

*Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – January 23, 2013*

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Mayor Thomas Koch, Mrs. Emily Lebo, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mr. David McCarthy, and Ms. Barbara Isola, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting

Vice-Chair Presiding

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There was a moment of silence for Lee Gould, who served as principal of the Montclair, Gridley Bryant, and Beechwood Knoll Elementary Schools.

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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; Mr. Michael Draicchio, Ms. Kerry Ginty, Councillor Gutro, Mr. James Hennessy, Ms. Maureen MacNeil, Mr. James McGuire, Mrs. Meg McMillen, Mrs. Robin Moreira, Mr. James Mullaney, Mr. Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Ellen Murray, Mrs. Maura Papile, Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts, Mr. Frank Santoro, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Kevin Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw, Ms. Judy Todd, Mrs. Ruth Witmer; Quincy High School Student Representative to the School Committee Ms. Lindsay Schrier; and Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association.

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for January 9, 2013. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting  
Minutes Approved  
1/9/2013

Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lebo, to approve the Executive Session minutes for January 9, 2013. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session  
Minutes Approved  
1/9/2013

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On behalf of a group parents from across the city present at the meeting, Mrs. Joanne Robinson spoke about school safety, specifically classroom door locks. Mrs. Robinson respectfully requested that locks be added to all classroom doors across the school system immediately.

Open Forum

Mrs. Michelle Andrews presented the Media Specialist petition organized by the Citywide Parents' Council and signed by approximately 1,600 parents and residents from across the city. Media Specialists integrate technology and literacy, support the Common Core curriculum, and independent reading. Parent volunteers have been an integral part of the maintaining the elementary and middle school media centers, but the petition requests the return of Media Specialists for the next academic year's budget and asks the School Committee to seek outside funding for positions for the remainder of this academic year.

Other speakers included parents Julie Mallozzi, Maren Heise, Corinna Lund, Jim Coffey, Julia Green, Dana Gurwich, Diane Helm, John Segale, Gail Spring, Marianna Krejci-Papa, Theresa Fisher, and Fiona McGarry. All urged the School Committee to restore the Media Specialist positions in the Elementary and Middle Schools. The current system of parent volunteers cannot provide what a professional, certified librarian would bring to the schools: collaboration with teachers to support the Common Core State Standards, integration of technology and literacy skills, enhancing and maintaining the school library collections. They spoke of equality of access for all students and restoring an essential part of Quincy Public Schools.

Susanne O'Neil concluded the Citywide Parent Councils' presentation of the petition by connecting the importance of the new downtown development with educational excellence; our schools need to be vibrant learning centers in order to attract new residents. She cited the work of Tracey Christello in pursuing this issue and acknowledged the difficult choices that QPS had to make for the FY2011 budget in those economic straits. She praised the ongoing restoration from that year, including the Literacy program funding that has been fully restored, along with enhancements for other programs. Mrs. O'Neil asked the Mayor, the School Committee, and the Superintendent to make sure the Media Specialists will be in the FY2014 budget and noted that the Citywide Parents' Council is also asking the City Council to monitor this issue.

Other parents who did not speak but asked for their names to be on the record for supporting the Media Specialists issue included Andrea Curtin, Jennifer Zemetel, Kristen Perry, Kathy Bowes, Gail Galliard, Theresa Rodriguez Michelle Gott, Veronica Mazzini, Maryanne Mannion, Margaret Mahoney, Lynda Segal, Linda McPhail, Phil Prioli, Stacy Scott, Susan Anderson, Maura O'Gara, Robert Hime, Laura Hornbrook, Amy Galiano, Michelle Venelli, Ann Ross, Pascale Hubert, Deirdre Small, Paula Reynolds.

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Superintendent DeCristofaro introduced Coordinator of Custodians Kevin Segalla and the members of the Custodian Staff present to be recognized for their many years of dedication to the Quincy Public Schools. The twenty-three Custodian staff members have over 620 years of service combined. Dr. DeCristofaro noted that custodians have a reassuring presence in their building, caring for the school's

Superintendent's  
Report

staff and students. He expressed gratitude and appreciation for all they do to support the teaching and learning environments in their buildings and thanked the Principals, Assistant Principals, and family members who came out in support.

Mr. McCarthy reiterated the Superintendent's comments, noting that in the recent Facilities and Security Subcommittee, it was emphasized how important the custodians are to the security of the school buildings. Mrs. Mahoney thanked the custodians for being the first staff members in the schools each day, making sure that everything is ready for the day and the last ones out at night. Mr. Bregoli spoke about his years of working in the schools, and the custodians' relationships with the staff and students of their schools. Mayor Koch added his gratitude to the custodians and all their peers; their importance to the Quincy Public Schools family is immeasurable. Ms. Isola talked about the gleaming floors in every building, their work with parent volunteers in addition to their regular duties, and the extra effort that makes a difference in a school community.

The Custodial staff members recognized for their years of service were: Forty years or more: Robert Bannister, Atlantic; Oscar Cabral, Point Webster; Warren Testa, Quincy High School; Twenty-five years or more: Paul Ayre, Quincy College; John Delorey, Atherton Hough; Joseph Keniley, Atlantic; David Kiley, Bernazzani; William Kolczewski, Broad Meadows; Thomas McNamara, Point Webster; Karl Olson, Beechwood Knoll; Kenny Olson, Wollaston; Glen Oriola, North Quincy High School; Steven Wencek, Squantum; Twenty years or more: Fred Calley, Broad Meadows (retired); James Connors, Lincoln Hancock; Joseph Doyle, Lincoln Hancock; Gregory Dunn, Quincy College; Paul Grant, Atlantic; Christopher Madden, Quincy High School; Thomas Manning, Lincoln Hancock; Joseph Merlino, Quincy High School; Thomas Orseno, Quincy High School; Morgan O'Shea, ECC/Lincoln Hancock.

After a brief recess, the Superintendent continued his report by announcing that Quincy High School Principal Frank Santoro is planning to retire at the end of the school year. Mr. Santoro has spent 41 years as an educator, starting as a teacher in Boston Public Schools, then moving to become an Assistant Principal in the Brookline Public Schools. He joined Quincy Public Schools in 1999 as Principal of the Central Middle School and then became Principal at Quincy High School in 2004, for a total of 14 years in the Quincy Public Schools. Mr. Santoro thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to be an administrator and advocate for two great schools. Mr. Santoro spoke of the unique opportunity to work on the creation of a new Quincy High School, an educational institution for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He thanked his wife and family for their support.

Dr. DeCristofaro invited the members of the School Committee to attend the upcoming Special Olympics event which will be held at the Squantum Elementary School on Friday, February 8 at 9:00 am. The School Committee is also invited to observe the BOKS program, a before-school physical activity initiative sponsored by Reebok and being piloted at the Squantum Elementary School on Monday,

January 28 at 7:15 am. Over 60 students participate in this voluntary twice-weekly program, supported by their Physical Education teacher, Mr. Brian Miller, several volunteer parents, and Squantum Elementary School Principal Stephen Sylvia.

Other upcoming events include the Middle School Volleyball Championship on Saturday, January 26 at North Quincy High School at 8:30 am and the taping of WGBH's *High School Quiz Show* with the team from North Quincy High School competing which is on the same date and time. The episode will be broadcast on Sunday, February 10.

Dr. DeCristofaro shared information about the Winter Scene Saturday program for elementary school students and Winter Session, a ten-week program which provides high school students the opportunity to recover credits required for graduation.

Seven students from Quincy High School and North Quincy High School were recently selected to participate in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Eastern District Concert. Under the direction of Mr. Tim Carew, students George Bill, Nicholas Burt, Cindy Nelson, and Natasha Sautter representing North Quincy High School and Ciana Bonfiglioli, Lydia Culp, and Jenny Thi representing Quincy High School, auditioned and were selected to perform with other students from eastern Massachusetts cities and towns. Nicholas Burt and Jenny Thi have further qualified to be part of the MMEA All-State Festival in March, which will culminate in a concert at Boston's Symphony Hall.

The Superintendent concluded his report by mentioning the examples of Home School Connections shared with the School Committee: Family Newsletters from Bernazzani, Montclair, Parker, Squantum, Snug Harbor, and Wollaston Elementary and Quincy High School.

Mrs. Lebo thanked the Superintendent for sharing the Family Newsletters and asked for an update on an issue raised in the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee during the School Improvement Plan presentations about the Activity Stipend Fund and the final distribution across the Elementary and Middle Schools.

Mayor Koch thanked Superintendent DeCristofaro for attending the January 22, 2013 City Council meeting, where the City Council reviewed and passed the four Massachusetts School Building Authority Statements of Interest, after questioning the Superintendent DeCristofaro about the process and proposed projects.

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Ms. Isola requested the indulgence of the School Committee in taking the agenda out of order and moving to a review of the January 22, 2013 Policy Subcommittee by Mr. Paul Bregoli. The first item on the agenda was the Revised Wellness Policy,

Reports of Subcommittees

Policy Subcommittee

which was referred from the Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee. The Wellness Policy was revised from the last version to give each school’s principal discretion in applying a waiver from the Nutritional Standards for up to three school-wide events per year. After discussion, final wording was agreed upon and the revised Wellness Policy was approved by the Subcommittee.

The next item on the agenda was the review of the 2013-2014 School Year Calendar; a draft had been shared with principals, administrative staff, and parent groups. Some parental feedback was received about adjusting the format and a new single-page format was presented. This was reviewed and additional changes were suggested; the Subcommittee then approved the 2013-2014 School Year Calendar. The next item on the agenda was a review of the 2013-2014 School Committee meeting calendar; this calendar was approved by the Subcommittee without changes.

The final item on the agenda was a Review of the existing Conflict of Interest Policy, copies of which were provided to the Subcommittee. Mr. Bregoli deferred to Mrs. Mahoney who had moved the item into the Policy Subcommittee for review. Mrs. Mahoney noted that her goal is for the Quincy School Committee policy to reflect the state’s legal statutes more specifically as other cities and towns do but that she was not prepared to fully address the topic at this meeting. The topic was deferred to the February 26, 2013 Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 School Committee Meeting calendar. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 School Year Calendar. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the revised Wellness Policy. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to approve the January 22, 2013 Policy Subcommittee Meeting minutes. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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North Quincy High School Principal Robert Shaw and Community Service Coordinator Kerry Ginty and Quincy High School Principal Frank Santoro and Community Service Coordinator Meg McMillen presented an update on the Community Service Pilot. Mrs. McMillen began with a review of the items that have been completed since the last update. Taking Mr. Bregoli’s suggestion, the Community Service Coordinators have developed an etiquette guide, translated the forms and opportunities list into Mandarin, and visited non-profits with groups of

New Business  
  
Community Service  
Pilot Update

students. Ms. Ginty reviewed that Community Service is publicized through Naviance, electronic bulletin board commercials, Instant Alerts, the QPS website, social media (Facebook and Twitter), and by reaching out to teachers, clubs, advisors, and coaches. For both high schools, a total of 10% of Grade 10 and 11 students have completed their ten hours of Community Service and submitted the required paper work. Based on surveys conducted at both high schools, 41% of students have completed their Community Service hours, but haven't completed their paperwork. 45% are reporting not having started their Community Service.

Going forward, students will receive an "I" for incomplete or "C" for complete on their quarterly progress reports and report cards. The Community Service database continues to be updated; the Coordinators are focusing on February and April vacation weeks as opportunities to get the students out into the community. Mrs. McMillen spoke of the great feedback they've received from the schools and communities, including the Wollaston School Harvest Festival and the Helping Hands Essential Pantry.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked both the high school principals and the Community Service Coordinators for all of their hard work. He reminded everyone that this is a pilot and complimented them on the progress that has been made in a short time. Mr. McCarthy thanked the coordinators for the foundation they are establishing; they have made a very good start moving this in a positive direction.

Mrs. Mahoney asked to the team to look for a way for students submit the paperwork electronically and encouraged planning for groups of students to work together for their community service. She praised the very positive direction of the pilot and acknowledged the challenge that this group has risen to. Mr. Bregoli asked if the survey was done prior to the December vacation week or were gathered in January. The numbers were gathered last week and both coordinators feel that spring will bring a large number of opportunities for students to get out into the community. Ms. Isola thanked the group and looks forward to their next pilot update.

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The next item on the agenda was a presentation on Solar Energy Installations on QPS School Roofs. Mayor Koch explained that there was a conflict with the presenters' schedule and this item will be placed on a future meeting agenda.

Solar Energy Installations  
on School Roofs

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the out of state travel of Point Webster Middle School, Grade 8 students to New York City, NY June 6, 2013 and June 7, 2013. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of State Travel

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the out of state travel of Broad Meadows Middle School, Grade 7 students to Camp Wing, Duxbury, MA June 5, 2013 through June 7, 2013. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Overnight Travel

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Mayor Koch made a motion to accept the gift of a \$5,000 from the Attorney George Burke to the Quincy High School George G. Burke Fitness Center. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Gift: \$5,000 from  
Attorney George Burke

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion to move Restoring Media Specialist Positions into the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Additional Business

Mr. McCarthy reminded the School Committee that there will be a Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting on February 5 at 5:00 pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the NAGE Building. Mr. McCarthy made a motion to move the Classroom Door Lock and School Lobby Security Controls issues into the Facilities and Security Subcommittee. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCarthy requested an update on any heating issues that occurred today at schools. Mr. Kevin Segalla said that the two issues were addressed by Maintenance and Custodial. Atherton Hough was resolved by the Maintenance department and Quincy High School was addressed by PJ Kennedy.

Mayor Koch commented on the issues raised at Open Forum this evening. He is grateful for the thoughtful and respectful presentations which speaks well of the families in the city. He is looking forward to the discussions during the spring budget discussions about positions. Mayor Koch reminded everyone that we are constantly re-evaluating the school security issues and installing new equipment, cameras, and lighting; we are a well-prepared school system.

Mr. Bregoli raised the topic of Attendance and Residency and asked the Superintendent if the Attendance Officers could be on the agenda at the next School Committee meeting with Mrs. Papile to present about their responsibilities.

Mrs. Mahoney thanked all the parents for coming to tonight's meeting, noting that it is helpful for the School Committee to see in person the impact of the decisions made. She mentioned Mrs. Tracey Christello, the Citywide Parents' Council Representative to the School Committee, who has spoken many times at Open Forum about the Media Specialist issue. Mrs. Christello was not able to attend

tonight’s meeting due to the death of her father. Mrs. Mahoney also asked that the names of parents who support the Classroom Lock issue spoken about during Open Forum be entered into the record: Kerri Grippi, Sue Kennedy, Maureen Whooley, Laurie Gola, Tari Crowley, Patricia Grant, Marianne Palmer, Julie Mallozzi, Pascale Hubert, Andrea Curtin, Maren Heise, Tara Burke, Thomas Roberts, Joanne Robertson (who spoke at Open Forum on behalf of the parents), Juanita Reppucci, Kristin Perry, Jennifer Zemotel, Fiona McGarry, Susanne O’Neil, Marianna Krejci-Papa, Ann McGagne, Kathy Bowes, Linda Segal, Kristine Prioli, Phil Prioli, Laura Hornbrook, Stacy Scott, Caroline McKenna, Janet Bargar, Julia Greene, Pamela MacGregor, Julie Manning, Michelle Bolduc, Julie Connolly, Teresa Rodriguez, Michele Goff, Veronica Mazzini, Maura O’Gara, Susan Anderson, Paula Reynolds, Annie Acerra, Ann Ross, Amy Galiano, Mauricio Arguello, Otto Llamas

Ms. Isola thought the Open Forum was very helpful, how the parents organized themselves and presented the issues in such a thoughtful way. This has been an issue that has never been forgotten by the School Committee. Economic circumstances forced this difficult decision that was reluctantly made. Ms. Isola is also looking forward to discussing this in budget meetings this spring.

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Ms. Isola presented a summary of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting that was held on January 14, 2013. Director of Business Affairs Jim Mullaney presented the Quarterly Budget Review for the second quarter of FY2013. He reviewed the salary budget for Academic Classroom Teachers, Academic Programs, Academic Support, and Non-Academic Support. All line items are within expected ranges for this point in the year; all February step and level increases are accounted for, as well as increases from contract negotiations now completed and still in process. For Academic Expenses, Circuit Breaker funding from the state will be increased by \$100,000 over what was budgeted. Expenses on track for the year; Special Education Tuitions are a concern, but are at 38% expended for the year. For Non-Academic Expenses, there may be a small surplus in the Natural Gas line and a larger surplus in gasoline. Electricity costs are continuing to rise due to increased demand for technology. The majority of grants have come in at or around the amounts budgeted, so there are no areas of concern or unfunded positions.

Reports of Subcommittees  
(continued)

Budget and Finance  
Subcommittee

Superintendent DeCristofaro noted that due to an increase in time spent on DESE initiatives such as RETELL and Access testing, a stipended position will be created at the high school level to assist the Curriculum Coordinator for the remainder of the school year. One of the ELL teachers will assume additional responsibilities.

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2013 Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Mahoney presented a summary of the Special Education Subcommittee Meeting that was held on January 16, 2013. The first item on the agenda was a Review of QPAC Goals, followed by a Review of Collaborative Goals. The SPED staff is in the process of updating the Program Booklet with the goal of publishing next fall. For Monitoring Progress Report Distribution: Ms. Todd will follow up to be sure that these are being distributed in conjunction with report cards. Ms. Perkins suggested adding an item to the SPED newsletter to remind parents when the progress reports are expected. In terms of Monitoring IEP Implementation, the SPED department worked with the high school teams to ensure that transition issues between middle and high school were handled smoothly. The elementary and middle school transition has worked well for the last several years. For the Update on the Use of the Evaluation Brochure and Substitute Chart, Ms. Todd noted that the Evaluation Brochure is being printed and will be distributed to schools next week. Special Education chairs will include the brochure with the introductory letter to parents. The brochure will also be posted on both the QPS and QPAC websites. The Substitute Chart is almost final; Dr. DeCristofaro said it will be shared with the principals to add to substitute folders that each teacher maintains.

Special Education  
Subcommittee

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2013 Special Education Subcommittee Meeting. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

On the motion, Mrs. Lebo asked for clarification on the Evaluation Brochure. Mrs. Mahoney offered to provide copies, along with the Substitute Chart, to the full committee.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bregoli and on a voice vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

Adjournment