

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – September 18, 2013

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Special Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A special meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 in the Gillooly Room of the NAGE building at 5:00 pm. Present were: Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Mayor Thomas Koch, Chair, Mrs. Emily Lebo, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, and Ms. Barbara Isola, Vice Chair.

Special Meeting

Vice-Chair Presiding

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There was a moment of silence for the victims of this week's tragedy in the Washington Navy Yard and also for Mrs. Cindy Wilson, a Quincy Public Schools teacher at several elementary schools

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The Superintendent called the roll and Mrs. Lebo and Mr. McCarthy were absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Clancy, Mrs. Cunningham, Mr. Draicchio, Mrs. Fredrickson, Ms. Garofalo, Ms. Hallett, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Kisielius, Mrs. Lally, Mr. Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Mulvey, Mrs. Papile, Mrs. Perkins, Ms. Roy, and Mr. Keith Segalla.

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As no one requested to speak at Open Forum, the School Committee went on with the business at hand.

Open Forum

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There was no Approval of Minutes, Superintendent's Report, or Old Business on the Agenda, so the Vice Chair moved directly to New Business.

New Business

Dr. DeCristofaro introduced some staff members with new positions in the Quincy Public Schools: Cindie Lally, Payroll Manager and Kathryn Clancy, Assistant to the Business Manager. He also introduced the Special Education Team Administrators: Catherine Carey, Donna Cunningham, and Richard Kelly.

Mrs. Lebo arrived at 5:05 pm.

Ms. Isola then reviewed the purpose of the meeting: for each Subcommittee chair

to review and revise their current goals and Agenda items. Ms. Isola noted that last year, this proved to have been an effective way to start the school year and allowed the Committee to accomplish a significant amount over the rest of the school year.

Dr. DeCristofaro then spoke about the Superintendent’s Annual Plan that will be presented at the September 25, 2013 School Committee Meeting. He reviewed the District Improvement Plan, the Team Organization structure, and the focus on working in a team and having common goals. Quincy Public Schools is a distributive model of management, with each person in the system having a place in site-based or system-wide teams. The school system is focused on curriculum and instruction, both organizationally and through budget appropriations. Each team reviews the Framework standards, key questions, indicators, and benchmarks to plan their work and then work their plan through goal setting aligned with documentation and other sources of evidence. Other components of the District Improvement Plan include the Curriculum Plan, the Technology Plan, the Professional Development Plan, the Budget Book, the District Profile, and the School and Program Improvement Plans. The Educator Evaluation process was added this year as a ninth component. The District Improvement Timeline shows the cycle for each of the District Improvement Plan’s components for planning, implementing, assessing, and reflection. All of the components are readily available to the public on the Quincy Public Schools website on the QPS Info page; an Overview links to each of the District Improvement Plan’s components and supporting documentation.

District Improvement
Plan 2013-2014

The Superintendent’s Annual Plan presents seven goals for School Committee to choose from and this will be finalized at the September 25 meeting.

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The School Committee and Superintendent and Leadership Team members present then split up into Subcommittee groups to discuss their goals and to review the items on the Agenda for each Subcommittee.

District Improvement
Plan ~ School
Committee Connections

After meeting in Subcommittee groups, the School Committee reconvened at 5:40 to share their discussions.

When the group discussion resumed, each Subcommittee had the opportunity to propose additions and changes to their goals and to set meeting dates. For the *Budget and Finance Subcommittee*, their goal and purpose will remain as presented. For the *Facilities and Security Subcommittee*, Mayor Koch reviewed the progress of the Security upgrades with Mr. Draicchio. The items in Facilities and Security will be reviewed and prioritized at the first Subcommittee of the year. For the *Health, Transportation and Safety*, the first two items on the School Committee Agenda will be retained. A third goal will be added: Increasing communication with parents on nutritional guidelines and standards of our new Wellness Policy.

For the *Policy Subcommittee*, all items currently in Subcommittee on the Agenda will be retained. Mr. Bregoli noted that the item related to CPR training might be

something to work with the new High School Health Interventionists moving forward. For the High School Community Service pilot, the Community Service Coordinators will be invited to the first Policy Subcommittee meeting to discuss student completion of hours during the summer and increased roles for the Deans and Class Advisors. At the end of the year, Mr. Bregoli would like to assess adding Grade 10 to the pilot. The Math Graduation Requirement discussion is waiting on information from the state on whether this will become a mandate. Facility dedications will be discussed at the first Subcommittee meeting and at subsequent meetings, there will be discussions about extracurricular eligibility and advertising/ sponsorship. Mrs. Mahoney will share her research on how other cities and towns structure this. Mr. Bregoli made a motion to add the Residency Policy to the items in Subcommittee for review. On the motion, he noted that he would like to see a more detailed policy that outlines residency verification procedures. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

The *Special Education Subcommittee* is unique in its close collaboration with parents on agenda items for the four Subcommittee meetings. The goal for this year is to facilitate communication about the implementation of the Special Education Program Improvement Plan by monitoring and reporting on compliance with Special Education regulations and supporting initiatives to increase communication and professional development for parents and teachers. There are also proposed main topics for each of the four meetings: (1) presentation of the Program Improvement Plan, (2) Evaluations and the IEP Process, (3) Highlighting Special Programs; and (4) Social and Academic Success for Students with Disabilities. In addition, the Subcommittee will work with QPAC to increase parent participation at meetings, including posting videos of presentations on QPS's SchoolTube site.

The *Teaching and Learning Subcommittee* made wording changes to Goal 1, adding a step to review the District Profile in Winter 2013 and amending the first step to include review of a Library Program Improvement Plan. For Goal 2, "and assessment" was added after "curriculum" and the third goal was changed: To be informed and updated on all issues regarding the implementation of the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation process and its effectiveness. Action steps will be added to this goal as the year progresses.

A draft calendar of proposed meeting dates for the October and November review of Program Improvement and School Improvement Plans was shared and changes proposed. A revised calendar will be shared.

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There was no Additional Business, Communications, Reports of Subcommittees, or Executive Session.

On a motion by Mayor Koch, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, the Special School Committee Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. The ayes have it.

Adjournment