

*Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – December 12, 2012*

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at Quincy High School. 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 Vincent Sullivan, a veteran Quincy Public Schools Science teacher and administrator for many years, and Jamal Good, a North Quincy High School student.

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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. Ahearn, Mr. Connor, Mr. Draicchio, Mrs. Fredrickson, Mr. Gilbert, Ms. Hallett, Mr. Hennessy, Mr. Jorgensen, Ms. Margaret MacNeil, Ms. Maureen MacNeil, Mrs. Malvesti, Mrs. Moreira, Mr. Mullaney, Mr. Mulvey, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Papile, Mrs. Pegg, Ms. Roy, Mr. Santoro, Mr. Keith Segalla, Ms. Shaughnessy, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Taglieri, Ms. Todd, Mrs. Witmer; Mrs. Tracey Christello, Citywide Parents' Council Representative; Ms. Jill Gichui, President, Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education; and Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Educator's Association.

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Regular Session minutes for November 7, 2012. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting  
Minutes Approved  
11/7/12

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

Open Forum

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Ms. Isola moved that the agenda be taken out of order and that the Committee proceed to New Business. Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts then introduced the first, second, and third place winners for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster and Essay Contest. Each

New Business  
American Education  
Week Essay Contest

of the Quincy Public Schools submitted ten of their best entries, across all grades from Kindergarten through Grade 12. A group of retired teachers judge the entries in the grade level categories for K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The theme of this year's contest was "How Can My Education Influence My Future?" First-place winners presented their poster or read their essay to the School Committee. Each winner received a certificate of achievement, a gift card, and shook hands with the Mayor, members of the School Committee, and the Superintendent.

For Kindergarten and Grade 1, the winners were from Snug Harbor Ms. Smith's Ms. Carr's Grade 1 classes (1<sup>st</sup> place); Thomas Plonowski, Atherton Hough Kindergarten (2<sup>nd</sup> place); and Ameliya Khadzhen, Clifford Marshall, Grade 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> place). For Grades 2-3, Sophie Saint Marc, Lincoln Hancock Grade 3 (1<sup>st</sup> place); Aishwarya Rajaram, Clifford Marshall Grade 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> place); Cinneide Santoro, Atherton Hough Grade 3; Mahdi Almosawi, Snug Harbor Grade 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> place tie). For Grades 4-5, Liana Gao, Wollaston Grade 4 (1<sup>st</sup> place); Brendan Kilcommons, Merrymount Grade 5 (2<sup>nd</sup> place); Lydia Chan, Montclair Grade 5 (3<sup>rd</sup> place). For Grades 6-8, Dalia Sadaka, Atlantic Grade 8 (1<sup>st</sup> place); Vanessa Ly, Broad Meadows Grade 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> place); Tianettie McKee, Atlantic Grade 8 (3<sup>rd</sup> place). For Grades 9-12, Vicky Chan, North Quincy High School Grade 10 (1<sup>st</sup> place); Kerry Phelan, Quincy High School Grade 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> place); Matthew Gerakis, North Quincy High School Grade 10 (3<sup>rd</sup> place)

After a brief recess, the School Committee meeting resumed at 7:00 pm and returned to the order of the agenda.

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Superintendent DeCristofaro announced that Quincy High School has once again received a grant from the State Street Corporation. This \$25,000 grant will assist teachers in integrating curriculum and assist Grade 9 students with the transition to high school. State Street also sponsored last week's *'Tis the Season* event, which was attended by over 700 guests, including students from 12 elementary and middle schools. In the spirit of the season, School Committee members are invited to attend the holiday concerts held at each school; a schedule was included in their packet. The annual Fall Gathering was held on November 14 and attended by over 400 QPS staff members. This event was sponsored by the Tirrell Room and through the generosity of the QPS staff, over 60 boxes of food were donated to four local food pantries.

Superintendent's  
Report

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that Michael Connor has been appointed North Quincy High School Assistant Principal. Mr. Connor has been serving as Acting Assistant Principal since September; he joined Quincy Public Schools in 1999, first teaching SPED at Sterling and Broad Meadows, and later moved to North Quincy High School as a Social Studies teacher and then Social Studies department chair.

In November, six students from North Quincy High School competed in the Super Sunday round of competition for WGBH’s *High School Quiz Show*. The North Quincy High School team competed against over eighty local schools and will now compete in the televised round of sixteen schools which will begin filming in January. Mira Kriz is the North Quincy High School team advisor and the team members are Seniors Tim Bill, Nathan Donahue, Cindy Nelson, Kasey Shen and Juniors Celeste Dang and Yi Fung.

The *Patriot Ledger* and *Boston Globe* recognized twenty-eight student-athletes from North Quincy and Quincy High School as Fall All-Scholastic Athletes in the following sports: Cross-Country Emily Bryson, Julia Bryson, Danielle Mullaney, and Mike Mullaney from North Quincy High School and Brendan Cunningham from Quincy High School. Football Antoine Allen, Eddie Guinto, Matthew MacPhail, Kevin Pappadopulos from North Quincy High School and Peter Cedrone, Jalen Green, Jaquan Harris, Alex Heffernan, Jackson Lam from Quincy High School. Soccer Courtney Campo, Lauren Campo, Shannon McCleary, James McFarland, Robbie Routhier, Arianna Viscione from North Quincy High School and Kayla McArdle, Felix Namoanya, James O’Shea, Caique Reginaldo from Quincy High School. Volleyball Rose Bennett, Carolyn Schwartz from North Quincy High School and Alysha Dunbar, Emma Kelly from Quincy High School. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked all of the coaches and advisors for their work with these outstanding student athletes.

Thanks to our sponsoring partner Bluefin Robotics, the annual HYPER Robotics Event was held on December 1 at North Quincy High School. At this middle school tournament, QPS hosted forty teams from around the state and over eighty QPS students competed.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted examples of Home-School Connection shared with the School Committee: Curriculum Newsletters from Snug Harbor Community School and Montclair Elementary School; Monthly Newsletters from Atherton Hough Elementary School, Snug Harbor Community School, and the GOALS program.

The Superintendent closed his report by noting that the Beechwood Knoll Elementary School has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a 2012 MCAS Commendation School for narrowing proficiency gaps.

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Mrs. Hubley reviewed the votes taken at the recent Massachusetts Association of School Committees Conference General Session on Friday, November 9, 2012. There were a total of six resolutions, but the sixth applied to districts with charter schools. At the November 7, 2012 meeting, the School Committee voted

Old Business

MASC Conference Resolutions

unanimously to support all five resolutions. Mrs. Hubley reported that at the MASCC Conference General Session, the resolutions were all passed with very little discussion.

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Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts and Curriculum Coordinator for Grades 6-12 and ELL Beth Hallett presented on the DESE's new Rethinking Equity in the Teaching of English Language Learners (RETELL) Initiative. Ms. Hallett spoke of ELL enrollment statewide: 70,000 students, an increase of 57% since 2000. In Massachusetts, 324 of 400 districts have ELL students; in 1,499 schools, 31,595 teachers service ELL students, and only 8% hold an ESL license. In Massachusetts, the majority of ELL students speak Spanish; Quincy has the twelfth largest ELL population of all districts in the state. 65% of ELL students in Quincy are from China, 12% from Vietnam, and the remainder from Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Albanian, and other countries of origin. In Quincy, the majority of ELL students are in the elementary schools, with Montclair, Parker, and Wollaston having the highest concentrations. ELL programs are offered at all Quincy Public Schools; programs range from pull-out instruction in the elementary grades to self-contained classes grouped by fluency and content-area classes at the middle and high school levels.

New Business (resumed)

RETELL Initiative

Mrs. Roberts gave an overview of the RETELL Initiative. The US Department of Justice has mandated preparation and training for teachers with ELLs in their classrooms. The new DESE regulation is that all educators in Massachusetts with core academic licensure and the administrators who supervise them must have a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement. All core academic teachers, including early childhood educators, teachers of students with moderate and severe disabilities, and teachers licensed in all curriculum areas must have this endorsement. In addition, principals, assistant principals, and department heads will need this endorsement since they supervise these teachers.

Quincy Public Schools is in Cohort 1 because of the incidence of ELL students within the district. QPS has three years to train the staff who will require this endorsement. In addition, 15 PDP points of the 150 needed for licensure renewal must be related to ESL/SEI. Educators who take the full RETELL course may apply the PDPs earned over two license renewal cycles. In terms of implementation, the core academic teachers and administrators who are required to renew their professional educator license with the SEI Endorsement have been identified and notified. RETELL course schedules have been developed, course descriptions/expectations are being created, and additional support will be offered through other Professional Development opportunities, including the WIDA Framework training.

Ms. Hallett reviewed the credit that the Category training programs previously offered by QPS will provide to educators; educators who took at least 2 of the 3 courses will be able to take a RETELL Bridge Course. Full RETELL courses will be rigorous and be the equivalent of three graduate credits. Three different courses

will be offered in the spring and summer: Elementary/General Education teachers; Secondary Teachers – Humanities; and Secondary Teachers – Math and Science. The full RETELL course will be divided into three modules: Social-Emotional and Socio-Cultural Aspects of English Language Education; Linguistics; and Academic Language and Sheltering Instruction. The Retell Administrator course is a shorter course and will be offered by the Summer of 2013. Administrators who wish to maintain a teaching license may take the Full RETELL or the Bridge RETELL Course, depending on whether they have taken any of the Category Trainings.

Mrs. Lebo asked for clarification about the credit for Category Training. About 300 Quincy Public Schools teachers have not taken the requisite number of Category Trainings and so will have to take the Full RETELL Course. The remaining staff members will be taking the bridge course and/or the administrator course. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Mrs. Roberts and Ms. Hallett for their presentation and spoke of the many initiatives from DESE and the need to innovate and plan and adhere to their timelines.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the out of the country travel of Quincy High School students to Rome, Italy and Paris, France from April 12, 2013 through April 19, 2013. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of the Country Travel

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the overnight travel of the Central Middle School Grade 7 students to Camp Wing in Duxbury, Massachusetts from June 11, 2013 through June 14, 2013. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Overnight Travel

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Mrs. Lebo presented a summary of the three Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meetings that were recently held. She noted that the Middle School Improvement Plans, the High School Improvement Plans, and all Program Improvement Plans are posted on the Quincy Public Schools website at [www.quincypublicschools.com](http://www.quincypublicschools.com).

Reports of Subcommittees

Teaching and Learning Subcommittee

On November 8, 2012 the middle school principals presented the individual Middle School Improvement Plans. Each principal reflected on their 2011-2012 goals and discussed their goals for 2012-2013. Each school has goals related to MCAS performance for Mathematics and English Language Arts, as well as a Wellness goal to benefit the students and staffs of each school. Many of the middle schools had a school culture goal to continue the integration of anti-bullying strategies.

On November 13, 2012 the high school principals presented their School Improvement Plans, reflecting on last year’s goals and discussing their goals for

2012-2013. Quincy High School completed the NEASC accreditation process in 2011-2012, showed impressive MCAS achievement, and fostered the growth of the school's interdisciplinary teams. North Quincy High School is preparing for their NEASC accreditation visit in the fall of 2013, and has revised their core value statement with input from all members of the school community. North Quincy High School had impressive MCAS proficiency rates for 2012 and among the 2012-2013 goals, there are initiatives that are supported across multiple departments related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, especially for informational texts.

On November 26, 2012, Curriculum Coordinator for Grades Pre-K through 5 and Title I, Ms. Madeline Roy presented the Literacy Program Improvement Plan. The Literacy program's focus is on Pre K-Grade 3 and student growth by Grade 3, where the switch is from Learning to Read to Reading to Learn. The Literacy staff's primary roles as interventionists are reviewing data, progress monitoring, and determining and providing resources for teachers. For 2012-2013, the Literacy Team is focusing on Progress Monitoring and the consistency of tools used across the district. The goals for 2012-2013 are: (1) During the 2012-2013 school year, the literacy team will continue its goal to decrease the number of Tier 3 students, those at risk, to represent 8% of the total district students in Grades K through Grade 5. (2) During the 2012-2013 school year, the Literacy Team will work with classroom teachers to increase the number of students in Grades 2 and 3 who read above grade level by 10%. Reading above grade-level is defined by the Group Reading Assessment Diagnostic Evaluation (GRADE) as scoring at the stanine 7-9 levels in the passage comprehension subtest of the GRADE.

Ms. Roy then presented the Pre-Kindergarten Program Improvement Plan; the team's goals for 2012-2013 are to: (1) Complete a standards analysis and alignment to the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for ELA/Literacy and Mathematics and continue to align instructional routines, assessments and tasks to the Work Sampling Guidelines. (2) To form a study group to increase the team's knowledge and expertise on effective, sustainable family engagement.

Mrs. Roberts, Ms. Roy, and Ms. Hallett presented a draft Curriculum Plan; the plan is evolving and action items are added as changes and more supports come out of DESE. The plan also shows the required timeline for implementation over four school years. The team shared the curriculum initiatives that have been taking place in the past year, the plans for this year, and the projected plans for the next two years. This plan also shows the related professional development initiatives for each curriculum initiative, and the work being done to align with the new state assessments and reviewed the accountability system.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approve the Broad Meadows, Point Webster, Sterling, Atlantic, and Central Middle School Improvement Plans; the Quincy and North Quincy High School Improvement Plans; the Career and Technical Education, Literacy, and Pre-Kindergarten Program Improvement Plans; the DRAFT

Curriculum Plan; and the November 8, 2012; November 13, 2012; and November 26, 2012 Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Meeting minutes. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mr. McCarthy reviewed the Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting that Meeting that was held on November 20, 2012 and was focused on the proximity of the President’s City Inn to the new Central Middle School, as well as the perimeter. Lt. Dan Minton is assigned to the Central Middle School/President’s City Inn issue and is working closely with hotel management. Lt. Minton confirmed that most calls are received during the evening and are problems with short term guests. Any issues have been isolated to the hotel property and the owner will continue to be asked to address issues with guidance from the Quincy Police Department.

Facilities and Security Subcommittee

Central Middle School Owner’s Project Manager Eugene Caruso from Tishman Construction reminded the Subcommittee that all classrooms are on the opposite side of the property from the President’s City Inn. He also reiterated that the existing 4’ wall which is 60’ in length will remain between the two properties. Additional fencing will run the length of the property and be screened. Mr. Caruso noted that the contractors have seen no negative activity at the President’s City Inn during construction. Lt. Minton pointed out the design of hotel is changing and all access to the hotel will be through a main lobby. There will no longer be direct to access rooms from the parking lot.

The Subcommittee agreed to consider if it is possible to incorporate additional buffers between the President’s City Inn parking lot and Central Middle School as the construction proceeds on both sites: (1) 6’ high fencing; (2) heavy green coverage/bushes along entire perimeter; and (3) additional physical access controls on the Central Middle School parking area which abuts hotel. Mr. McCarthy asked if the hotel can be asked to provide additional buffers on their side if deemed necessary. The Subcommittee members agreed to have Dr. DeCristofaro contact Attorney Fleming and the hotel owner to request additional improvements on the President’s City Inn side of the perimeter. He will also notify them that the School Committee may request them to appear at an upcoming School Committee meeting to present an update on their project plans and progress towards completion.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2012 Facilities and Security Subcommittee Meeting. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mr. Bregoli reviewed the Policy Subcommittee meeting that was held on November 28, 2012. Mr. Keith Segalla presented the Information Technology

Policy Subcommittee

Program Improvement Plan, by giving an overview of the six teams that make up this department: Data Processing; Elementary, Middle, and High School POS/Scheduling; Information Technology; and the Secretaries Team. Each team has multiple goals, many that continue from year to year. For 2012-2013, each team has a goal related to the installation and training for the new Student Information System. The Data Processing Team's goals are: (1) To meet all DESE data reporting requirements for SIMS, EPIMS, SCS, SDDR, and federal CRDC reporting by June 2013. (2) To meet all district reporting dates for electronic progress reports and report cards during the 2012-2013 school year. (3) Introduction and training of the new Student Information System. The Elementary School POS/Scheduling Team's goals are (1) Review and improve upon process of StarBase electronic schedules for elementary schools to comply with DESE EPIMS/SCS reporting. (2) Introduction and training for the new Student Information System by June 30, 2013. The Middle School POS/Scheduling Team's goals are (1) To complete middle school schedules by June 2013. (2) Review and update 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Course selection process as needed by January 2013. (3) Introduction and training for new Student Information System by June 30, 2013. The High School POS/Scheduling Team's goals are: (1) To consistently communicate scheduling issues, timelines, appropriate tasks, and data dissemination so that high school student schedules can be produced by August 2013 that reflect class sizes within School Committee policy. (2) To produce a new program of studies document for the 2013-2014 academic year by December 2012 that contains course descriptions reflecting the new Frameworks (Common Core) consistent at both high schools as well as reviewing course naming/numbering conventions within the new Student Information System. (3) To produce a new Curriculum Flowchart reflecting graduation requirements prior to the course selection process, which commences March 2013. (4) Produce Pathways Booklet and Course Selection mechanism by March 4, 2013. (5) Develop an implementation and training schedule that begins in January 2013 for the new Student Information System scheduling module for all high school guidance staff. The Information Technology Team's goals are: (1) Meet all required MA DESE and District-Level requirements during the 2012-2013 school year. (2) Complete the installation and transition to the new QPS Student Information System by June 30, 2013. The Secretaries Team's goal is to design, develop, and implement a Student Information System Training schedule for all Secretaries Team members by June 2013.

The Subcommittee then discussed the items currently in Policy Subcommittee for review. Most items were retained and several were referred to other Subcommittees, including Advertising/Sponsorship Opportunities, which Ms. Isola suggested could be part of the Budget discussions.

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2012 Policy Subcommittee Meeting and the Instructional Technology Program Improvement Plan. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Mahoney suggested that when the Advertising/Sponsorship Opportunities are discussed, research could be done into what other cities and towns have as policies. She also suggested it might be premature to move the item to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee before reviewing the current School Committee Policy that does not allow for advertising.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to retain the Advertising/Sponsorship Opportunity discussion within the Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Bregoli 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 December 3, 2012. The meeting was a joint Subcommittee Meeting with the Policy Subcommittee. A draft of the revised Quincy Public Schools' Wellness Policy was presented and a discussion ensued about adjusting the draft Wellness Policy to allow for a certain number of exemptions per year for school-wide events. Dr. DeCristofaro will work with the Wellness Advisory Team to finalize the specific guideline wording, seek the Principals' input and then present a revised Wellness Policy. At individual schools, the Principal, Site Wellness Team, School Council, and Parent-Teacher Organization will work together to decide on the school-wide events that will utilize the exemptions. Subcommittee members agreed that high school sports boosters will not be granted exemptions. The high school sports boosters may sell food items before and after school, but not during the school day, unless the food items adhere to the state's competitive food nutritional guidelines. At the conclusion of the discussion, approval was given to refer the Wellness Policy revision to the Policy Subcommittee.

Health, Transportation,  
and Safety Subcommittee

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2012 Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee Meeting. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Mahoney gave a summary of the December 10, 2012 Central Building Committee Meeting based on the draft meeting minutes provided by City Solicitor Jim Timmins. The building foundation is complete, along with under slab electrical and plumbing work; all major structural steel has been erected. Masonry work and metal stud installation is ongoing. The project is on schedule with a substantial completion date of September 5, 2013; a more detailed timeline will be provided at the next Central Building Committee meeting on February 25, 2013. Mrs. Mahoney will update the Central Building Committee on the discussion at the November 20, 2012 Facilities and Security and the desire for additional accommodations in terms of perimeter fencing and shrubbery.

Central Building  
Committee

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On a motion by Mayor Koch, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the School Committee went into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. for Collective Bargaining. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0. The School Committee did not return to Open Session.

Adjournment