

*Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – October 10, 2012*

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the Atherton Hough Elementary School. Present were Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Mayor Thomas Koch, 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 in memory of Dr. Lawrence Creedon, former Superintendent of the Quincy Public Schools.

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The Superintendent called the roll and Mrs. Lebo was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Ahearn, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Christianson, Mrs. Connolly, Mrs. Deagle, Mr. Draicchio, Ms. Egan, Mrs. Franceschini, Ms. Ginty, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Kisiselius, Mrs. Malvesti, Mrs. McMillen, Mrs. Moreira, Mrs. Morrissey, Mr. Mullaney, Mr. Mulvey, Mrs. Papile, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Ronayne, Mr. Santoro, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Sullivan, Ms. Todd; Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association; and Mrs. Tracey Christello, Citywide Parents' Council Representative.

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Mayor Koch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Regular Session minutes for September 19, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting  
Minutes Approved  
9/19/12

Mayor Koch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Executive Session minutes for September 19, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session  
Minutes Approved  
9/19/12

Mr. Bregoli made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Special Meeting minutes for September 24, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Special Meeting  
Minutes Approved  
9/24/12

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Quincy College President Peter Tsaffaras thanked the School Committee and

Open Forum

Dr. DeCristofaro for their ongoing support of the college, including securing the use of the Coddington Hall parking lot as part of the college’s transition to President’s Place. Ms. Isola invited President Tsaffaras to appear at a future School Committee meeting to discuss the many partnerships between the college and the Quincy Public Schools.

Mrs. Julie Berberan, parent at the Atherton Hough Elementary School spoke of her concerns about fourth grade MCAS scores and the elementary school curriculum and pacing.

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The Superintendent then introduced Mrs. Robin Moreira, the newly appointed Principal of the Atherton Hough Elementary School. Mrs. Moreira welcomed the Mayor, School Committee, and guests to the school, introduced Assistant Principal Katie Connolly, and spoke of the school’s place in the history of the Hough’s Neck neighborhood. She spoke of some of the school’s curriculum and instruction initiatives, the teacher collaboration on designing and differentiating instruction and sharing best practices. Mrs. Moreira noted that the school has an active and supportive Parent Teacher Organization and she feels privileged to be the instructional leader of the school. She then introduced the music teacher, Mrs. Barbara Christianson, who led the Fifth Grade Chorus in singing a patriotic song. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Mrs. Moreira and her entire staff and spoke of the school’s many educational accomplishments.

Superintendent’s Report

After a brief recess, Dr. DeCristofaro resumed his report, by introducing Montclair Elementary School Principal Renee Malvesti who spoke about the upcoming school Centennial and the recent activity at the Montclair Elementary School, including the installation of new windows and the new playground. The windows have made a tremendous difference in the school and the new playground is bringing parents and children together from all over the community. At the upcoming Centennial event on Saturday, October 20, there will be an open house where classrooms will showcase memorabilia from across the decades. There will be a short program, featuring the Fifth Grade Chorus and the Centennial Walkway will be dedicated.

Montclair Elementary School Centennial Celebration

Dr. DeCristofaro informed the School Committee that almost two hundred students from Quincy High School and North Quincy High School were awarded John and Abigail Adams scholarships; these scholarships offer free tuition to state schools. He mentioned the upcoming Professional Mini-Grant Celebration on Tuesday, October 16 at North Quincy High School’s Atrium of Honor, where \$20,000 in mini-grants will be awarded to sixty-six teachers; over one hundred grant proposals were submitted. There will be a Career and Technical Education Advisory Board meeting on October 25 at Quincy High School and the Special Olympics will be held on Friday, October 26 at the Squantum Elementary School. The Wollaston Elementary School Newsletter was shared with School Committee members as an example of home-school communication. Dr. DeCristofaro

concluded his remarks by noting that at the October 24, 2012 School Committee meeting, Athletic Director Jim Rendle will present on the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts and Coordinator of Data, Assessment, and Analysis Mary Fredrickson will present on the Spring 2012 MCAS Results.

Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts reviewed the October 1 enrollment and class size numbers. The current enrollment in the Quincy Public Schools is 9,422 students. At Grades K-4, the average class size is 20 students and at Grade 5, the average is 22 students. Two Grade 4 classes at the Wollaston Elementary School have 25 students each and are supported by a half-time Skills Support teacher. Four Grade 5 classes at the Bernazzani and Wollaston Elementary Schools have 25 or 26 students. For Grades 6-8, there are 483 sections across the five middle schools, 27% have 20 or fewer students, 68% have 21-25 students, and 5% have 26-28 students. This year's Grade 6 students are from the first full-day Kindergarten classes in 2006. For Grades 9-12, there are 971 sections between the two high schools, 52% with 20 or fewer students, 32% with between 21-25 students, and 15.8% with between 26-30 students. North Quincy High School has two sections with over 30 students; these classes are Grade 12 Honors electives. Mrs. Roberts thanked the Mayor and School Committee for their support through this year's budget which allowed for hiring additional classroom teachers and the positive class size statistics. Ms. Isola asked about language labs or classes that require technology and ensuring that the number of students doesn't exceed equipment and Mrs. Roberts assured her that particular attention was paid to this in terms of planning and analysis of class sizes.

Ms. Isola acknowledged Liz Hendry, QHS Culinary Arts student who participated in a recent Quincy Community Action Program fundraising event as part of her team, along with Mayor Koch. Ms. Hendry was professional and poised, and several Quincy High School teachers and other culinary students were there as supporters. Ms. Isola also mentioned the Teacher Mini-Grants deadline of September 29 and suggested extending the deadline into October going forward.

Mrs. Mahoney requested that at the Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting on October 22, information about where there were budget shifts to accommodate new hires be shared with the School Committee.

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Dr. DeCristofaro introduced North Quincy High School Acting Principal Rob Shaw and Community Service Coordinator Kerry Ginty, Quincy High School Principal Frank Santoro and Community Service Coordinator Meg McMillen to update the School Committee on the progress of the Community Service Pilot. Mr. Santoro opened the presentation by thanking Mrs. Bragg and Mr. Bregoli for recognizing the need for Community Service as part of a well-rounded education. In addition to the many meetings with the project's stakeholders, Mrs. McMillen and Ms.

Old Business

Community Service  
Pilot Update

Ginty met with agencies inside and outside of Quincy to gather information about Community Service opportunities, including the YMCA, Interfaith Social Services, elementary and middle schools, Operation Day's Work, SADD, ROTC, PTO events, and local sports teams. Ms. Ginty noted in addition to gathering information on Community Service opportunities, the team created a process for students to propose their own projects for approval. To publicize the Community Service Pilot to students, the guidance staff, homeroom teachers, class advisors, and deans collaborated. A website page was created, using social media including Facebook and the sophomore and junior classes were addressed at back-to-school assemblies at both schools. All teachers, clubs and sports team advisors were approached and parents were introduced to the program at back-to-school nights. Thanks to Database Administrator Bob Cavallo, there is now a Community Service page on the QPS website, with links to the supporting documents and the Community Service calendar. Many students are already involved in Community Service and completed their requirement over the summer; the Community Service Advisors are continuing to market opportunities and track completion. The deans at Quincy High School and the class advisors at North Quincy High School will be following up with students who are not on track for completing their requirement.

Mr. Shaw reviewed the next steps, including tracking hours and prompting students to complete their paperwork. The Community Service coordinators will continue to vet other opportunities and new agencies; they are using Starbase to track students' hours so they will appear on student transcripts. Naviance will be used to market Community Service opportunities; homeroom teachers are making announcements, and in-house television advertising is being utilized. For students who may need assistance, classroom teachers will be working with them on reinforcing the theme of service as a component to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

Mr. McCarthy thanked everyone involved in launching the pilot and asked for an estimate on how many students are already involved in Community Service Pilot. Ms. Ginty said that 42% of students have already started with Community Service and that 12% had completed their hours before school began. Mr. McCarthy expressed concern about whether it will be complicated to get 100% completion; before rolling out to all grades, need to be sure that students are getting out of it what we are hoping they will. Mrs. McMillen said that at the next update, the Community Service Coordinators will give percentages of student completion, including documentation. Mrs. Mahoney complimented the use of social media to promote Community Service and suggested posting photos and videos as a way of recruiting students who may be reluctant to volunteer. Mr. Bregoli asked whether stressing proper student attire and attitude was part of the discussion. Mr. Santoro said that this will be reinforced at upcoming quarterly assemblies and Mr. Shaw added that the homeroom teachers will also reinforce this. Ms. Ginty noted that they have emphasized first impressions and that sometimes volunteer opportunities lead to employment opportunities for the students. Mr. Bregoli complimented the Community Service Coordinators' perseverance and hard work.

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The Superintendent introduced Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile, Food Services Director Joanne Morrissey, and Coordinator of Health Services Jane Kisielius to present on the Quincy Public Schools Approach to Wellness and Partnership with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Mrs. Papile gave an overview of the new state and federal regulations for nutrition and wellness and recognized the principals' collaboration with Mrs. Kisielius and Mrs. Morrissey and the outside resources they have brought to the table.

New Business

Wellness Presentation

Mrs. Kisielius reviewed the impetus for schools to develop wellness policies, beginning with federal laws enacted in 2004. Wellness teams were established at each school, as well as a system-level team to provide assistance and support. In 2011, nutritional standards and school wellness advisory committee regulations were revised at the state level. Mrs. Morrissey reviewed the nutritional regulation changes relating to portion sizes, fruits and vegetables, alternate sources of protein, whole grain products. For competitive foods, the legislature passed changes to the regulations that provide allowances for foods served as part of booster sales or other activities. This gives districts the opportunity to discuss and create their own policy around this issue.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation is partnering with QPS in implementing the new wellness standards. The Healthy Schools program promotes healthy eating and activity to address the issue of childhood obesity. Professional Development was provided on September 6 to the nursing, food service, physical education, and health staff members. Mrs. Sullivan, the school nurse from the Clifford Marshall Elementary School Wellness Team presented on the school's initiatives. The Clifford Marshall staff are supportive, energetic, enthusiastic and were eager to form a team including administrators, the cafeteria manager, the physical education teacher, ELL teachers, school psychologist, and classroom teachers. The wellness team has multiple components, including increasing students' activity during the day in 2-3 minute bursts as an incentive and to help boost energy. The Clifford Marshall team created a wellness plan and goals for the School Improvement Plan, and provided information at Open House, including exercise and nutritional information. The school's Physical Education teacher Mrs. Chapman initiated the FitKids program, a voluntary before-school activity. The team collaborates on promoting healthy choices in meals and snacks, including the cafeteria manager explaining to students the new nutritional regulations and the need to try new foods. Staff members are monitoring lunchtime and food waste, encouraging students to try rather than simply throw away unfamiliar foods. Education on healthy lifestyle choices will be integrated into the curriculum.

Mrs. Robin Franceschini, Physical Education teacher at the Atherton Hough, Beechwood Knoll, and Wollaston Elementary Schools presented on the concept of adding movement wherever possible into the school day and working towards the

goal of children having one hour of activity per day. She then presented a short video of students and teachers integrating activity into their school day. Mrs. Kisielius concluded by thanking the students and staff at Atherton Hough and Clifford Marshall for their participation and Brian Smith for his technical assistance.

Mr. McCarthy and Mrs. Mahoney both complimented everyone on the work done to integrate wellness into the schools. Mrs. Mahoney inquired about the changes at the high school level and portion size. Mrs. Morrissey replied that the serving sizes for grains and meats are smaller and the calorie count is lower. There are more fruits and vegetables available, but the trick is to make them more attractive to students. Previously, schools were allowed to sell additional items to supplement lunches for students who wanted larger portions. With the new competitive food regulations, there are limits on this. There is no limit to what students can bring on their own for lunch. Mrs. Mahoney asked whether information could be posted on the website; Mrs. Kisielius and Mrs. Morrissey agreed there were links that could be shared. Mrs. Mahoney asked for clarification about bake sales, Mrs. Morrissey agreed that they are permitted, but need to be addressed during the development of the new Wellness policy. There are no limits on bake sales to the public, such as election day bake sales. Mrs. Mahoney also clarified that these guidelines are federal and state regulations, not the Quincy School Committee's policy.

Mr. Bregoli asked about implementation of these Wellness teams system-wide, citing the correlation between physical activity and academic achievement. Mrs. Kisielius replied that every school has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and will be creating and implementing a wellness goal as part of their School Improvement Plan. Mr. Bregoli mentioned health education at the high school level and would like to discuss this during the next round of budget discussions. Ms. Isola asked Mrs. Morrissey about the issue of chocolate milk being allowed with the federal meal pattern, but under the state guidelines, those bringing their own lunch and purchasing milk would not be allowed to purchase chocolate milk. Ms. Isola hopes that the wellness focus can emphasize additional activity, such as the before school activity program the Squantum Elementary School is piloting with Reebok. Common sense and moderation need to be taught and part of the wellness policy.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Mrs. Kisielius, Mrs. Morrissey and Mrs. Papile for their leadership, Mrs. Sullivan and the Clifford Marshall Wellness team, and the dedicated Physical Education teachers in QPS like Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Franceschini.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the overnight travel of North Quincy High School Juniors and Seniors to University of New Hampshire, Durham,

Out-of-State Travel

New Hampshire on November 16, 2012. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mr. McCarthy asked to discuss the City Council’s recent approval of the renovations to the President’s City Inn (next to the new Central Middle School site). He is concerned about the record of police calls to the motel in 2012 that was introduced at the City Council meeting; he feels the School Committee was reassured that there were no issues at a previous meeting. Mayor Koch noted that Presidents’ City Inn and St. Ann’s School co-existed for 60 years with no issues. The owner of Presidents’ City Inn is pursuing affiliation with a major chain in an effort to change the clientele, and improve hotel security and climate. Mayor Koch assured Mr. McCarthy that there will be no tolerance going forward, and that the Licensing Board will act should there be any interference with the school. Mr. Bregoli also wants to be reassured that this issue will be addressed and approves of the mayor’s statement that the Licensing Board will be monitoring the activity at the location. He suggested adding this item to the School Facilities and Security Subcommittee.

Additional Business  
  
New Central Middle School/President’s City Inn

Mr. McCarthy also noted that his memory from previous discussions is that there would be a wall around the parking lot with a fence on top of it. The existing wall only lines 25% of the perimeter between the school site and the parking lot. He suggested discussing what might be done to screen parking lot from the school site at an upcoming Central Building Committee meeting. Mrs. Mahoney agreed that the School Committee must monitor the hotel as the school’s neighbor. Ms. Isola queried that the perimeter screening is the hotel’s responsibility as part of their renovation. Mr. McCarthy suggested that the School Committee invite the hotel owner and lawyer Mr. Fleming to come to a subcommittee meeting.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to move the issue of the perimeter border between the Central Middle School building site and the Presidents’ City Inn into the Facilities and Security Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bregoli and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Dr. DeCristofaro said that meeting minutes from earlier School Committee meetings where the Central Middle School site and President’s City Inn were discussed would be shared with the School Committee. Ms. Isola asked about seeing the actual police report that had been provided to the City Council and that will be provided as well.

Mayor Koch noted that there will be a topping-off ceremony for the new Central Middle School and suggested that students at Central Middle School sign some of the beams that will be used in the building. He is also planning to speak to Central Middle School Principal Jennifer Fay-Beers about creating a time capsule.

Mrs. Mahoney asked about the issue of moving a Sea Street bus stop. Dr. DeCristofaro said that Mr. Draicchio followed up with the MBTA about this and they are reluctant to move the bus stop from its present location. There is a crossing guard there, so student safety is observed at all times. Mr. McCarthy asked if there have been any issues there involving QPS students. Mr. Draicchio said that according to Mr. Taglieri, the MBTA police, and the Quincy Police Department, there have never been any issues; this is a private business owner complaint to the MBTA.

MBTA Bus Stop  
on Sea Street

Mrs. Mahoney mentioned that a Quincy High School parent had emailed a concern to all School Committee members. The parent had requested the item be read at Open Forum by a School Committee member on her behalf. Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to move the item into the Rules, Oversight, and Post Audit Subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy asked to wait until after the MIAA presentation at the next School Committee meeting on October 24, 2012. Mrs. Mahoney asked to read the email into the record. Mayor Koch objected. Dr. DeCristofaro would like the opportunity to meet with the parent; Quincy High School Principal Frank Santoro and Athletic Director Jim Rendle have also attempted to meet with the parent. Mayor Koch noted that his objection means the item has been tabled and not subject to any further discussion at this time.

Parent Concern

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Mrs. Mahoney announced that a Special Education Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm at Quincy High School. She also announced that the Wollaston Elementary School will be holding its annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Communications

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion to remove the following items from the Facilities and Security Subcommittee: (5) Coddington Hall Parking Lot Rental to Quincy College; (6) Acceptance of Provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 37M; and (7) Motion for the Public Buildings and Parks Departments to Attend School Committee Meetings; and to change the wording of (2) Coddington Hall \$1.5 Million Appropriation to read (2) Coddington Hall Renovation. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Reports of Subcommittees

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On a motion by Mayor Koch, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the School Committee went into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. for Collective Bargaining. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent. The School Committee will return to Open Session.

Executive Session

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The School Committee returned to Open Session at 10:05 pm.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Quincy School Committee and the Bus Drivers Association. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

Approval of the MOAs between the School Committee and the Teamsters Local 122

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Quincy School Committee and the Bus Monitors Association. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Quincy School Committee and the School Security Force Association. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment