Rich O'Brien and Mary Feredrickson gave a brief overview of the MASCS Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP). An EPP is a plan that schools develop to help individual students make progress towards proficiency in English Language Arts and/or Mathematics. An EPP must include a review of the students strengths and weaknesses based on MCAS tests and other assessment results, coursework, grades, and teacher input. A list of the courses in the relevant ELA and/or Math content areas that the student must take and complete successfully in grades 11 and 12 and a description of the assessments the school will use at least once each year to make sure that the student is making progress toward or has achieved proficiency. Quincy has developed a computer program to help keep a handle on these students. Mrs. Fredrickson showed an electronic EPP. Students now need to score a 220 in Science. The principal is the one ultimately responsible. The student needs to complete the plan in order to graduate.

Educational Proficiency Plan

- - -

Mr. McCarthy commended Mr. Keith Segalla for a wonderful Center for Tech Ed Advisory Board meeting and presentation at the high school. Mrs. Mahoney also attended the Advisory Dinner and commended the Skills USA student who spoke and the culinary arts student. Students did an incredible job presenting.

Additional Business

The Quincy High Horizons Choir had a presentation of songs and open mike on Saturday night at Adams Hall, Quincy High School. Mr. McCarthy said it was a wonderful event.

Communications

Mr. McCarthy inquired about the bus for Bernazzani and if a transfer of funds from the Technology line is needed to cover the cost of the

driver. Mr. Mariano answered that he will schedule a Budget Subcommittee meeting before the next regular School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Mahoney has called a Special Ed Subcommittee Meeting at Broad Meadows on October 28. Mr. McCarthy will chair the meeting.

Mr. McCarthy read a letter from Nancy Scanlan thanking the School Committee for reinstating a school bus at the Bernazzani School.

- - -

Mrs. Bragg reported that the Policy Subcommittee met to discuss two issues. The Committee has been asked by the high schools to consider a change in the Graduation Requirements File 9.11.5 policy. The high school principals would like to be able to provide waiver rights for students to change a schedule. The Committee is not waiving it's graduation requirements. Principals can replace a social studies class with a science class. This proposal has been reviewed by everyone.

Policy Subcommittee
Mrs. Bragg reports

Mrs. Bragg made a motion, to change to give waiving rights to each high school principal on an individual basis. This item will lay on the table until the next School Committee meeting.

The school calendar was also discussion. Unions, principals, everyone was contacted. The unions did not respond. Special Education parents don't want to alter the Special Education summer programs by beginning earlier. The new Quincy High school won't be ready until the beginning of September. Therefore the Subcommittee decided to make no change to the calendar. It will be done as it has historically been done which is to begin after Labor Day.

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. Mariano, the Committee approved the Policy Subcommittee minutes for October 7, 2009. The ayes have it.

- - -

The School Facilities Subcommittee met on October 19. They reviewed the maintenance issues on the School Improvement Plans. The overall comments are that those things that are still not done, cost money. We would have to do a Capital Improvement plan. There is no money in our budget for repairs. Repaving school yards has gone to the DPW. They will review these requests. If the members had any questions, they were to contact Mrs. Dwyer. She thanked the Maintenance Department as they accomplished a lot with a little money.

School Facilities
Subcommittee
Mrs. Dwyer reports

The report for the ADA Accessibility of school buildings was sent out to the Committee. At the high school level, the new Quincy High School will be in full compliance. At the Middle School level, we have two schools

with accessibility to elevators—Broad Meadows and Point Webster. Because we have open enrollment, we have a building that a handicapped student can go to. The new Central will be fully compliant. At the elementary level, five schools need minor repairs to become compliant with ADA standards for accessibility--Beechwood, Bernazzani, Marshall, Della Chiesa and Parker. Mr. Murphy will prepare a report of what the needs are for minor repairs to bring those buildings into ADA compliance for January. He will come back with a list of what's needed and what the cost will be. We would like to bring one or more elementary schools into compliance. That will go into subcommittee.

- - -

On a motion by Mr. Puleo, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, the Committee adjourned for the evening at 9:12 p.m. There was no executive session. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent.

Adjournment