

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – November 7, 2012

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were 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 Mr. Al Collins, an employee of the Quincy Public Schools Maintenance staff for over 25 years.

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The Superintendent called the roll and Mr. Bregoli was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Ahearn, Mr. Draicchio, Mrs. Fay-Beers, Ms. Horan, Mr. Jorgensen, Ms. Maureen MacNeil, Mr. Mullaney, Mr. Mulvey, Mrs. Papile, Mr. Ranft, Ms. Reardon, Mr. Santoro, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Sylvia, Ms. Todd; and Mrs. Tracey Christello, Citywide Parents' Council Representative.

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Regular Session minutes for October 24, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
10/24/12

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As no one wished to be heard at Open Forum, the School Committee moved to the next item on the agenda.

Open Forum

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The Superintendent introduced Quincy High School Principal Frank Santoro for a Student Recognition. Mr. Santoro introduced Quincy High School senior Amelia Wool, who recently received a Peer Leadership award from the Norfolk District Attorney's office. Ms. Wool is a peer leader, an active member of the National Honors Society, writes for the school newspaper and newsletter, coaches youth soccer, volunteers at the Red Cross, works with the Recreation department, and is part of a group creating a learn to swim program at Sterling and Lincoln-Hancock. Ms. Wool was recognized by the School Committee and received a certificate

Superintendent's Report

recognizing her accomplishments signed by Mayor Koch, Vice Chair Ms. Isola, and Superintendent DeCristofaro.

The Superintendent noted upcoming Quincy Public Schools events including American Education Week; the poster and essay contest winners will be celebrated at the December 12, 2012 School Committee Meeting. Through the generosity of the Quincy Rotary and the Rural Lodge of Masons, Grade 7 students from all five middle schools and Quincy High School’s Grade 9 students were able to attend a *Rachel’s Challenge* presentation. The annual Fall Gathering of Quincy Public School staff will be held on Wednesday, November 14; the event’s attendees donate food items to support four local food pantries. ‘Tis the Season will be held on Tuesday, December 4 at Quincy High School.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that school newsletters from the Montclair, Parker, Squantum, and Wollaston Elementary Schools were shared with the School Committee and that the Quincy Elks Lodge has once again donated dictionaries to all of the Grade 3 students in the Quincy Public Schools, over 700 students.

As the Fall sports season draws to a close, Dr. DeCristoforo spoke of the Middle School Cross-Country championship that had 250 student participants, many of whom qualified to attend the state championships. The Girls’ Cross-Country City Championship was won by Broad Meadows and the Boys’ Cross-Country City Championship was won by Central. At the high school level, the Quincy High School Boys’ Soccer team, the North Quincy High School Girls’ Soccer team, and the Girls’ Volleyball teams from both high schools participated in the first round of the MIAA tournament.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that Mr. Rob Shaw has been appointed as Principal of North Quincy High School. Mr. Shaw is a North Quincy High School graduate, and served as teacher, English department head, assistant principal, and acting principal.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by thanking the School Committee for their active participation in the review process for the School and Program Improvement Plans, noting the many Subcommittee meetings held in the last few weeks where the plans have been presented by school principals and program directors.

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The Superintendent introduced Executive Director of Information Technology Keith Segalla who spoke of the district’s Information Technology plan’s benchmarks and stressed the integration of technology with curriculum. Technology tools are used to engage students and enhance student achievement. Education Technology is a

New Business
Education Technology
Team Update

collaborative initiative across the community: the City and School Committee funding and direction; the City’s IT support for the website, the new email system, and fiber lines; and Parent-Teacher Organization funding for equipment.

Mr. Segalla then introduced Atlantic Middle School Principal Maureen MacNeil, who thanked the Mayor and School Committee for the recent funding through Comcast for the school’s new computer lab, 13 MimioTeach suites, 13 projectors. These technology upgrades support hands-on learning and make connection to real world experiences for students. Technology alone will never replace a dedicated teacher but teachers and students are excited and utilize these tools in daily practice. She then introduced Atlantic Science teacher Mr. Chris Ranft, but as there were technical difficulties, the School Committee moved to the next item on the agenda while they were being resolved.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the out of state travel of the Sterling Middle School Grade 6 students to Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island on November 28, 2012, Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out-of-State Travel

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At the upcoming Massachusetts Association of School Committee Conference, Mrs. Hubley will be representing the Quincy School Committee. At the General Session, there will be resolutions to be voted on by all representatives present:

Additional Business

- (1) Establishment of a special commission of the legislature for the study of mandated reports and data submissions for school districts, given that the time deemed necessary for preparing mandated reports and data submissions detracts from the time allotted to running a school district, directly impacting the students.
- (2) Modification of the circuit breaker formula; the spiraling tuition costs for special education are adversely affecting school budgets.
- (3) Health insurance coverage for medically necessary treatment in school; an increasing number of special education students come to school needing accommodations for physical health-related issues rather than educational deficits or learning disabilities.
- (4) Funding for Educator Evaluation System: the establishment of statewide standards for educator evaluation includes extensive and highly specific requirements for school administrators and may require considerable time and cost to implement.
- (5) Adequacy study: For several years, proponents of greater financial assistance to school districts have urged that the state authorize a formal

study to determine the adequacy of Chapter 70 funding and the fairness of the distribution formula.

(6) Election of Governing Boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools: Not applicable to QPS, as there are no charter schools in district

Mayor Koch and Mrs. Lebo asked for clarification on Resolution 5. Mr. Mullaney said that with the state’s Chapter 70 formula is a complex computation based on land valuations. Quincy receives significantly less than cities and towns with similar school populations, but there are no guarantees how a change to the formula would affect the distribution of funds.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the Massachusetts Association of School Committee resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lebo and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Despite continuing technical issues, Mr. Ranft demonstrated the MimioTeach, which can be deployed on any whiteboard or wall; it is portable, and can be shared between classrooms. The MimioTeach comes with software, including a gallery of photos and lessons, for example, images of chemical models embedded in a Periodic Table of Elements. Content for all primary content areas for Grades K-12 is included with the MimioTeach. Teachers can also add their own content, including images. Mrs. Mahoney asked for clarification of whether MimioTeach can be integrated with new technologies and those that can be integrated include iPads and MOBIs.

New Business (continued)

Education Technology
Team Update

North Quincy High School Principal Rob Shaw then reviewed the 75 hours of training received by fourteen Quincy Public Schools staff members over the summer; these trainees will then train other staff members. North Quincy High School English Department Chair Mike Jorgensen demonstrated MimioTeach’s interaction with the Microsoft Office Suite (specifically Word and PowerPoint). The system has drag-and-drop capabilities, allowing teachers to manipulate and update existing content. There is an Activity Wizard that allows the teacher to build quizzes. System-wide, teachers are very willing to learn and invest the time to create the student-centered activity; ease of use makes every teacher a specialist in instructional design. Mrs. Lebo asked about correlation to the Common Core Standards; Mr. Jorgensen spoke about the developing online community of lesson sharing and the ability to adapt lessons through the technology.

Clifford Marshall Elementary School Principal Nick Ahearn then gave an overview of the MimioView document camera. He reiterated that educational technology is a collaborative effort with funding from business partners, DonorsChoose.org, and the school’s Parent-Teacher Organization. Ms. Reardon, a Grade 1 teacher at Clifford Marshall, demonstrated a document camera which allows a teacher to project items onto the whiteboard. Uses for the document camera include sharing student work and peer editing. The camera is also useful as

a science tool to demonstrate concepts, and can be used with a microscope. Ms. Reardon noted that she also utilizes the camera's audio feature by having students read aloud to benchmark fluency at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.

Squantum Elementary School Principal and Education Technology Team Co-Chair Steve Sylvia spoke about the Educational Technology team's collaboration with the Principal Team, the Curriculum Team, and cited the team's ambitious goals for 2012-2013, including piloting online curriculum and media center resources, continuing to support existing programs, and revising the acceptable use policy. Squantum Grade 4 Math Teacher Mrs. Horan demonstrated the MOBI View using a page from the *Go Math* textbook; mobility within the classroom allows for individualized student instruction. The MOBI allows teachers to save annotated lessons, share with students and parents, and share student work across different sections. Thanks to Squantum's supportive PTO, there are eleven MOBIs in use at the school.

Dr. DeCristofaro complimented Mrs. Horan and all of the presenters on their technical skills; Ms. Isola reiterated the compliments and requested updated information about computer access at home for Quincy Public Schools students. Mrs. Mahoney asked for smartphone access to be included in the survey.

Central Middle School Principal Jennifer Fay-Beers then spoke about the preparation underway for technology in the new Central Middle School. In anticipation of the move next fall, the staff are working together to bring technology into the school this year, sharing knowledge and areas for growth. Five EnoBoards are currently installed at Central; six staff members have been trained and will train other teachers in their curriculum area beginning in January. Every staff member will have the opportunity to practice and present a lesson of their own by the end of the year. In addition, five document cameras and LCD projectors have been purchased. At the new Central, there will be EnoBoards and document cameras in every classroom. A pilot of iPads in the classroom will begin shortly and help determine the ratio of mobile devices to static computer labs. Central's goal is to share knowledge and discoveries with other schools and reach out to parents through technology training. Central is using the online grade book EnGrade and online scheduling for parent teacher conferences. Technology allows parents to be invisibly supportive at a stage when students want more independence.

Mr. McCarthy noted that the middle schools received a large amount of funding recently and expressed hopes that the elementary schools might be addressed next; he also thanked the PTOs across the school system for their support. Mrs. Lebo asked for an update on the technology deployment across the schools so that the School Committee could assess equity. She also asked about the new student information system and whether online grading would be available for all schools. Mr. Segalla replied that as of next school year, all schools will have access to

online grading. Dr. DeCristofaro finished by thanking all of the teachers and principals for presenting and for their diligence in pursuing the technology options. Mayor Koch thanked Mr. Segalla and the teachers and principals for their excitement and willingness to adapt to the new tools. The city is committed to going forward and support for the elementary schools will be forthcoming through the Comcast money.

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Mayor Koch announced that a ribbon-cutting ceremony would be held on November 18 for the new track facility.

Communications

Mayor Koch also announced that the city has received a grant for drug awareness education and cited the work of the Drug Task Force including members of the Quincy Public Schools staff. Quincy Police Lt. Glennon was recently commended by the White House for his work on implementing the NarCan program in the city.

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Mrs. Lebo reported on the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meetings that were held on October 30, 2012 and November 5, 2012. The eleven elementary school principals presented their School Improvement Plans and reflected on their schools' 2011-2012 goals and achievements. For 2012-2013, all of the schools have goals related to English Language Arts and Mathematics MCAS achievement and are utilizing school and district-wide initiatives related to the rollout of the new Common Core State Standards. In addition, all schools have a goal related to student and staff Wellness. Mrs. Lebo noted that all School and Program Improvement Plans are posted on the individual school and program pages on the Quincy Public Schools website www.quincypublicschools.com.

Reports of Subcommittees

Teaching and Learning Subcommittee

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approved the minutes from the October 30, 2012 Teaching and Learning Subcommittee and the School Improvement Plans for the Montclair, Bernazzani, Squantum, Parker, Wollaston, and Beechwood Knoll Elementary Schools. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approved the minutes from the November 5, 2012 Teaching and Learning Subcommittee and the School Improvement Plans for the Atherton Hough, Snug Harbor, Clifford Marshall, and Merrymount Elementary Schools. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Hubley reviewed the Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee Meeting that was held on November 6, 2012. Mrs. Maura Papile presented the

Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee

Student Support Services Program Improvement Plan, noting that the team continued to monitor the school system's high-risk population and focused on providing professional development on barriers to learning. In addition, all levels of guidance staff participated in updated 504 plan training, including permission forms and ways to assess students remaining on these plans, more closely aligning the process with the Special Education Department's IEP process. The School Psychologists participated in all professional development with the guidance staff. The Supervisors of Attendance maintained the residency hotline and worked with school sites on attendance issues; they also hosted professional development with school sites on intervening with residency and attendance issues. The Homeless Liaison worked on educating staff at school sites about issues related to homelessness and kept updated on outside resources to assist students and families. For this year, there are many new initiatives for the Student Support Services team supported through professional development. For the upcoming professional staff evaluation, the DESE rubrics will be utilized as a practice exercise with staff creating goals and evaluating their own progress.

Mrs. Jane Kisielius presented the Health Services Program Improvement Plan. Last year's goals of revising the medication self-administration policy was completed in collaboration with the School Committee; the school nurses provided outreach and training for parents and staff on concussion awareness, in addition to the development of the Concussion Policy again in collaboration with the School Committee. For this year, the nursing staff is continuing to work with high school and middle school staffs to monitor concussion diagnosis and treatment, including academic accommodations and medical follow-up. The main initiative for Health Services is to spearhead the development of school site Wellness Teams and coordinate with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Health Services' second goal focuses on the Essential School Health grant and the project to create a district portfolio related to the scope of requirements for the grant. For the Health, Nutrition, and Wellness Team, the goal is to revise the QPS Wellness policy. A draft will be reviewed at a joint Policy and Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee meeting on December 3. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation will be making site visits in the next couple of months.

Mr. Michael Draicchio presented the Transportation Program Improvement Plan by giving a brief overview of the program. Most of the Transportation department's goals are ongoing, including professional development for all staff before the school year begins that reinforces best practices. Operational effectiveness is a focus of the department, route planning for regular and special education, and constant communication and resolution of issues. In addition, the collaborative working relationship with the Registry of Motor Vehicles and the preventative maintenance program ensure the safety of the QPS vehicles on the road.

Mrs. Joanne Morrissey presented the Food Services Program Improvement Plan by noting that some goals are ongoing from last year. The implementation of the

point of sale system was completed at North Quincy and the middle schools, and will be rolled into the elementary schools beginning with Wollaston next month. Last year, QPS was a pilot district for direct certification for those students receiving transitional assistance from the state (close to 1,800 students); also implemented a direct verification process for a sample review of eligibility. An ongoing goal is the development of performance evaluation procedures that will need to be implemented for food services workers. The final goal is to work with the Health, Wellness, and Nutrition team on the revision of the QPS Wellness Policy.

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approved the minutes from the November 6, 2012 Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee Meeting and the Student Support Services, Health Services, Food Services, and Transportation Program Improvement Plans. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it. There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment