

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – April 3, 2013

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 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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The Superintendent called the roll and Mr. Bregoli was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Michael Draicchio, Mrs. Mary Fredrickson, Mrs. Kristin Houlihan, Mr. Michael Marani, Mrs. Laura Marstjepovic, Mr. James Mullaney, Mr. Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts, Mr. Frank Santoro, Mr. Keith Segalla, Ms. Judy Todd; Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association, and Ms. Jill Gichuhi, President, Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lebo, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for March 20, 2013. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 3/20/2013

Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Executive Session minutes for March 20, 2013. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session Minutes Approved 3/20/2013

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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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Superintendent DeCristofaro opened his report by introducing a video of highlights from North Quincy High School's recent show *All Shook Up!* and Quincy High School's upcoming production of *The Wizard of Oz*. He also reminded the School Committee about Quincy High School's upcoming Artistry Month events, including an Art Show, Student Film Festival, Poetry Reading, and Fashion Show.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Keith Segalla spoke of the upcoming HYPER Robotics event and the team's supporting partners, including Bluefin Technologies, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and the HYPER Alumni Association. At a recent regional event, the team ranked fifth out of thirty five teams. Mr. Segalla expressed thanks to Eddie Smith for his coaching and mentoring,

The Credit for Life Fair was held on March 28 at the Tirrell Room. This one-day seminar for 200 seniors from both high schools had students role-play the life of an independent adult to illustrate the importance of financial literacy. Students were given a salary and worked to create a budget for necessities, expenses, and savings. Many School-Community Partners supported this event, including local banks and businesses.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that the Statements of Interest for the Sterling Middle School project and window replacement projects for North Quincy High School, Wollaston and Merrymount Elementary Schools have been submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. An update on the Central Middle School project was shared with the School Committee featuring photos of the building's exterior and interior.

Seventeen student athletes received Winter Sports All-Scholastic recognition from the *Boston Globe*. Basketball: Caitlin Bulger, Dan Gould, Pat Gould, Marquis McClendon, Jane Minton, Maya Umoren from North Quincy High School and Tino Goncalves, Jaquan Harris, Nicole Jorgenson, Kayla McArdle from Quincy High School; Hockey: Nolan Greene, Rudy Tryon from North Quincy High School and Pat Freeman, Jake Hallisey, and Erin McGinnis from Quincy High School; Wrestling: Kevin Pappadopolous from North Quincy High School and Matt Roach from Quincy High School.

The Middle School Swimming Championships will be held on Saturday, April 6 at the Lincoln Hancock pool with over 150 students from all five middle schools competing in a range of events. A Middle School Competitive Swimming and Diving program will be held during the April Vacation week, coached by Bob McGillicuddy and supported by members of the Quincy and North Quincy High School Swim Team.

The City Council met on Monday, April 1 to discuss the Mayor's proposed appropriation for school security upgrades. The appropriation passed unanimously. Dr. DeCristofaro is looking forward to working with the Public Buildings Department and the Facilities and Security Subcommittee on setting priorities for moving forward to implement these projects.

Dr. DeCristofaro spoke of the ongoing partnership between the Quincy Public Schools and the Quincy Police Department. He thanked Quincy Police Chief Keenan and Mayor Koch and announced that a new School Resource Officer will be added to work with the Elementary and Middle Schools. In addition to the two

School Resource Officers already in place, the DARE Officers, and over 40 traffic supervisors, Quincy Public Schools benefits from tremendous support from the Quincy Police Department.

Dr. DeCristofaro completed his report by noting the examples of Home School Connections shared with the School Committee: Curriculum Newsletters from Lincoln Hancock and Snug Harbor Community Schools and the monthly newsletter from the Squantum Elementary School. Mrs. Lebo complimented Lincoln Hancock for their inclusion of the Guidance Curriculum model information in their newsletter and the information about the Snug Harbor Preschool program.

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Ms. Isola requested the School Committee’s permission to take the agenda out of order to recognize the High School Peer Leaders next. Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile, along with North Quincy High School Nurse Kristin Houlihan and Quincy High School Teacher Laura Marstjepovic presented on the students’ positive impact on school culture. Mrs. Papile thanked the Mayor’s Drug Task Force, the Masons, and the Rotary for their support of these many initiatives. Students from Quincy High School reviewed explained the creation of the Friends of Rachel chapter following the Rachel’s Challenge presentation last year. They signed the pledge to accept Rachel’s Challenge and created a paper chain of kindness which extended to 171 feet. The group then established a goal of raising student consciousness through selling bracelets with the message “I will not be labeled as average.”

New Business

High School Peer Leaders

The North Quincy High School students presented about Students Against Destructive Decisions; their group holds many events to support students in making positive decisions and understanding the impact of destructive decisions. Their focus is on constructive decisions, including fundraising through the Photo Show and creating public service announcements about bullying, drug abuse, and drunk driving.

Mrs. Mahoney complimented both high schools on the many wonderful programs offered, including drama, sports, and peer leadership opportunities. Mr. McCarthy thanked both groups of students for sharing their impressive work as peer leaders, and thanked their parents for their influence. Ms. Isola spoke of the impact of the Rachel’s Challenge and the SADD program and noted that through her position as Assistant District Attorney she often sees young people who do not think through the consequences of their actions. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked both advisors for their dedication and passion and expressed appreciation for all the wonderful things that happen every day at both high schools. He also thanked Mrs. Papile for her leadership and initiative.

Mr. Bregoli arrived at 7:45 pm.

After a brief recess, Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts introduced an overview of Extended Day Programs. Curriculum Coordinator Madeline Roy presented on Title I grant-funded programs, including after-school programs Reach Out and Read and Make Math the Story. Grant funding allowed for the purchase of Common Core- Aligned materials; almost 400 students were provided with supplemental instruction in Reading and Math at Snug Harbor, Lincoln-Hancock, Parker, Clifford Marshall, Montclair, and Grade 5 students at Point Webster and Sterling. Ms. Roy thanked the thirty teachers at these seven schools who took on the challenge of learning new materials and implementing them.

Mr. Michael Marani, Coordinator of Extended Day Programs spoke about the After School Music Programs (string and instrumental) and the many offerings at the individual elementary schools funded through the Activity Stipend Fund. Extracurricular offerings at the Middle School include Flag Football, Quiz Bowl, Cross-Country, Volleyball, Early Bird Basketball, and Spring Track. At the two high schools, Winter School is offered for credit recovery and standardized test prep. Saturday programs for elementary students include Innovative Engineers and Robotics; an Open House will be held on Saturday, April 6 at Beechwood Knoll.

Ms. Roy then introduced the Title I summer programs, including Bridge to Reading for 240 identified students entering Grades 2, 3, and 4 with enrichment in speaking, listening, and writing to strengthen connections to the Common Core in small group settings. Mr. Marani outlined the Summer Scene offerings, including the All-City Honor Band, Summer Institute (Orientation to Kindergarten, Crafty Kids, Innovative Engineers and Robotics, Windows Wizards, Newspaper) The Summer Scene Brochure will be published the second week of May.

Mr. Keith Segalla announced that Quincy Public Schools is the recipient of a Financial Literacy Pilot Program Grant, an initiative to support high schools in the development of personal finance knowledge and skills for college and career readiness. This is a three-year grant worth \$50,000, with \$20,000 being the initial award to plan the program and develop curriculum. There will be teacher-led project based lessons and activities, stressing the importance of financial literacy and introducing students to careers in the field. The program will align to the National Standards for Financial Literacy. The targeted population will be the students at GOALs, Teen Mothers, PASS, Quincy Evening High School, and ELL students.

Mrs. Lebo asked about the Winter Scene and whether all middle schools have the 21st Century Grant. Mr. Marani said that the schools that do not have the grant have programs that are tuition-based. Dr. DeCristofaro said there are some activities that have nominal fees, but the Activity Stipend Account has been utilized wherever possible. Dr. DeCristofaro suggested that this was an area for discussion during the budget process. Mrs. Lebo congratulated the staff for writing the Financial Literacy Grant, but is concerned about the target population

rather than this being offered to all students. She asked if these courses will count as mathematics for Evening School Students. Mr. Segalla said that those discussions are underway, but not finalized. Mrs. Lebo asked that the School Committee be kept apprised of the program as it is developed.

Mrs. Mahoney reiterated that giving all students access to these programs would be desirable. She inquired whether the Summer Institute tuitions would be increasing. Mr. Marani said it is possible, some programs will run for more weeks than in previous years. Mrs. Mahoney asked whether parents had been surveyed to ask about their preferences for hours and length of courses. Mrs. Roberts said that the program administrators collected information about preferences and that was factored in to this year's planning. The grant-based programs often have time length requirements; summer school also requires a certain number of hours to receive credit. Mrs. Mahoney also asked for clarification of payment options; tuition-based programs must be paid by credit card or bank check. Mrs. Mahoney asked about adding the option to make payments online; it is important to make the signup process as easy as possible for parents.

Mayor Koch thanked all of the presenters and noted that State Treasurer Grossman has been supportive of many high school programs, the Financial Literacy Pilot Program being one example. Dr. DeCristofaro suggested that the Financial Literacy Pilot would be a topic for follow up at a Teaching and Learning Subcommittee.

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approve the gift of medical supplies and equipment for students with asthma from the Alliance for Respiratory Care, valued at \$1,072.41. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Gift: Medical Supplies

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the overnight travel of Quincy High School SkillsUSA members to the SkillsUSA Massachusetts Conference in Marlborough, MA from April 25 to April 27, 2013. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Overnight Travel

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Mr. McCarthy thanked the Mayor for the additional School Resource Officer, working with the current School Resource Officers, the Community Police Officers, the crossing guards, and the continuing support of the Police Chief.

Additional Business

Mr. McCarthy announced that he would like to have a Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, April 9 and will be inviting Parks Director Chris Cassani to attend the meeting to discuss fields and school grounds.

Mr. McCarthy would also like to have a Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting on April 30 on the topic of Quincy High School.

Mrs. Lebo asked that an update on the Maintenance Department transition to the Public Buildings side be added to an upcoming agenda.

Mrs. Mahoney asked about the quarterly updates for the Maintenance Department. She mentioned that she had heard of an issue with leaking roof at the Squantum Elementary School on the cafeteria end and asked for an update at next week's Subcommittee meeting.

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Mr. McCarthy reported on the March 25, 2013 Athletics Rules Subcommittee meeting. There were three items on the meeting agenda: the proposal to create two part-time Athletic Directors, one for each high school; Athletic Eligibility; and issues for MIAA clarification.

Reports of Subcommittees

Athletics Rules Subcommittee

After discussion, the Subcommittee, with the support of the two high school principals agreed to go forward with posting the two part-time Athletic Director positions. All agreed it would be beneficial for the two schools, but that administrative support will be critical the success of the position. Mrs. Lebo asked that the Subcommittee be kept updated as the responses to the job postings are received. Ms. Isola requested that budget numbers be shared as they are available.

The next item on the agenda was Academic Eligibility. By School Committee policy, student athletes must have passing grades in all core academic subjects. After discussion, since this question affects all extracurricular activity, a motion was made to move the item to the Policy Subcommittee. On the motion, Mrs. Lebo asked for data from neighboring cities and towns on their requirements for extracurricular eligibility.

The last item on the agenda was Issues for MIAA Clarification. Mr. McCarthy reviewed the issues that were discussed at the October 24, 2013 School Committee about offseason contact, recruitment, and the "50% rule." After thorough discussion, it was agreed that the earlier questions have been answered by Mr. Rendle. Mr. McCarthy will follow up with the questions to be sent to the MIAA to be on the record and confirming Athletic Director Rendle's interpretation of the MIAA rules. Mrs. Mahoney asked for an opinion on an issue raised by a parent and Mr. Mulvey will pursue this with outside legal counsel. Mrs. Mahoney also asked for specific information about salaries and stipends and projections into future years.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the March 25, 2013 Athletics Rules Subcommittee Meeting minutes. Mrs. Lebo requested that the notes be amended to include that the Athletic Director position is still subject to discussion pending

the outcome of the posting process and seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Mahoney reviewed the Special Education Subcommittee meeting which was held on March 27, 2013. Dr. Christopher Denning from the University of Massachusetts/Boston presented on the Young Athletes (YA) Initiative being piloted at the Della Chiesa Early Childhood Center (ECC). The program uses games and motor play activities to support gross motor skill and social skill development. The curriculum is evolving and Dr. Denning is working with the ECC to determine what additional support is needed (for example, more illustrations or ways to adapt activities). Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Adaptive Physical Education are all involved in implementing this program. The parents present were very enthusiastic about the program and the potential for enhancing social skills. Ms. Gichuhi asked about a connection with the BOKS program at Squantum and suggested that parent orientation include children for lesson modeling.

Special Education
Subcommittee

Ms. Todd gave an update on the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports initiative. Defined behavioral expectations will be taught and monitored; instruction is targeted for tiers of behavior. Mrs. Perkins presented an overview of Professional Development for Mathematics and Language Arts. Other types of professional development offered focused on Study Skills/Executive Functioning, Social Skills, and Formative Assessment.

Ms. Gichuhi reviewed that QPAC Goals for 2012-2013 are moving towards completion; the new website has been launched, a needs assessment is underway, including a parent survey. Information from the survey will be used for goal development for 2013-2014.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the March 27, 2013 Special Education Subcommittee Meeting minutes. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Lebo reviewed the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting which was held on April 2, 2013. The first item on the agenda was a discussion of the passing grade level at both high schools. Currently, 63 is the final grade that must be earned at the end of the course in order to earn credit for the course. Mrs. Skinner presented a proposal to change the minimum passing grade and update the weighted GPA scale. Of thirteen local communities and private schools, ten use 60 as the minimum passing grade and three use 65. Mrs. Skinner and Mrs. McGeady noted that they see transferring student transcripts from all over the

Teaching and Learning
Subcommittee

country with 60 as a minimum passing grade. A motion was made and approved to move the item to the full School Committee for further discussion.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of the new Elementary Support Teachers. In response to a request for information from the School Committee, Ms. Owens shared research on Elementary School libraries in surrounding communities, in the Gateway Cities, for the cities and towns that DESE considers comparable to Quincy, and MSBA model school communities. There are a variety of options being employed at elementary schools, ranging from the traditional librarian at each building to library teachers or other staff shared between buildings or paraprofessional support. He outlined the initiative and the goals developed with a group of the elementary principals: increasing the use of libraries, creating opportunities for extended day library hours, supporting summer reading/open library opportunities, providing preparatory time for elementary staff, and increased technology support. The elementary principals present spoke of the increased technology support, additional curriculum connections, collaborative time for teaching staff, utilization of parent volunteers, and additional professional support.

Mrs. Lebo noted that this solution is not creating a media program equivalent to what existed previously but does address equity of access for all elementary students. Ms. Isola said she sees this as a rebuilding step, part of the recovery from the budget cuts imposed several years ago.

Mrs. Lebo amended the motion contained within the notes to move the grading issue out of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee to the Policy Subcommittee. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approve the April 2, 2013 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 made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lebo and on a voice vote, the ayes have it. There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment