

*Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – April 9, 2014*

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor Thomas Koch, Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mr. Noel DiBona, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mr. David McCarthy, and Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting

Vice-Chair Presiding

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The Superintendent called the roll and all were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Ronald Adams, Mr. Kevin Barrett, Mr. Michael Connor, Mrs. Donna Cunningham, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Mr. John Fagerlund, Mr. Daniel Gilbert, Mrs. Deborah Golden, Mr. John Green, Mr. Michael Joyce, Mr. Patrick Lane, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. Lawrence Taglieri, Ms. Judy Todd; Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association; Quincy Police Department Lieutenant Thomas Glynn and D.A.R.E. Officers John Grazioso and Donald Sautter.

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There was a moment of silence for Mr. Jack Scanlan, a 37 year veteran of Quincy Public Schools as a teacher and assistant principal at Atlantic, Sterling, and Quincy High School.

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bregoli, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for March 19, 2014. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting  
Minutes Approved  
3/19/14

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Ms. Melissa Juarez spoke of her concerns about the PARCC Field Test and the Common Core standards, and the effect on quality of education. She encouraged parents to become educated about standards and financial impact and asked School Committee to put on hold any further implementation of the Common Core standards.

Open Forum

Mr. Richard Hannon, boys varsity soccer coach at North Quincy High School spoke about the discussion around the revised academic eligibility policy and the implication that players are failing two classes and still playing. Mr. Hannon objects to this characterization as untrue, and feels that this implies that the athletic directors, guidance, and coaches are not doing their jobs. The MIAA gives out academic achievement awards for grade point average for the team, the North Quincy High School soccer team has been awarded this nine years in a row. Would like to see more emphasis on working with Grade 8 students to understand the balance between high school academics and athletics.

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with an *Inspiring Quincy* video, dedicated to the 90 partners from School-Community Partnership, and highlighting their support of backpack and school supply initiatives, Teacher Mini-Grants, 'Tis the Season, Read Across America, Junior Heroes Award Ceremony, Student Athletic Summit, Credit for Life Fair, and Flag Day. Over 130 staff and community members attended the School-Community Partnership Breakfast held on April 8, where a number of business partners were recognized.

Superintendent's  
Report

Mr. Keith Segalla welcomed Quincy High School Principal Taglieri and Career & Technical Education Department Chair Gina Scanlan who introduced the Outstanding Vocational Technical Student of the year. Amanda Flores is a senior with a Broadcasting Technology major and a 4.3 GPA. Ms. Flores interns at QATV, attended a summer program at Columbia, is a member of the QHS crew team, Girl Scouts, National Honor Society, and is attending Emerson University next fall.

Ms. Scanlan then introduced the Skills USA medal winners, a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together. Career & Technical Education students competed at the regional competition in eleven categories; gold and silver medal winners will move on to the state competition held from May 1 through 3. Medal winners include: 3-D Visualization & Animation: Daniel Cunningham and Junbong Jang (Gold Medal Team); Advertising Design: Jessica Siders (Gold); Vivian Tran (Silver); Computer Programming: James Hagborg (Bronze); Criminal Justice: Jonathan Ng (Gold); Elizabeth Le (Silver); Brianna McCombs (Bronze); Electronics Technology: Thanh-Quang Hoang (Gold); AR Alhazmy (Silver); Emily Hatfield (Bronze); Photography: Wei Feng He (Gold); Technical Computer Applications: Cedric Germain (Silver); Christian Peguero (Bronze); Digital Cinema Production: Liam Fitzmaurice and Ellis Hampton (Gold Medal Team)

Athletic Directors Patrick Lane (QHS) and Michael Joyce (NQHS) introduced the student-athletes representing the MIAA tournament teams and outstanding individual achievement. NQHS Boys Basketball: Captains Efthim Butka, Anthony Green, Kyle Richardson and Coach Kevin Barrett; QHS Boys Basketball: Captains Jonathan Bain, Brendan Cunningham, James Lam and Captain Dave Parry; NQHS

Girls Basketball: Captains Grace Geary, Haley McKay, Jane Minton and Coach Kerry Ginty; NQHS Boys Hockey: Captains Robbie Cameron, Andrew Currie, Nolan Greene and Coach Matt Gibbons; QHS Boys Hockey: Captains James Brennick, Matthew Davis, Patrick Donovan, Patrick Freeman and Coach Ted Walsh; NQHS Indoor Track: Captains Emily Bryson, Julia Bryson and Coach Geoff Hennessy; NQHS Swimming: Captains Randall Kwong, Rachel O'Driscoll and Coach Bob McGillicuddy; QHS Wrestling: State Qualifiers Kreshnik Mullahi, Peter Orseno and Coach Paul Reggiannini.

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Mrs. Hubley asked for the School Committee's permission to take the agenda out of order and moved to New Business

New Business

Broad Meadows  
History Project

Broad Meadows Middle School Principal Daniel Gilbert introduced a proposal to recognize the Passanageset Knoll as a historic site in Quincy. Broad Meadows English Language Arts teacher Ronald Adams challenged students to identify lesser known historic sites in Quincy. Students Michaela O’Gara-Pratt, Mackenzie Maguire, Abigail Kraunelis, Eve Anderson, Colleen Connor and Grace Higgins researched the Passanageset Knoll in the Broad Meadows area around 227 Sea Street. Artifacts were found in Caddy Park in 1999 from 3,500 years ago and are currently housed in Colorado; the students would like to see them come back to Quincy. Broad Meadows Marsh restoration is almost complete and the students are proposing to name the park Passanageset, install signage and artifacts, host events to publicize the site, and to create a website on Native American history. The students are looking for support in printing the brochure/posters and have a website and an email account (passanageset@gmail.com).

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the students and Mr. Adams for his tradition of excellence and great teaching. Mrs. Mahoney thanked the presenters and said she is looking forward to reading the presentation. Mayor Koch expressed pride in the students and their passion for history and looks forward to working with them on the project. Mayor Koch will set up a meeting with students and Parks Director to assist the students in finishing the project. Ms. Isola said she is very impressed by presentation and research and enthusiasm. Congratulations to parents, these young ladies will be heard from in the future. Mr. Bregoli is amazed at the quality of students in Quincy Public Schools, saying that education took a step forward this evening. Mrs. Hubley thanked the students for their outstanding presentation.

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After a brief recess, Mrs. Papile introduced Quincy Police Lieutenant Glynn and the two D.A.R.E. officers John Graziozo and Don Sautter. Lieutenant Glynn is on the forefront of Quincy's effort to raise substance abuse awareness. The DARE Officers have been involved in the program for many years and work with all QPS students

D.A.R.E. Program

in Grades 5 and 7 with all QPS students. D.A.R.E. Officer Don Sautter opened the presentation, appreciates the support of the Mayor's Office and School Committee. Officer Don works with Grade 5 students across the city, focus on decision-making, classroom lessons on decision making model: Define, Assess, Respond, Evaluate. Students are presented with situations, how would they react, focus on responsibility, communication, confidence and safe and appropriate behaviors for students and families.

Officer Grazioso presented on the Grade 7 D.A.R.E. program, a curriculum that uses reading and writing skills, social-emotional learning theory, anti-drug norms, builds skills to live a drug-free life confidently, emphasizes strengths of community and family. Utilizes peer education for teens communicating clearly and effectively, provides perspective on risk assessment and decision making. Officer John sees his role as a facilitator while students learn the Refuse/Explain/Avoid/Leave (REAL) strategy. Summer D.A.R.E. camp and Senior Stay Out are other D.A.R.E. initiatives, and the officers are behind the scene support at all schools for special situations. Both officers thanked the Mayor and School Committee for many years of support.

Mr. McCarthy thanked all three officers for the foundation that they provide for all Quincy Public Schools students, inside the classroom and outside the buildings to support the community. Mr. McCarthy asked whether the program has a high school component. High School students work as role models at the D.A.R.E. Summer Camp and programs during the year. Parents or administrators sometimes contact them for individual support. Mr. McCarthy noted that the high schools have the Health Interventionists as staff members.

Mrs. Mahoney thanked the presenters and asked how much time they spend in each building. At the elementary level, once a week for 15 weeks; at the middle school level, 9 lessons. Mrs. Mahoney noted that the familiarity is what makes students feel comfortable. Mrs. Mahoney said that Lt. Glynn spoke at a high school PAC meeting, a real eye-opener for many parents. Lt. Glynn said that DARE provides the foundation and his role is to educate the parents about drug risks. Mrs. Mahoney emphasized that all of the officers are there as resources for parents and families.

Mayor Koch said our outstanding school system is supported by all city departments, including the D.A.R.E. officers, crossing guards, and resource officers. As a community, we are making great strides in combatting the drug problem, with initiatives such as drug dropoff days and community support groups. Naylor Koch said it is hard to measure success as we don't know how many have been diverted from the path; he thanked Maura for her work with the D.A.R.E. Officers as well.

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Mr. Fagerlund introduced School~Community Partner Boston Scientific, outlining School-Community

their commitment to community support and service through volunteering and donations. William McCann and Linda Downey were at the meeting to represent Boston Scientific and the unique partnership with Quincy Public schools; Boston Scientific contributed 16 Microsoft 2 Surface tablets, accessories, and gift cards for Grades 3 and 4 STEM instruction at Lincoln Hancock, Clifford Marshall, Parker, and Snug Harbor.

Partnership  
Recognition:  
Boston Scientific  
Corporation

Ms. Roy spoke about the support for teachers who will design and develop mini-units on Life Cycle, Plant Growth, Weather, and Endangered Species that will utilize STEM Resources; these completed mini-units will be shared with all elementary teachers. The teachers are using a new elementary lesson template for instruction and assessment. Assessment results will allow for analysis of instructional effectiveness and planning for enhancements. In mid-May, Boston Scientific team members will observe classroom lessons and student interaction. Mr. McCann noted that Boston Scientific was interested in a non-traditional partnership, sustainable program focused on STEM and a growing program that will evolve. They are looking forward to the school visits to see the project in action.

Dr. DeCristofaro said this is the model for partner relationships going forward, teachers will make direct instructional impact with Boston Scientific's partnership. Ms. Isola thanked Boston Scientific for their generosity and appreciates the enthusiasm for anticipated student impact. Mayor Koch thanked Boston Scientific for their broader vision to stay in Quincy, employing 400 people, many Quincy residents. Boston Scientific has invested in the city in many ways. Mr. Bregoli asked Ms. Roy how the units will be shared with other elementary schools. Ms. Roy said these curriculum materials will be shared electronically and hopefully there will be a new cohort next year.

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Mr. Bregoli made a motion to accept the Gift of a 2000 Chevrolet Express 3500 Van, valued at \$8,600.00 donated by Mr. David McCarthy. Ms Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Gift: 2000 Chevrolet  
Express 3500 Van

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Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of Quincy High School Grades 11 and 12 students to the Rhode Island School of Design Museum in Providence, Rhode Island on May 1, 2014. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of State  
Travel

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Mr. Bregoli made a motion to move the Athletic Eligibility Policy back to Policy Subcommittee, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. On the motion, Mrs. Mahoney asked that the Guidance staff be included in the discussion. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Old Business  
Policy Update on

Athletic Eligibility  
(9.8.5)

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Additional Business

Mayor Koch updated on the former Central Middle School site. At their meeting on April 7, City Council voted to offer the property for sale. An RFP will be advertised in the coming weeks and Mayor Koch will update as this progresses. Mayor Koch is planning to use the proceeds for Teele Field and other upgrades to the North Quincy High School campus. When we sell an asset, the proceeds go into a separate fund, (not the general fund) and must be used to fund capital improvements. The total funding for this project will be reviewed by City Council. There has been a significant amount of interest in Central's prominent location.

Mrs. Mahoney said that the bigger picture needs to be discussed, even though this is not in School Committee jurisdiction. She is concerned about facilities enhancements for the NQHS campus and whether this is the right thing to do when we are also talking about displacing 9 year old Grade 4 students into middle school. Mrs. Mahoney would like Superintendent DeCristofaro to explain how this would fit into the opportunities and challenges across the school system.

Mayor Koch clarified that this may not have academic enhancements, but will complement the school by establishing athletic facilities and improving parking. Similar benefits will be realized by the completion of the green space on the site of the former Quincy High School. The city is moving forward on many facilities issues, MSBA projects, and other city projects underway. As with all projects, City Council will have the opportunity to approve the package. Phase 1 improvements to Atlantic field and parking and drainage have already been approved. Mayor Koch is looking forward to discussions about the new Sterling Middle School and potential grade configurations.

Mr. McCarthy asked for clarification on the proceeds of the sale of Central site. Mayor Koch said the funding does not go into the general fund, it must be used for capital improvements such as a sea wall or facility improvements. Mr. McCarthy asked if there was a target price for the Central site. Mayor Koch said the market will dictate the price, professional appraisal includes variables, but indicate a maximum of \$4.6 million. Mr. McCarthy said that NQHS has been lacking in a campus feel. This is an enhancement to the school building, will improve the NQHS campus and help students. Understands Mrs. Mahoney's concerns, since the schools are involved but School Committee is not involved. Agrees with the Mayor that these are all good things and if financially, we dot our i's and cross our t's, we will have two high schools with great facilities. The planned enhancements are good for the North Quincy community and good for the school.

Mr. DiBona said that as a former Park and Recreation board member, Teele Field issues have long been a concern. He agrees that this will balance opportunities for students and that having fields near NQHS will increase participation.

Mr. Bregoli noted that the city had the opportunity to further expand the campus of NQHS in the late 1970s and this effort remediates long-standing issues.

Mr. McCarthy said that even though the field is not under School Committee jurisdiction, we can voice our opinion and that the benefit for enhancement is a good thing.

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Mr. DiBona announced that a Middle School Wrestling Clinic was held this week and additional dates will be held at QHS on April 14 and April 16.

Communications

Mr. DiBona noted that the potholes near the Point Webster parking lot have been repaired by the Department of Public Works.

Mrs. Hubley reminded School Committee that Wollaston Elementary School 100th Anniversary Celebration would be held on Saturday, April 12 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

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Mrs. Hubley noted that all School Committee and Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted on the Quincy Public Schools website: [www.quincypublicschools.com](http://www.quincypublicschools.com).

Reports of  
Subcommittees

Ms. Isola reported on the March 24, 2014 Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting. Progress towards the Early Childhood Program Improvement Plan goals was reported; the team is working together to ensure achievement gaps are addressed as early as possible. The NAEYC evaluation is completed for Snug Harbor Pre-K and Kindergarten and the Della Chiesa ECC Pre-Kindergarten. The Middle School Math Inclusion project has allowed teachers to share best practices across schools. Home-School Connections include school and program newsletters and this year the Parent Academies held for elementary and middle school parents.

Teaching and  
Learning  
Subcommittee

The next Teaching and Learning Subcommittee scheduled for Tuesday, April 29 will review Foreign Language programs in Quincy Public Schools and in surrounding cities and towns.

Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2014 Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Mahoney reported on the March 26, 2014 Special Education Subcommittee meeting. The Language Development Program staff from Snug Harbor and Atherton Hough provided an overview of their program, noting that one in seven students

Special Education  
Subcommittee

have a learning disability and 85% of those students have a range of difficulties related to the understanding and use of expressive and receptive language. This hinders their ability to access the general curriculum and specialized instruction and/or interventions are essential for progress. The Language Development Program utilizes multisensory methodology across the curriculum. All LDC staff have received Orton Gillingham training and extensive professional development.

Snug Harbor hosts the Kindergarten LDC classes, while at Atherton Hough, there are grade-level classes for grades 1-2, 3, 4, 5. Inclusion opportunities are more numerous with single -grade classes, the LDC teachers collaborate with the grade level teams. At the middle school level, the students are at Broad Meadows, staying with their elementary school friends. At the high school level, Quincy High School provides the structure of the PACE program.

Progress comes through practice, collaboration, progress monitoring, assessment, communication, appropriate instruction to build skill areas, nurture student strengths and self-esteem, develop positive school experience, and work as a team between school and home. The goal of the LDC program is to provide skills and strategies that allow students to transition into the general education population: student success is teacher success. Mrs. Babcock concluded the presentation by thanking Ms. Todd and the School Committee for the opportunity to share the program overview with them and for providing the staff, curriculum, and professional development.

Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed the Budget Development Process, distributing the model for determining priorities: beginning with Academic Classroom Teachers and Academic Programs (Special Education, ELL, Literacy), followed by Academic Support (Student Support Services, Health Services, Psychologists, Paraprofessionals), and Non-Academic Support. Once the Mayor provides the budget bottom line, there is a series of Budget & Finance Subcommittee meetings, where the Superintendent's Leadership Team presents recommendations and School Committee assesses and requests additional information. All items are discussed, including academic and non-academic expenses. Ms. Todd noted that Special Education is a mandated service and that support is clearly delineated. Programs and school-based supports are tracked all year long, for the new budget, staff placements are analyzed with the shifting student populations. Principals and team administrators are advocates for their buildings; staffing has consistently increased over the last five years. Special Education is funded through the QPS budget and several grants.

QPAC Goals are continuing to be focused on recruiting new board members, and they are looking to replace Outreach Coordinator who is stepping down. Ms. Perry and Ms. Dumas are also leaving at the end of the year as their children are graduating. For Parent Concerns, on a global level, Ms. Beck noted no concerns. Most QPAC assistance has been on individual issues, assisting parents who are new to the process.

Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2014 Special Education Subcommittee meeting. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it. On the motion, Mr. McCarthy said that the QPAC Resource Fair was very well organized and attended. He noted that the new QPAC Board members have the enthusiasm to carry the organization forward. Thanked Ms. Todd for how the meetings have grown to address curriculum issues and Mrs. Mahoney for her chairing of this subcommittee and the focus on the issues. Mrs. Mahoney suggested the LDC program be presented to full School Committee at a future meeting.

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Mr. McCarthy reported on the April 2, 2014 Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting by summarizing that Dr. DeCristofaro created a very detailed enrollment history, reviewed all grades, and focused on growth since the beginning of the Full-Day Kindergarten. Looking at the entire school system, the focus is on Clifford Marshall and Lincoln Hancock, where there are well over 100 students per grade per school. All elementary classes are currently within class size guidelines, but going forward may be difficult to sustain. Middle school and high school trends are not dramatic, an additional 100 students overall at middle school and the population trending from North Quincy High School to Quincy High School. Of consideration is the impact of Open Enrollment across the school system

Facilities and Security Subcommittee

In the May 5 Enrollment Projection submission to the MSBA, the idea of creating a Grades 4-8 Sterling Middle School will be listed as an option, along with maintaining the Grades 5-8 current configuration. A Grades 4-8 middle school would have an enrollment of 550-600 students. This is a very early discussion, a five-year span would allow for unprecedented alignment of elementary and middle school curriculum. A purpose-build 4-5 academy within the Sterling Middle School, paired with a K-3 Lincoln Hancock, and the campus including Kincaide Park and Djerf Pool. Clifford Marshall was also included in the discussion, along with the other elementary schools with space issues.

The Enrollment Certification process will take place in the next few months, followed by a Feasibility Study where grade level configurations will be considered. Both grade level configurations will be submitted, down the road there will be further discussions about this topic. School Committee will also be discussing the option of redistricting. Mr. McCarthy appreciates the work that went into the presentation, has done some research on grade level configurations, K-8 model seems to be gaining popularity across the country. We have been successful with the Grades 5-8 model at Point Webster and Sterling, but stressed these are early days in the discussion.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2014 Facilities & Security Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote.

the ayes have it.

On the motion, Mrs. Mahoney asked for clarification on an issue. Mrs. Hubley asked Mrs. Mahoney to defer further questions until the next Facilities and Security Subcommittee meeting, the date of which is still to be set.

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Mrs. Hubley reported on the April 7, 2014 Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting. Business Director James Mullaney presented the Quarterly Budget Review as of March 31, 2014. At this time, the budget is in good shape overall and he is anticipating that deficits in individual lines will be balanced out by surpluses in other accounts, a Circuit Breaker funding increase, and a one-time transfer from the Building Rental revolving account.

Budget and Finance  
Subcommittee

Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2014 Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mr. DiBona reported on the April 7, 2014 Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee, thanking Mr. Draicchio for Transportation presentation, overview of students transported, driver training, vehicle maintenance and inspections. Mr. Mullaney reviewed the Transportation Budget and Quincy Fire Department staff members also presented on the quarterly school building fire inspections and fire safety preparedness lessons held with Grade 6 students across the city.

Health, Transportation,  
and Safety  
Subcommittee

Mr. DiBona made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2014 Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bregoli and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment